

VISION FOR ENGAGEMENT REFLECTION GUIDE

This is a tool to reflect on your own organization's work as you consider whether affiliating with the Smithsonian is right for your organization. The questions are meant to serve as prompts for internal discussion and reflection but you'll also find highlighted sections that signal information relevant for the Affiliate application process. If you choose to apply, the guide and your answers can serve as a reference for your team as you complete your application.

THE FOUNDATION

Reflect on your organization's current capacity to engage in an Affiliate relationship.

Capacity for Engagement

How would you describe your organization's current capacity to engage in the Affiliate network? In what ways do the characteristics of an Engaged Affiliate described in the Learning Excursion resonate with you? Some things to consider include staffing + capacity, the ability to establish buy-in across the organization, internal clarity on strategic direction + organizational needs, and financial resources.

Opportunity Alignment

Do the possibilities for engagement described in the Learning Excursion align with your needs + goals as an organization? Would Smithsonian resources enable you to serve your communities in new and meaningful ways?

THE VISION

In what ways do the examples from the Vision for Engagement Learning Excursion inspire your curiosity or imagination around engagement or collaboration?

Imagining the Possibilities

Think about the different levels of engagement described in the Learning Excursion as well as the examples of engagement from different Affiliates. How would you activate your existing resources or leverage resources from the Smithsonian to build upon existing impact or create new impact? Are there Smithsonian resources you have identified through your research that you would like to explore? What types of resources would help you immediately and which ones could enable new innovations or opportunities down the road? What excites you most about the opportunities for engagement over time?

The Next Steps

Connect with the Team

If you are uncertain about whether or not your organization fits our Engaged Affiliate profile (outlined below), please reach out to our team! We want prospective Affiliates to truly understand the benefits and expectations of the relationship and our extraordinary team of National Outreach Managers are ready to share more. Please note that we don't equate the capacity to engage with

the size of the organization. We have highly engaged organizations, from small to large, across the country that serve their communities in meaningful ways and add enormous value to our network.

Proactive Communicators

Affiliates are eager to share updates about new initiatives and are responsive to opportunities that arise from the Smithsonian.

Creative & Intentional Collaborators

Affiliates find new and innovative ways to connect Smithsonian content and programming to their local context and the interests of their communities, while showcasing their own scholarship and expertise.

Thought-Partners & Thought-Leaders

Affiliates embrace their expertise and knowledge and seek to share it with others in the Affiliate network and at the Smithsonian.

Committed to Impact

Affiliates understand the importance of having challenging but necessary conversations and strive to lead with listening in order to better serve their communities.

Effective Ambassadors

Affiliates are proud members of this dynamic community and are excited to celebrate and communicate the successes that emerge from our collaboration.

Learn More

Explore additional Excursions to learn more about Affiliations' approach to Community Engagement, DEAI, Educational Programming, and More!

Apply for Affiliation

If you have engaged with our Learning Excursions and are excited about the prospect of becoming an Affiliate, explore our application page!