KEY OVERARCHING MESSAGES FROM THE SEMINAR

LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS IN AN ERA OF PARTICIPATORY CULTURE

For the world’s libraries and museums, an era of participatory culture demands that we:

- **Recognize** the importance of cultural, economic, and social diversity in our communities.
- **Accept** the principle of democratic access.
- **Acknowledge** the need for new language and vocabulary to describe our work, reflecting the changing realities and expectations for our institutions.
- **Create** innovative partnerships with the community and community organizations.
- **Accept** new obligations, accountability, and responsibilities within our institutions.
- **Place** a major emphasis on public value and impact.
- **Embrace** the changing nature of authority, allowing for co-creation of content and input from both on-site and virtual visitors as an accepted part of our work.
- **Recognize** the blurring of distinctions between in-school and out-of-school learning.
- **Embrace** early and lifelong learning as key to our mission.
- **Accept** the need for changes in the internal culture of our organizations and practice participatory culture internally as well as externally.
- **Recognize** that technology is a tool and that authentic participation depends upon people, not merely upon technology.
- **Incorporate** social media into our mission and strategic thinking.
- **Join** a new wave of collaboration with other cultural institutions via sharing of staff and collections and other means.
- **Open** our walls, break down boundaries, and orient ourselves outwardly, becoming the modern equivalent of the agora as a hub of communication.
- **Change** the curriculum for the training of museum and library professionals in order to address the demands and realities of participatory culture.
- **Act** with passion and creativity as agents of permanent change.