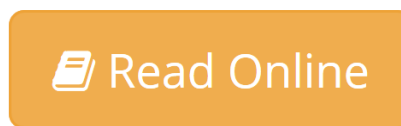


# Engagement and Access: Innovative Approaches for Museums

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## Engagement and Access: Innovative Approaches for Museums From Rowman & Littlefield Publishers

*Engagement and Access: Innovative Approaches for Museums* addresses how museums forge two-way communication and engaged participation through the use of community curation, social media, collaboration, and inquiry-based learning. Such approaches demonstrate how museums serve as thriving, central gathering places in communities and offer meaningful, creative educational experiences.

This book addresses how museums forge two-way communication and engaged participation through the use of community curation, social media, collaboration, and inquiry-based learning. The examples of engagement and access in this volume are paradigmatic of a shift in thinking. Each of these case studies advocate for doing and listening. That is to say, these institutions understand the importance of meeting the needs of audiences. And, in the twenty-first century, those audiences are onsite as well as online. While they represent only a handful of initiatives and engaging experiences thriving in museums today, they help us to see engagement and access in terms of virtual collections, the crowd (as in crowdsourcing, crowdfunding, and crowdcrafting), and the onsite experience.

The *Innovative Approaches for Museums* series offers case studies, written by scholars and practitioners from museums, galleries, and other institutions, that showcase the original, transformative, and sometimes wholly re-invented methods, techniques, systems, theories, and actions that demonstrate innovative work being done in the museum and cultural sector throughout the world. The authors come from a variety of institutions—in size, type, budget, audience, mission, and collection scope. Each volume offers ideas and support to those working in museums while serving as a resource and primer, as much as inspiration, for students and the museum staff and faculty training future professionals who will further develop future innovative approaches.

**Contributions by:** Charles Chen, Anne Corso, Jan Freedman, William Hennessey, Ashley Hosler, J. Patrick Kociolek, Sarah Lampen, Jennifer L. Lindsay, Margot Note, Stephanie Parrish, Marisa J. Pascucci, Janet Sinclair, Siobhan Starrs, Barbara W. Stauffer, Eric Steen, and Alison Zeidman

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

The museum landscape has *already* changed. If we wish to remain both relevant and successful we must foster real, meaningful engagement with our audiences. Juilee Decker has done a phenomenal job curating of a set of case studies that focus on substantive, in-the-trenches examples of innovative experimentation in our field. These triumphs, setbacks, and new methodologies are what push us forward. Kudos to Dr. Decker for helping to expedite the process! (Dustin Growick, Team Lead for Science Content and Programs, Museum Hack)

#### About the Author

**Juilee Decker** is an associate professor of Museum Studies at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) where she teaches courses focusing on museums and technology so as to bring theory and praxis together in the classroom environment. Decker earned her Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University. Her research interests and curation include the construction of public and private collections as well as the subjects of public art, commemoration, and memory. Decker's recent curatorial activity includes "A Passionate Pursuit: The Milward Collection," an exhibition addressing the formation of a private collection of more than 1000 works of art (2012); "Reflections on a Louisville Landmark," a juried show and an exhibition of historic maps, photographs, and texts for the Louisville Visual Art Association; and "Virginia Woolf and the Natural World," an international exhibition to coincide with the 20th annual Wolf conference (2010). She has worked as a public art consultant and advisor for more than 15 years and has managed several public and private collections of public art. Since 2008, she has served as editor of *Collections: A Journal for Museum and Archives Professionals*, a peer-reviewed journal published by Rowman and Littlefield.

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