

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING 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.

I. THE FOUNDATION

Reflect on the strength of your current educational programming and the degree to which you are leveraging strategic partnerships to achieve impact.

Your Learners

Who are the main audiences for your educational programming? In what ways do your offerings reflect their needs and interests? How do you currently determine the learning objectives + measure the success of your educational programming?

Your Partners

What strategic partnerships have you built to develop, launch, implement, or support impactful educational programming? What has been successful? What has been challenging?

II. THE VISION

Reflect on your vision for educational programming. Are there ways you could achieve even greater impact for learners in your community? Refer to examples in the Learning Excursion for inspiration.

Building on Successful Learning

Are there ways you would like to improve your current educational program offerings? Which new programs are you currently working on and which would you love to provide in the coming years to meet the needs of your learners?

Cultivating Strategic Collaborations

Are there educational collaborations you would like to explore with your community in the future? How would collaboration align with the existing needs of your communities or serve new communities of learners? What would be a first step in activating a partnership?

III. THE BUILDING BLOCKS

Reflect on the assets, resources, and support you would need to realize your vision.

Celebrating Strengths

How does your current capacity support your ability to deliver high-quality educational programming? Capacity includes, but is not limited to, financial resources, internal expertise, staffing resources, and ability to invest in partnership development. Note: Use the answer to this to prepare your Statement of Purpose.

Identifying Opportunities

What investments (time, capital, staffing) would your organization need to make to expand or deepen existing high-quality educational programming? How might Smithsonian resources and/or expertise help move your vision for educational programming forward? Note: Use the answer to this to prepare your Statement of Purpose.

Activating Peer Support

In what ways would you want to engage the Affiliate network to support your work? What areas would you like thought-partnership on? What resources would you like to receive from or share with the network? Note: Use the answer to this to prepare your Statement of Purpose.