National Museum of Bermuda
Education Strategy

Opening Statement

Today’s museums are located at a significant and exciting multi-disciplinary intersection defined by an increased reliance on technology and the blurring of the restrictive boundaries that traditionally set informal learning apart from formal learning. In addition, there is growing appreciation of the ways in which the educational context of lifelong learning can ensure that mature, adult and young learners are continuously provided with opportunities to grow and develop.

Museum spaces offer richly textured learning experiences that can facilitate the navigation of an increasingly complex world. It is the civic responsibility of all jurisdictions to provide open and equitable access to museum learning opportunities in ways that demonstrate a commitment to honouring and celebrating the diversity of the community. Bermuda is no exception.

This education strategy aims to reposition and repurpose the National Museum of Bermuda (NMB). The goal is to map an educational landscape that will make the Museum a multi-faceted community institution that encourages and supports the open exploration of history, heritage and identity. In partnership with the community and a network of local and international institutions and organisations, NMB will become an agent of change, dedicated to serving the community through the adoption of a collaborative approach to knowledge development and meaning-making. The NMB aspires to be both a giver and receiver of knowledge and to join with the community as co-producers and co-authors of knowledge.

Following consultation with major stakeholders and the creation of an Education Advisory Committee, the National Museum of Bermuda has developed the Education Strategy to inform NMB formal and informal learning, including core work such as research, exhibitions, publications, outreach and collection policies. This Education Strategy is a blueprint for safely and reliably plotting the learning landscape of NMB.

NMB Education Advisory Committee Members

Dr. Janet Ferguson (Chair)                James Hallett
Dr. Crystal Clay                          Dr. Clarence Maxwell
Jennifer Davidson                         Dr. Donna Outerbridge
Dr. Kim Dismont Robinson                   Ru-Zelda Severin
Rees Fletcher                             Elena Strong
About the National Museum

The National Museum of Bermuda, formerly the Bermuda Maritime Museum, is a non-government, not-for-profit Bermuda Registered Charity (No. 136). For 40 years it has been a vital steward of Bermuda’s cultural heritage.

**NMB’s Mandate**
National Museum of Bermuda (NMB) promotes the preservation, understanding, and enjoyment of Bermuda’s cultural heritage through education, stewardship, historical, archaeological & scientific research, exhibition, acquisition, public outreach and advocacy.

**NMB’s Vision**
To be a first-class national museum and research facility, inspiring engagement with and protection of Bermuda’s diverse cultural heritage.

**NMB’s Core Values**

_Inclusiveness:_ to be inclusive of multiple perspectives; reflect the diversity of Bermuda’s cultural heritage; be accessible to our diverse audience; and recognise Bermuda’s history as an encompassing multifaceted story involving multiple groups of people and their expressions

_Relevance:_ to be relevant to our local community and global context and our diverse local and visitor communities

_Engagement:_ to engage the local community and create exhibitions, programmes and publications that spark curiosity and a sense of discovery

_Integrity:_ to be honest, ethical and fair, and to demonstrate those values in all aspects of museum practice, governance, and internal and external relationships

_Excellence:_ to provide excellent visitor experience, customer service, scholarship, and education programming; follow museum, archeological and preservation best practice; and establish high standards for everything we do

_Sustainability:_ to manage the Museum’s resources to ensure its long-term viability

NMB Education Strategy

NMB Education Mission
Cultivate islandwide engagement in transformative learning (reciprocal learning and meta-cognition) by fostering insightful and critical educational practices that strengthen and promote an understanding of Bermuda’s collective heritage and history.

Core Statement
The NMB Education Strategy reflects the Museum’s commitment to continuously offer a worldview that invites challenging questions and considerations:

*Why is history relevant? Why does heritage matter?*

“The world is old, but the future springs from the past!”
—Griot Mamadou Kouyate from Sundiata: The Epic of Old Mali

History is a representation of past events shaping the present.

Heritage is from the past: what we live with today and pass on to future generations.

In the Bermuda context, knowing, understanding, and appreciating both our history and heritage can allow us to effectively confront the issues of the present, shape our identity and our lives, and strengthen our purpose in the world.

Aspirations

1. **Engage Bermuda’s diverse community (through history and cultural heritage)** in ways that foster a sense of place and identity.

2. **Promote recognition and appreciation of the significant role Bermuda and Bermudians have played in the development of the Atlantic World (the history of the interactions of societies and people bordering the Atlantic Ocean).**

3. **Play a collaborative role in the development and application of academic research and its inclusion in well-designed national educational practices.**

4. **Advocate for and demonstrate a commitment to equitable and inclusive practices in relation to facilitating and promoting access to history.**

5. **Use multiple teaching and learning practices and a demonstrated commitment to lifelong learning to encourage critical and creative thinking.**
### Aspiration 1  
**Engage our Diverse Community**

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<tr>
<th>Aspiration</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Key Performance Indicators*</th>
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<td>Engage Bermuda’s diverse community (through history and cultural heritage) in ways that foster a sense of place and identity.</td>
<td>1. Offer educators and museum-goers knowledge and experiences that celebrate the recognition of a diverse inclusive multi-faceted history</td>
<td>Multiple strands provided for public and private educators’ engagement with NMB as a primary teaching and learning resource</td>
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<td>2. Cultivate community relationships that connect diverse groups and voices</td>
<td>NMB has developed strong and active community partners</td>
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<td>3. Use multiple voices to tell Bermuda’s story</td>
<td>An increase in the number of formal and informal learning opportunities to better understand Bermuda’s history and heritage</td>
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<td>4. Adopt a multi-disciplinary approach to NMB research and the interpretation of the NMB collection and Bermuda history</td>
<td>An increase in programmes, exhibits, and publications that reflect cross-community engagement and incorporate multiple voices and perspectives</td>
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<td>5. Apply innovative media strategies for diverse learning experiences</td>
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### Aspiration 2  
**Recognise Bermuda’s Global Context & Impact**

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<td>Promote recognition and appreciation of the significant role Bermuda and Bermudians have played in the development of the Atlantic World (the history of the interactions of societies and people bordering the Atlantic Ocean).</td>
<td>1. Promote an understanding of the impact of broader historical events on Bermuda and an appreciation of Bermuda’s contribution to the societies of the Atlantic littoral</td>
<td>Increased demand for and public participation in museum activities related to Atlantic World history</td>
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<td>2. Cultivate local interest in cultural identity</td>
<td>Increased number of published and presented materials on and about Atlantic World history</td>
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<td>3. Provide opportunities for public participation in telling the Atlantic World story</td>
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## Aspiration 3  
**Promote Use of Academic Research**

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<td>Play a collaborative role in the development and application of academic research and its inclusion in well-designed nationwide educational practices</td>
<td>1. Work with key stakeholders to preserve and share Bermuda’s history and culture</td>
<td>Comprehensive and operational Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Education; and institutions such as research centres and institutes, museums, colleges and universities</td>
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<td>2. Collaborate with local and international institutions, scholars, and research bodies</td>
<td>Increased number of effective educational materials to support teaching and learning in schools, community settings and at NMB</td>
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<td>3. Research and share educational instructional resources and museum learning experiences</td>
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<td>4. Identify and align pedagogies to best support the content</td>
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## Aspiration 4  
**Advocate for Equitable and Inclusive Practices**

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<td>Advocate for and demonstrate a commitment to equitable and inclusive practices in relation to facilitating and promoting access to history</td>
<td>1. Design resource material and content that appeals to a variety of audiences and reflects the diversity and complexity of Bermuda</td>
<td>NMB establishment of community-wide network of supporters and subscribers who represent the diversity and complexity of Bermuda</td>
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<td>2. Connect NMB with the community by developing outreach programmes</td>
<td>NMB outputs (e.g. collaborative and Museum-based projects, installations, publications and exhibits) reflect balanced accounts of history and featuring several groups of people as major contributors to the development of Bermuda’s cultural, maritime, architectural, religious, agricultural and economic legacies</td>
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<td>3. Challenge the historical legacy of exclusionary practices by questioning and responding to misrepresentations of Bermuda history and heritage</td>
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<td>4. Consistently communicate the scope and nature of NMB’s civic role and its education mandate</td>
<td>Increased and targeted messaging of NMB’s role</td>
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*The key performance indicators are based on projected measures that provide predictive outcomes that NMB can control*
Aspiration 5  *Encourage Critical & Creative Thinking*

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| Use multiple teaching and learning practices and a demonstrated commitment to lifelong learning to encourage critical and creative thinking | 1. Offer a range of traditional and non-traditional public learning opportunities for sharing, exploring and representing history  
2. Support the use of innovative and creative, cross- and multi-disciplinary formal and informal learning and teaching practices  
3. Provide opportunities for independent, collaborative and inquiry-based learning  
4. Develop robust and effective islandwide interfaces between Museum and teaching/learning providers  
5. Create novel and emotionally appealing visitor experiences that reflect a nuanced understanding of present and future museum-goers | Regular and holistic evaluation of visitor experiences and programmes  
Increased level and nature of popular involvement in public history projects  
Extensive use of the available historiographical services: curation, film and media production, local historians, archivist, etc. |

*The key performance indicators are based on projected measures that provide predictive outcomes that NMB can control*