

MANIFESTO OF THE MINISTRY OF IMAGINATION

process means that we have become aware of how users will experience the space. After all, we want as many people as possible to be able to identify with the library, and be able to identify with it. Therefore, we need to think of the different ways they will perceive the space. What would they expect to find there, and how do we inspire them and invite them to participate, even those who do not normally interact with art and culture? And how do we create the appearance, atmosphere, and environment that the various reasons people have for visiting a library?

After the idea of this, we have taken the user's mind and expressed their positive and negative experiences in a number of ways. The inspiration for this initially came from a woman, who in her book *The Participatory Museum* described five commonly-expressed forms of participation that people experience when visiting a museum. We converted those comments into statements, and then refined them into five statements. Together, they form the Ministry of Imagination, an ideal future library, which we are trying to create the best we can.

Participatory Museum (Santa Cruz, Calif.: Museum of Contemporary Art, 2011). Available online at: <http://www.participatorymuseum.com>. (Accessed August 11 2021)

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‘The library is of importance in my life.’
If the library adopts an inquiring attitude and responds actively to ideas, stories, and creative work offered by visitors, people will feel that their contribution matters, regardless of their social or cultural background or their educational level.

‘I keep coming back because there’s always something new to experience.’
By bringing visitors into contact with interesting questions and new ideas and by enabling them to share knowledge, stories and skills amongst each other, the library offers constantly changing experiences.

‘It provides me with the necessary context to understand issues and developments and leaves room for new interpretations.’
By presenting multiple viewpoints on themes and issues that concern the local community, the library helps visitors to reflect upon their own opinions and stimulates them to understand different perspectives.

‘It’s a creative place where I can express myself and contribute to the collection.’
By inviting visitors to participate, the library supports the interests of those who prefer to make and do rather than just use the collection in a passive way. These different expressions provide a new context that enriches the collection.

‘It’s a comfortable social place for me to talk about ideas with friends and strangers.’
By designing opportunities for interpersonal dialogue, the library distinguishes itself as a trusted and desirable location for discussion about important issues related to the content presented.

All public libraries face the same challenge: they need to rethink and rework their spaces and their strategies to promote deeper understanding, by active use of their collections, greater interactivity, and a more meaningful range of activities. To illustrate this the Ministry has drawn up five positive comments about the library you would be happy to hear from your visitors. They refer to various forms of interaction and co-creation that will help increase active engagement and add new meaning to the collection.