

FRIDAY 16 MARCH 2007

9.00am-12.30pm

The Boardroom
State Library of Queensland
South Brisbane



Applications due: Monday 12 March 2007

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Participation in the Masterclass is strictly limited to 20 through an expression of interest. Participants must attend the Public Lecture by Dr West on Thursday 15 March (5:30-7pm) at the State Library of Queensland. Please bring 25 copies of any material (e.g. policy documents) to the Masterclass. Participants are encouraged to be at the venue by 8:45am. There is no registration or participation fee.

Target participants: Senior level personnel in museums, art museums, libraries and archives responsible for decision making in Indigenous Studies, Collections and Programs.



Dr Rick West Jr
Director
National Museum of the
American Indian
Smithsonian Institution
Washington DC, USA



Dr Amareswar Galla
Professor of Museum
Studies
The University of
Queensland
Brisbane, Australia

MASTERCLASS

Indigenous Peoples' and the Concept of the 'Fourth Museum'

The International Council of Museums through its Cross Cultural Task Force is building on the previous work of the Working Group on Cross Cultural Issues of ICOM to:

- continue to examine and report on the ways that museums throughout the world are addressing the wide range of issues with cross cultural dimensions;
- develop inclusive approaches and guidelines concerning the way that museums should endeavour to deal with cultural diversity in general and indigenous and multicultural issues in particular; and
- advocate and make appropriate recommendations concerning the ways that cross cultural perspectives should be enhanced in the work of ICOM and its committees. www.icom.museum

It is within this context that the Masterclass will examine the way museums as civic spaces are engaging with stakeholder communities in addressing indigenous concerns. In particular, we will consider the relationships between community-based heritage developments and museums.

Dr West will present and discuss ways of forging a dialogue between museums and communities through the conceptual framework of the 'fourth museum' addressing:

- How the voices of indigenous people can be invoked in museums, not merely through providing access to collections, but by building meaningful intellectual and psychic dialogue; and
- The way museums could be realized as spaces that transcend the physical museum and go beyond the concept of a 'cultural destination' to become a 'civic space'

Dr Galla will present and discuss comparative demonstration projects from different countries and international efforts to forge partnerships through both NGOs and INGOs.

The participants will make brief presentations (5 minutes) on the way they engage with indigenous concerns in their institutions. Discussions will be facilitated by Dr West and Dr Galla.

It is envisaged that the Masterclass would result in the following learning outcomes:

- Understanding of current practice and some of the challenges
- Knowledge sharing through case studies
- Drafting guiding principles for facilitating partnership development