

LOCAL + GLOBAL ISSUES 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 ways in which your organization currently communicates its values as it relates to social and environmental issues- in your organization, your local community, as well as nationally.

Your Role in Community Conversations

*Has your organization engaged in the challenging and important discussions that continue to arise around race, justice, power and privilege? How have you held space- within your organization and within your communities- for these dialogues? What has been successful? What has been challenging? In what ways have you been able to act on the learning from these conversations? *Explore our [DEAI Learning Excursion](#) to dig deeper into issues of equity + inclusion and our approach to that important work.*

Sustainability in Practice + Programming

In what ways does sustainability or environmental stewardship currently factor into your work? This could be at an operational, community, or programmatic level.

Organizational Commitment

How are you communicating the importance of the issues to your stakeholders? Are they identified as priorities in your strategic plan? If not, reflect on some of the barriers you might be facing in making that organizational commitment?

II. THE VISION

How do you want to lead on key social + environmental issues in the future? What role will your organization play?

Making Space for Community Voice

Are there ways you could engage more deeply in the important conversations happening in your community? What processes do you have or hope to create in order to act on learnings that emerge from these conversations?

Empowering Voices of Sustainability

What elements of your processes and practices could be improved to achieve greater operational sustainability? How could you lead the conversation on environmental stewardship in your communities? Are there people within your community who would benefit from your organization's platform as it relates to educating the public on these key issues?

III. THE BUILDING BLOCKS

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

Celebrating Strengths

What internal and external resources are you already using to help you build deep trust among your community and lead on sustainability, race and social justice or other critical issues? Note: Use the answer to this to prepare your Statement of Purpose.

Identifying Opportunities

For the areas you have identified as needing improvement or support, how might Smithsonian resources and/or expertise help move your vision forward? Are there specific projects you feel could be advanced with Smithsonian's support? 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.