



IL MUSEO
PARTECIPATIVO
OGGI

BRESCIA – SANTA GIULIA AUDITORIUM
WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2022, 4.30pm

OPENING SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TALK SERIES
OPEN DOORS. PARTICIPATORY MUSEUMS TODAY

From May to November 2022, nine talks with leading experts in the field of cultural management and promotion of Italian and international contemporary culture heritages, to explore the theme of participatory museums, the museums of the future.

This project, curated by Pierluigi Sacco is promoted and organised by **Fondazione Brescia Musei**, in collaboration with **Fondazione Scuola dei beni e delle attività culturali** and **NEMO – Network of European Museum Organisations**.

The talks will also be streamed on the **Fondazione Scuola dei beni e delle attività culturali** platform:
fad.fondazione scuolapatrimonio.it

On Wednesday 25 May 2022, at 4.30 pm, **Fondazione Brescia Musei** at the **Santa Giulia Auditorium** in **Brescia** will host the opening session of the talk cycle ***Open Doors. Participatory museums today.***

The curatorship of the project has been entrusted to **Professor Pierluigi Sacco**, Professor at the “**Gabriele d’Annunzio**” University of Chieti-Pescara and former Visiting Professor at Harvard University.

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The event, which will also include a talk by **Doris Sommer**, director of the *Cultural Agents Initiative* at Harvard University, will illustrate the scientific criteria and guidelines of the contributions of the leading experts from Italian and international contemporary museums and cultural centres participating in the initiative. Until November 2022, **along a nine-session programme**, the invited speakers will offer a comprehensive reflection on the concept of museum as a participatory space and on the tools, techniques, and best practices for involving communities and activating them in a continuous dialogue between museum content and the major current issues mediated by cultural heritage.

The project is organised by Fondazione Brescia Musei in collaboration with Fondazione Scuola dei beni e delle attività culturali and NEMO – Network of European Museum Organisations, under the patronage of ICOM Italia – International Council of Museums; Federculture; Centro Universitario Europeo per i Beni Culturali of Ravello (SA); AICI – Association of Italian Cultural Institutions; Associazione Mecenate 90; Associazione Abbonamento Musei Lombardia; and ANCI – Associazione Nazionale Comuni Italiani.

The most prestigious and important museum institutions on the Italian and international cultural scene have been invited to participate and propose perspectives and case studies. Confirmed participants from Italy include Casa Paganini of Genoa, the Caserma Archeologica of Sansepolcro, Castello di Rivoli, the Cultural Welfare Center, FARM Cultural Park, Fondazione Fitzcarraldo, Fondazione Maxxi, Fondazione Matera – Basilicata 2019, GAMEC of Bergamo, MiC – Ministry of Culture | Office of the Diplomatic Advisor, Moleskine Foundation, Mudac of Carrara, Museo Civico of Bassano – Operaestate Festival, Museo Egizio of Turin, the Autonomous Province of Bolzano (Department of Culture), and the Lo Stato dei Luoghi network.

International participants include the Chester Beatty Library of Dublin (IR), the City Museums and Galleries of Nottingham (UK), the Gallery of Matica Srpska of Novi Sad (RS), Manufacture di Avignon (FR), Mapadasideias of Lisbon (PT), Museo de Lisboa (PT), Museum of Broken Relationships, Zagreb (HR), the Nationaal Museum van Wereldculturen di Amsterdam (NL), the POLIN Museum of Warsaw (PL), the Science Center Explora of Malta (MT), the United Cities and Local Governments di Barcellona network (SP), University of Pennsylvania of Philadelphia (USA) and Zeeuws Museum of Middelburg (NL).

“Fondazione Brescia Musei, together with Fondazione Scuola dei beni e delle attività culturali and NEMO,” affirms **Francesca Bazoli, President of Fondazione Brescia Musei**, “is proud to present the first major platform for discussion and dialogue dedicated to the theme of participatory museums. This series of meetings will foster a full understanding of the transition we have been experiencing in recent years, particularly after Italy’s ratification of the Faro Convention: from museums experienced as ‘palaces’, to museums as ‘public squares’ in which the dynamics of active citizenship are lived and practised”.

“The series of appointments,” continues Francesca Bazoli, “starts from this statement to explore the tools, the practices, and methods that have proved most effective over the last three years at an international level, comparing them with the best and most advanced Italian

cases. All of this will be presented in the dynamic context of Fondazione Brescia Musei, which in the past three years has proposed itself as a testing ground for most of the topics that will be covered in the talks”.

“The collaboration within the *Open Doors* project,” states Vincenzo Trione, **President of the Fondazione Scuola dei beni e delle attività culturali**, “is, for us, strategic, not only for its content but also for the partner with whom we have the honour of working: Fondazione Brescia Musei, one of the most innovative Italian institutions in the field of heritage management. There are several reasons why we decided to join. This series of talks will allow a reflection on the role of museums in contemporary society encompassing many unexpected perspectives”.

“In addition,” concludes Vincenzo Trione, “the Fondazione Scuola dei beni e delle attività culturali has a strong interest in the issues discussed in the talks: in particular, we focus on community participation, a topic we are also addressing with a research activity. Finally, in a historical phase marked by an epochal turning point, we feel it is important to provide the FAD platform community – starting from the employees of the Ministry of Culture – high quality content”.

“Connection, collaboration and conversation with the community and public is essential to the continued relevance of museums for society. To deepen the relationship with the community means increasing the sustainability of the museum in the future. With NEMO we want to make sure that the museum sector at large and across Europe is actively participating in and steering the transition towards an open and participatory museum sector” observes **Julia Pagel, Secretary General of NEMO – Network of European Museum Organisations**.

The aim of the project is to activate a workshop open to insiders, but of interest to the entire community, given the role that museums are increasingly taking on as spaces for building citizenship, beyond any possible educational or socio-economic barriers.

Eight key areas have been identified, in which we can structure, in the light of current experiences, the paths necessary to transform the museum into a real space of social exchange based on active participation: ***Cohesion and social connection; Empowerment; Education; Diversity; Wellbeing and healing; Creativity and expression; Co-creation; Engagement and problem solving.***

Museums must be able to offer forms of knowledge that challenge and puzzle the visitor, while at the same time creating ways and opportunities for visitors to express themselves actively, to engage in stimulating conversations with curators, experts and other visitors, to question, and if appropriate, challenge the points of view they are presented with.

“If museums are able to effectively and knowledgeably preside over these areas of active participation – maintains Professor **Pierluigi Sacco** – their social role will be considered on a par with that of schools and hospitals, and will no longer be seen as elitist spaces where rituals of social distinction are continually renewed, but as contexts where access to knowledge and its dissemination becomes an increasingly collective process. This process is not a leap in the

dark, it is a feasible and necessary transition, as shown by the dozens of experiences and proposals that will be presented in Brescia during the Open Doors programme: the world of museums, from the most central and important to the smallest and geographically marginal institutions can make this transition towards becoming museums understood as spaces for active participation”.

The talks will be held, in person, at the Santa Giulia Auditorium in Brescia. Participants attending in person must register at cup@bresciamusei.com; those attending online must register on the fad.fondazionescuolapatrimonio.it website in order to access live streaming. Participation is free of charge.

All talks will be simultaneously translated into Italian, English and LIS (Italian Sign Language).
Brescia, May 2022

OPEN DOORS. PARTICIPATORY MUSEUMS TODAY

Brescia, Santa Giulia Auditorium

From 25 May 2022

Participation is open and free of charge

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For further information:

www.bresciamusei.com

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Open doors. Il museo partecipativo oggi

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Programme

OPEN DOORS. PARTICIPATORY MUSEUMS TODAY

25/05/2022 – 4.30 pm

Opening event

08/06/2022 – 4.30 pm

Participation for unity

Museums can become a centre of social cohesion and a safe and welcoming space for all those suffering discrimination and marginalisation.

15/06/2022 – 4.30 pm

Participation for possibility

Museums can become a space of empowerment, where awareness of our human potential and the capacity to develop it can be cultivated.

22/06/2022 – 4.30 pm

Participation for education

Museums have always been important educational institutions whose mission today is growing increasingly extensive and multifaceted, helping today's citizens to face and navigate the growing complexities of our world.

29/06/2022 – 4.30 pm

Participation for creating dialogue between differences

Cultural differences have always been one of the primary resources of humankind, and museums are the place that allows experimentation of new forms of dialogue and mutual encounter.

28/09/2022 – 4.30 pm

Participation for wellbeing

Scientific evidence is confirming that culture can have very positive effects on psychological and physical wellbeing. Museums can therefore also become spaces where people can enjoy a sense of wellbeing.

19/10/2022 – 4.30 pm

Participation to help us be creative

Creativity is not only about intuition. Being creative is also about being constantly open to new ideas and new points of view. Museums are spaces to be discovered and that allow us to develop our creative potential day after day.

09/11/2022 – 4.30 pm

Participation as co-creation

New digital technologies offer us ever more possibilities to make and create together, developing our collective intelligence. Museums are spaces allowing us to try our hand with these new possibilities and their exciting potential.

23/11/2022 – 4.30 pm

Participation as a solution to collective problems

Culture has always helped human beings solve important issues addressing them from different perspectives. Museums can also become the place where we can together design more effective solutions to our everyday problems.