

**City College of New York**  
Graduate Program in Art History and Museum Studies

**New York University**  
Graduate Program in Museum Studies

## **International Coalition of Historic Site Museums of Conscience**

**Museum Studies**  
3RD ANNUAL  
GRADUATE  
STUDENT  
SYMPOSIUM



**NYU Silver Center- Room 301  
100 Washington Square East**

**December 10, 2005  
11:00 am – 5:00 pm**

# **“Visible Players in Civic Life” Museums and Civic Engagement**

The American Association of Museums has argued that the museum of the future should not merely be a container of valuable collections, but a “visible player in civic life.”

In this symposium, up-and-coming museum scholars define, critique and develop this idea through a series of case studies.

- What does civic engagement mean, and what role can museums play in developing it?
  - How can a museum use its space to provide a meaningful place for public dialogue on social issues?
  - How can museums serve as forums for defining and contesting “community”?
  - How can museums contribute to defining and inspiring new forms of civic engagement in the future?
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11:00-12:15

**Place and Public Engagement**

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Introduction

Liz Ševčenko

Director, International Coalition of Historic Site Museums  
of Conscience

Charles Macdonald, CCNY

*House Museum Home:*

*Merchant's House Museum and Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace*

Minjung Lee, CCNY

*The Indelible Spirit of the District Six Museum*

Julianne Gavino, NYU

*The Museum as Medium: Engaging Noguchi's History*

Benyair Orellana, NYU

*Servicing the Local—Worldwide Community:*

*El Museo del Barrio and the Politics of Representation*

Jean-Luc Howell, NYU

*It's Never Been About Collecting:*

*The Museum as Social Instrument*

Comments and Questions for Discussion

**LUNCH RECESS**

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## **1:30-2:45 Identity and Museum Categories**

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### Introduction

Dr. Jeffrey Feldman

Assistant Professor and Acting Director

Graduate Program in Museum Studies

The City College-CUNY

Sarah Malaika, NYU

*Voicing Identity:*

*The Case of the Arab American National Museum*

Rafael DiazCasas, CCNY

*El Museo's Bienial:*

*The (S) Files as Turning Point for Community*

Jenna Petikas, CCNY

*The Studio Museum in Harlem:*

*Innovative Programs and Civic Engagement*

Kira Garcia, NYU

*The National Museum of the American Indian:*

*Visitors and the Exotic*

Erin Waters, NYU

*Photography and the Museum:*

*Classification, Aesthetics, and Anonymity*

Comments and Questions for Discussion

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**3:00-4:15**

**Art, Education, Policy**

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Introduction

Dr. Paul Williams

Assistant Professor, Program in Museum Studies  
New York University

Rebecca Fasman, NYU

*Educating P.S. 1:*

*Issues in Contemporary Art Education Practices*

Kathleen McEvily, CCNY

*Creative Time: Art in the Public Realm*

Deirdre Connely, CCNY

*The Museum of Modern Art and the Aftermath of Schiele*

Todd Florio, NYU

*Krensian Global Museology*

Emilie Faure

*Museum Funding: France Should Look West*

Comments and Questions for Discussion

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The International Coalition of Historic Site Museums of Conscience ([www.sitesofconscience.org](http://www.sitesofconscience.org)) is a network of historic sites dedicated to serving as centers for citizen engagement on pressing social issues. The Coalition was founded in 1999 by the District Six Museum (South Africa); Gulag Museum (Russia); Liberation War Museum (Bangladesh); Lower East Side Tenement Museum (USA); Maison Des Esclaves (Senegal); National Park Service (USA); Memoria Abierta (Argentina); Terezin Memorial (Czech Republic); and the Workhouse (England) with the following statement:

*We hold in common the belief that it is the obligation of historic sites to assist the public in drawing connections between the history of our sites and their contemporary implications. We view stimulating dialogue on pressing social issues and promoting humanitarian and democratic values as a primary function.*

Sites of Conscience:

- Interpret history through historic sites;
- Engage in programs that stimulate dialogue on pressing social issues and promote humanitarian and democratic values as a primary function; and
- Share opportunities for public involvement in issues raised at their sites.

Now grown to over 40 members across the globe, the Coalition:

- develops museum programs that use the power of place to foster dialogue and civic action;
- Build local Sites of Conscience networks addressing common human rights issues in a region;
- Organizes trainings and exchanges for heritage and human rights professionals alike to develop Sites of Conscience;
- Shares program designs, dialogue techniques, and other resources for building and strengthening Sites of Conscience.