

Report

New Pasifika Gallery

Survey Results
2021

The Australian Museum respects and acknowledges the Gadigal people as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the land and waterways on which the Museum stands. We acknowledge Elders past and present.

Contents

Introduction	p.05
Question 1 Which of the following cultural backgrounds do you identify with or belong to?	p.06
Question 2 What is your postcode?	p.07
Question 3 Which age group do you fall into?	p.07
Question 4 Are you aware that the Australian Museum (Sydney) is a repository of a major Pacific cultural collection?	p.08
Question 5 What key themes and topics would you like to see in a new exhibition about Pasifika culture? Please tick any of the following or add other ideas below.	p.10
Question 6 The following is a list of features the new Pasifika Gallery space could include. Select the five most important to you.	p.14
Question 7 Why are these features important to you?	p.16
Question 8 The following are examples of the possible ways to tell our stories in the new Pasifika Gallery. Select the five most important to you.	p.24
Question 9 Why are these ways of storytelling important to you?	p.26
Question 10 Would you like to receive feedback on the results of this survey?	p.33
Question 11 We would like to invite you to participate in further activities that will assist in developing the new Pasifika Gallery. If you'd like to stay in the loop, enter your contact details below.	p.33
Question 12 Is there anything else you wish to say regarding your views on the new Pasifika Gallery?	p.34

MĀLŌ E LELEI,
TALOFA LAVA,
NI SA BULA VINAKA,
KIA ORĀNA,
FAKAALOFA LAHI
ATU, MĀLŌ NI,
FAKATALOFA ATU,
NOA'IA, MAURI,
HALO OLGETA,
'IA ORA NĀ, ALOHA,
KIA ORA KOUTOU
KATOA

Introduction

In spring 2023 the Australian Museum will open a new Pasifika Gallery. This gallery will provide a long-awaited opportunity, in one of Sydney's leading cultural facilities, for Pasifika communities living in Australia and across the wider Pacific region to show and tell their story.

Disclaimer: Responses are reproduced verbatim except for the addition of English translations shown in square brackets. All identifying text and website links have been removed and responses compiled into common topics by Australian Museum staff and contractors.

The most wide-reaching step taken toward starting the conversation about this gallery, and hearing the diverse voices of Pasifika peoples, has been through a survey conducted from 29 March to 30 June 2021. Electronic direct marketing, social media and a 'postcard' were the key means by which word about the survey was spread. Promotion through social media resulted in the farthest reach and greatest number of responses. A total of 233 survey responses were received via the SurveyMonkey™ portal.

The survey asked specific questions about what the new Pasifika Gallery should include and targeted Pasifika people living in NSW. A number of responses were also received from other states in Australia and regions in the Pacific.

A comprehensive snapshot of the survey results is contained in the following pages and highlights:

- There is strong support for the development of the new Pasifika Gallery
- The gallery should reflect Pasifika cultures as living cultures and be led by Pasifika peoples, knowledge, and storytelling ways
- *Ancestors/Cosmology* and *Living Culture and Creative Practices* received the strongest support from a list of eight possible themes the gallery will explore. Comments made in the survey reiterated the importance of these themes or topics, and raised other ideas or topics
- The display of cultural material or objects, as well as a performance and workshop space were highly rated features to include
- Living culture exhibitions should be supplemented with the display of cultural material (or objects), as well as digital or technologically driven/interactive ways of engaging audiences
- Children should be an important engagement focus of the gallery, which may/should include a dedicated children's space

The Australian Museum welcomes the results of this survey, and thanks the Community respondents for giving us their feedback and insight.

Pasifika Gallery team

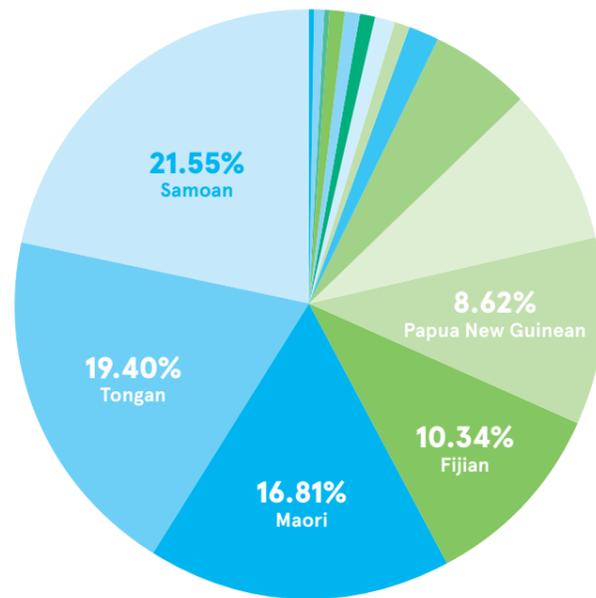
Results

Question 1

Which of the following cultural backgrounds do you identify with or belong to?

Answered 232 | Skipped 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Samoan	21.55%	50
Tongan	19.40%	45
Maori	16.81%	39
Fijian	10.34%	24
Papua New Guinean	8.62%	20
Cook Islander	5.60%	13
Niuean	1.72%	4
Kanak	0.86%	2
Ni-Vanuatu	0.86%	2
Solomon Islander	0.86%	2
Tokelauan	0.86%	2
Tuvaluan	0.86%	2
Hawaiian	0.43%	1
Nauruan	0.43%	1
Tahitian	0.43%	1
I-Kiribati	0.00%	0
West Papuan	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	10.34%	24



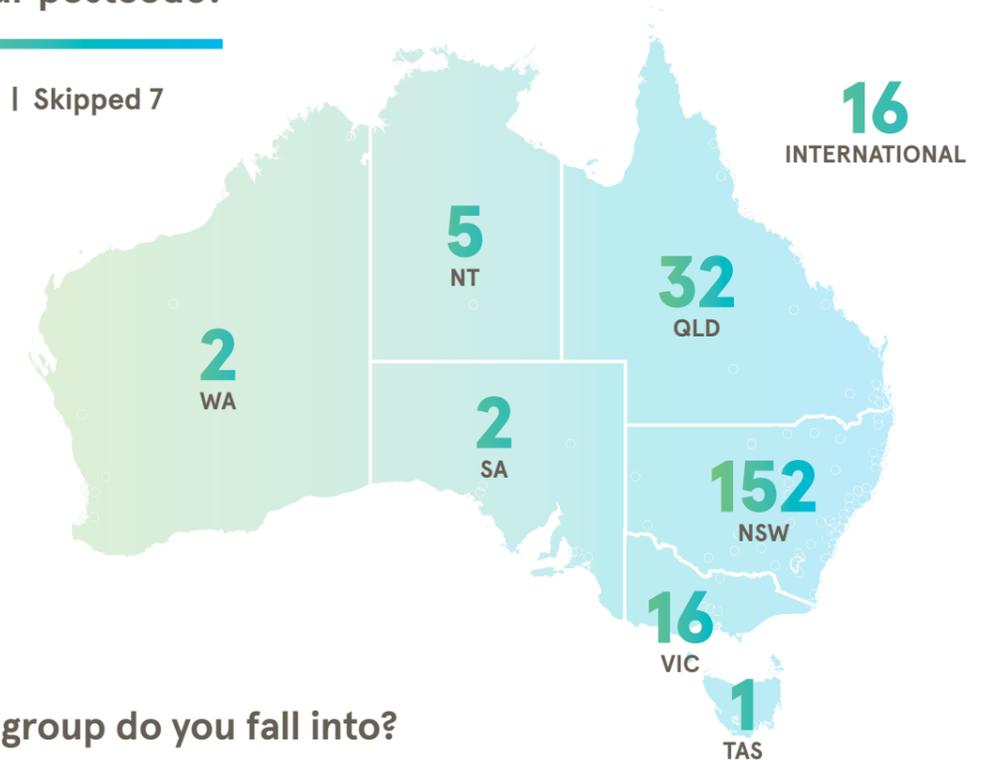
Top 5 responses

- 01 Samoan (50 responses)
- 02 Tongan (45 responses)
- 03 Maori (39 responses)
- 04 Fijian (24 responses)
- 05 Papua New Guinean (20 responses)

Question 2

What is your postcode?

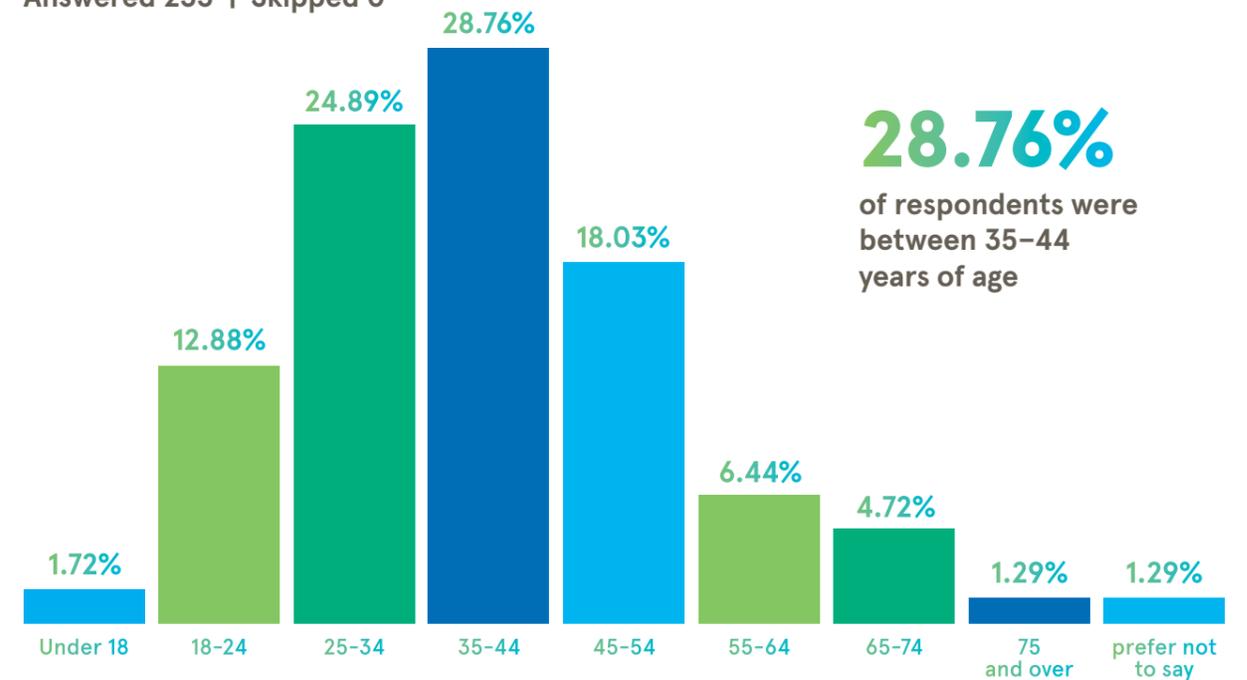
Answered 226 | Skipped 7



Question 3

Which age group do you fall into?

Answered 233 | Skipped 0



Question 4

Are you aware that the Australian Museum (Sydney) is a repository of a major Pacific cultural collection?

Answered 232 | Skipped 1



I was aware of the Australian Museum's Pasifika collection

Have visited and viewed current exhibitions.

I have had the privilege of visiting the collection with our language group.

I am also aware that about two thirds of the collection is in difficult to access storage most of the rest is inaccessible in Castle Hill. The proposed new gallery will not remedy this situation.

I thought possibly it would after I was given a narrative doc. of the coconut juice to translate into Samoan.

I was told by one of the members of The Royal Tongan family. I didn't know until she mentioned that on her visit she request a private viewing of all the Tongan artefacts. She was given a private tour.

I've known for a few years.

I've visited the Pacific collection many times.

I visited the museum just last weekend 10/5/21 for the first time.

"I have visited the collection many times and taken various people from work colleagues to school groups in to view, connect, reconnect and learn about some of our customary art practice and forms"

A dear friend works there

Melanesia, PNG in particular is well represented.

Yes, but I know little of the amount of material in the collection and what areas they fall in.

I have visited the Pacific collections with my cultural centre Matavai.

Yes I did some work on a new website that explored different collections at museums.

I was aware because of my friend working in the Australia Museum, otherwise I had no idea.

Yes, I grew up visiting the collection most of my life whilst living in Sydney.

Whilst a resident in Sydney from 1988 - 2015, I have been involved in community access to the Pacific Collections as a senior community member and through my professional roles in the Creative and Cultural fields as a trade facilitator (connecting Pasific creators with the AM Pacific Collection).

I have visited the collection in 2013

Question 4

Are you aware that the Australian Museum (Sydney) is a repository of a major Pacific cultural collection?

I wasn't aware of the Australian Museum's Pasifika collection

I had no idea any museum in Australia had anything Pasifika related.

Never knew.

I never knew that but pleased to hear it.

I'm only aware of PNG Art Collections in the Australian Art Gallery in Sydney.

"Never knew that now I know must make an effort to check it out!"

Really! I'm flabbergasted.

Other comments expressed about the Australian Museum's Pasifika collection at this question

I'm very excited on what exhibits are gonna be displayed as I have aboriginal children who need to learn more about their heritage

I haven't been to see it.

I want to know more about repatriation efforts and for there to be more acknowledgement around the Australian Museum's colonial history of accruing these collections.

It should be given the colonial history of the region.

I had just found out from a from on Instagram.

Excited! Finally!

Just saw on Pacific Runway Instagram post.

I have just seen on Facebook about this and think it is definitely a great opportunity for the museum to share culture history.

Wish I looked into this more! Would love for my children to see this.

Should showcase it more often.

As a former Patrol Officer in PNG I have a couple of items which deserve preservation & have been looking for a suitable recipient. Pacifica Gallery appears perfect.

Hoping it will the beginning of something big Oz Pacifica

It is a terrible pity that so much of the Pacific culture (artefacts) have been removed to storage.

You do not share enough your wonderful collection You are a shame during years of not working not showing not helping Lazy people!

Although that awesome sense since there was significant contact and engagement between Australia and Fiji from settlement onwards.

And every single artefact should be returned to the Pacific.

Who is curating this now that Michael Mel is no longer there?

"I don't feel too comfortable about this. I believe the cultural artifacts should be returned to their traditional owners (e.g. the traditional Tongan village from which they come from or are culturally tied to), or returned to the pacific territory it is derived from."

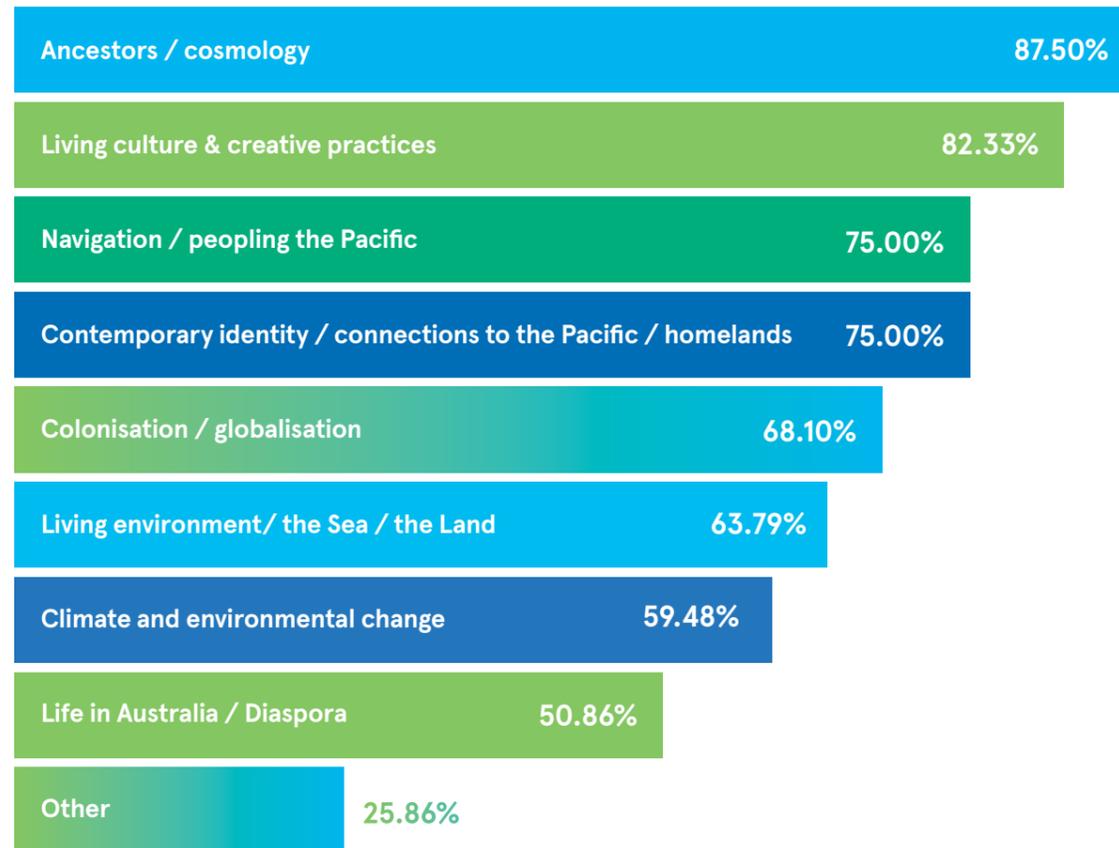
I enjoy visiting the Museum.

I cruised the Pacific in the early 70s as a young man and have many fine memories and unbiased insights of the traditional cultures of that time, specifically Samoa and Tonga.

Question 5

What key themes and topics would you like to see in a new gallery about Pasifika culture?

Answered 232 | Skipped 1



Ancestors / cosmology

Received 203 responses as the top key theme most would like to see in a new exhibition about Pasifika culture

Question 5

What key themes and topics would you like to see in a new exhibition about Pasifika culture?

Clothing and adornment

Historical fashion

The clothing And the food

Body Adornment - similarities and unique practises - across the 3 regions (Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia)

Arts / crafts / music / dance

Tattoos are a integral part of the pasifika culture - I'm interested to see this topic explored upon in the Gallery.

Historical pacific art Background on island music

"A significant part of most culture is dance, so if an interaction or a video area where it shows traditional dances will most definitely be very educational"

Videos of Haka, spiritual beliefs and tails of different tribes and ancient stories

Showcase the beauty of pngs thousand plus tribes through imagery and music

Handicrafts, Tatau (tattoo) Music , Dance , ancient weaving techniques, Fishings , ancient medicine, language, cravings , etc

Language and other cultural practice or tradition

Languages

Spirituality

Our Chiefly system.

Ceremonial objects Agricultural practices.

Food

culinary culture

Food, food technology

Storytelling / histories or other ideas or themes

Stories/folklore of pasifika people How pasifika people have been connected through history and how our stories/history/cultures connect and intertwine

Oceanic mythology

History of pacific dance/music culture

Sports, Writings/writers,

Weapons of war during the New Zealand land wars and other historical events

Something around the different faces of pasifika culture. Especially those who don't 'look' pasifika but have strong cultural and family ties to the culture. A way of embracing pasifika people of different skin colours and journeys to finding their culture.

Ta Va Theory - Indigenous Theory of Reality

our cultural performing arts and their significance. information on how stratified our societies are and even how interconnected we were/still are

Acknowledgment of individuals who shaped history of that particular country.

Women

"The weaving, the adornments and the history and stories behind each of the taonga treasures."

I would like to see more about the northern Pacific, ie. CNMI, RMI, FSM, Guam etc

Traditional and old collection with information about each pieces of ethnography

More Micronesian representation

The exhibition should be Pacific not about Pacific

Pasifika perspectives on 'the West' or historical memory of key figures, such as Captain Cook and thus questioning history and whether Cook is mythology for the 'West'. There are plenty of examples of this in art, stories etc. Blackbirding and the place of Australia in the Pacific and as part of the Pacific. Our tattooing traditions, oral traditions and law and governance.

What key themes and topics would you like to see in a new exhibition about Pasifika culture?

Contribution of Pacific peoples to Australia's development eg Sport, Culture, Food and the Arts etc...

Architecture and place

The impact of Mau Pialiug on Pacific Navigation. The story of Pacific navigation that has been old is one of "Polynesian Voyaging" via the Hokulea, etc. yet it was a Micronesian

(Satawalese) who preserved the tradition and literally taught the modern Polynesian wayfarers (e.g. Nainoa Thompson) everything they know. This seems terribly unjust and worthy of an accurate representation that truly centers the Micronesian role and perspective.

I want people to hear the sounds of the drums, the ocean that connects us, but also the shift in Pacific Identities, our Australian Diaspora.

I identify first with the four choices as they are all linked. Our Culture and history was very much became a world view and very much based on our long historical history between Australia and the Pacific Islands. This is still exhibited at the Fiji Museum but not inside but outside which still tied the colonial era to the present. The current Australian museum lacks such information that holds that special connection.

"I want to hear the history less told. Unheard of histories which although can be confronting, contribute to the current society."

I would like more emphasis on the deep Melanesian history that exists in the Pacific. I think when it comes to conversations about the Pacific and what it means to be a Pacific Islander the emphasis and focus has largely been directed towards Polynesians and their diaspora. Australia is a Melanesian country and so the focus of this new Pasifika gallery should emphasise that. This is not to exclude other sub regions in the Pacific but to create awareness about the history of Melanesia in addition to the already well known Polynesian culture and history. Melanesians were the first Pacific islanders up to 45,000 years ago and this gallery should showcase that deep history.

Futurism and pop culture

"The history of Pacific immigrants to Australia, Black Birding (Pacific Slave trade), Tonga being the only Pacific Nation never colonised and the significance of its Royal Monarchy today."

Interconnection

Communicating across the Pacific then and now - through stories and technology.

Promotion of our indigenous knowledge and teachings. Including the correction of colonial history. For example, Stradbroke Island original owners were Pacific islanders. We helped our aboriginal community migrate onto islands.

Shared genetic history of aborigines and Melanesians

All of the above. It's all relevant and part of our storyline, heritage and identity and to be in Australia now as Pasifika people. Also our connection to Australia's First Nations people that may be historical, but there are so many new histories being created through creative practice, sea voyage and also on the every day level through cross cultural marriages, parenting and bringing up our next generations to understand culture and identity.

Historic and contemporary socio-political issues

The implication seems to be that this gallery is only designed for the Pacific diaspora. The concept is wrong. Given the increasing importance of the Pacific strategically and internationally, it is important that ordinary Australians are informed about the rich diversity of the cultures of our Pacific neighbours. This should be done by properly curated exhibitions of a range of items, particularly from Melanesia, the bulk of the collection as PNG is our nearest neighbour. These exhibitions should be supported by a range of written and visual materials, films, lectures, workshops etc. not just frippery. Contemporary materials and issues should also be included but not at the expense of showing the collection.

would like Australia's historic relationship to the Pacific to be more politicised especially around former territories like PNG, Nauru, etc. and how it operates as an economic power in the region today. Also in terms of diaspora, I would love to see some engagement with Australian South Sea Islander communities and those who have an affiliation with Melanesian/Black Pacific (especially occupied states like West Papua and Kanaky/New Caledonia) and

What key themes and topics would you like to see in a new exhibition about Pasifika culture?

Micronesian diasporic identities (especially Nauru, Kiribati) rather than over-engagement with Polynesian ones which I think tend to dominate Pacific conceptions of global diaspora.

Current ways that Australia has impacts on Pacific nations (e.g. its relationships with us past and present, policies and responsibilities the govt has, e.g. in terms of action on climate change/truth telling about colonial harm, exploitation and violence/past and ongoing wrongs or power structures) and how the public can get involved in pressuring the govt to be truthful and be accountable. Perhaps a section about activism, both current and historical :)

Historical/ contemporary racism, segregation & assimilation policies in Australian law & politics

Return artefacts back to the Pacific. Why are you holding on these things that don't mean anything to you while Museums in countries of origin barely have enough to show?

Australian South Sea Islander recognition and a the true history of Australian South Sea Islander history.

Multiple themes mentioned

Artworks, woodwork, carvings, stonemasonry, ship building, navigation, spirituality/ religious ideology, storytelling, literacy, musicology, medical healing/ medicinal healing/ herbology/ holistic therapies, military/ the art of war, monarchy/ nobility/ hierarchy/ government, traditions, trade and geneology/anthropology.

Arts and crafts /navigation of how they travelled /Where did they migrate from/population of Pacific people in Australia and relationships with Pacific islanders, famous sports Athletic who represented Australia

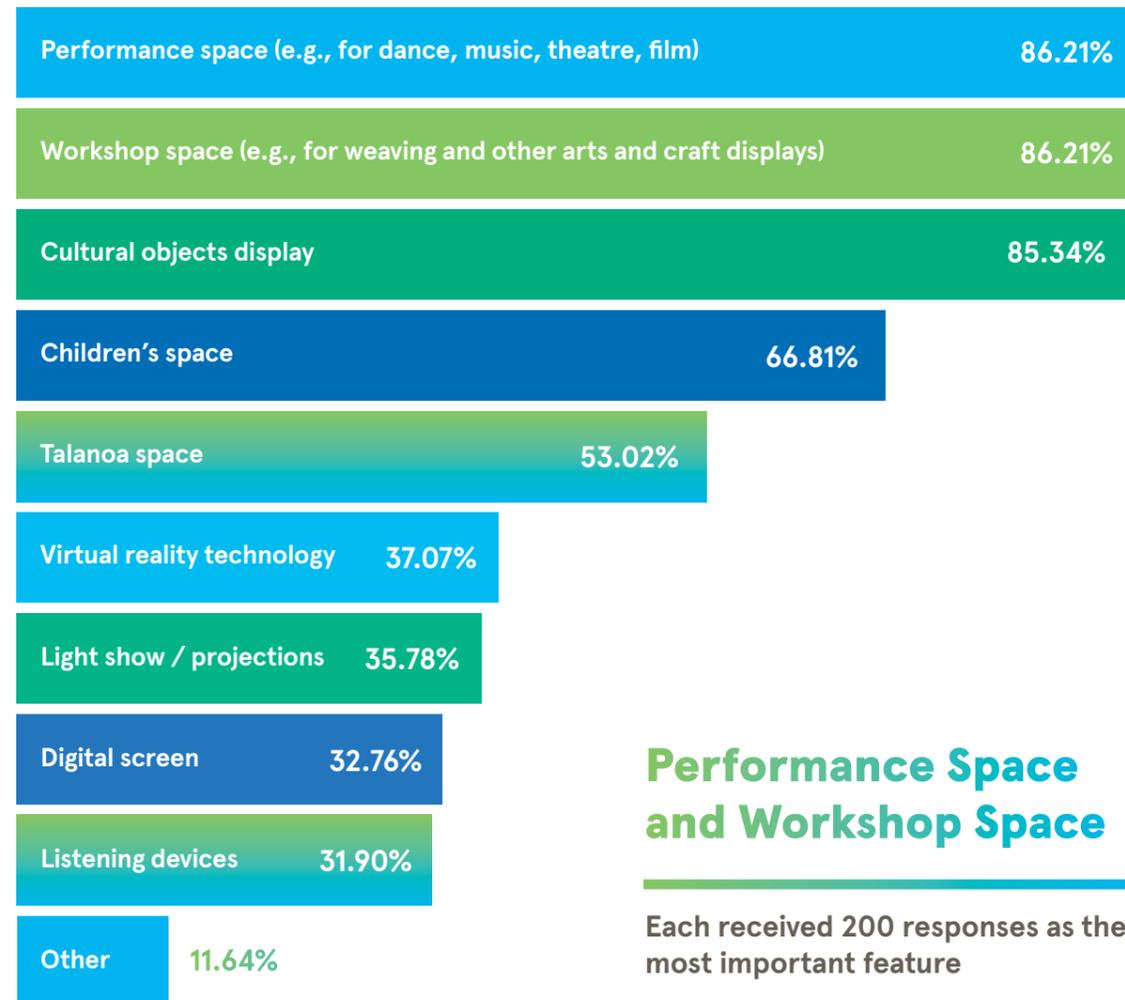
Museums seem to think that "Big is Better" but misses out on showing the wonderful artefacts that it holds - such as Solomon carved clamshells (barava), Torres Straits shell money, Papuan Gulf Smaller items (shell money, bull-roarers, etc), the earlier Highland money items and shell decorations of the discovery years (c1930), the beautiful tapa cloths of Oro, the marvellous carved wooden betel chewing artefacts, items used in the Kula/Hiri/Te/Moka and other trade cycles. etc. A superb display could be made simply of money and trade items, etc. Also some of those marvellous stone figures/mortars, pestles of prehistoric New Guinea. People would rather see actual old artefacts rather than large plastic ants/dinosaurs - I remember a display you had of the Abelam (I think) with horrible (and obvious) plastic "shell" rings.

1. South Sea Islander and Indentured Labourer histories 2. Specifically Australia's role in colonising the Pacific, particularly the Melanesian region 3. Connecting Australia-based Pacific diaspora culture makers with our colleagues based in the homelands

Question 6

The following is a list of features the new Pasifika Gallery space could include. Select the five most important to you.

Answered 232 | Skipped 1



Performance Space and Workshop Space

Each received 200 responses as the most important feature

Oral storytelling / storytelling perspectives

oratory and storytelling space

Perspectives

Historic to contemporary

Elders passing the stories and traditions in a week dedicated to Pacific.

Fagogo Ancient Storytelling & chants.

LGBTIQ perspectives.

tapu

Performance

Performance space is great idea and workshops.

Performance!!!! Let our people tell our stories

Singing. And language learning.

Some sort of means for visiting pacifica to continually engage with culture, whether through performance, art or singing classes etc. Sharing and learning space where youth can feel a sense of belonging - a living space.

Objects / cultural treasures

If cultural items are to be on display PLEASE let it be measina/taonga [treasure] that have been donated by a family and NOT stolen "objects"

Artefacts.

Integrated display spaces for cultural objects from collections and contemporary art

Workshops & arts / crafts

Tatu or tattoo Artist/Contemporary Art

I'm a Weaver, Māori Healer based in Sydney and interested in being more involved.

Workshops for arts and crafts would be beneficial

Real art! You have master pieces use those and stop children stupidity

Contemporary art exhibition space

Children's space

Children love learning, this would be a great opportunity to create something with them in mind.

Digital

Keep everything digital and keep replicas, return all original artefacts back to the Pacific.

Interactive displays using modern IT

Educational films, etc.

Interactive

Te Papa, Wellington has great interactive engaging activities.

Question 7

Why are these features important to you?

Answered 186 | Skipped 47

Pasifika-led storytelling

They are not important, just valid

Resonates with the cultural identity and values which I uphold in today's society.

"It's understand where we came from, how we identify with western society and being proud to have this for the western world to know how rich our culture is."

Gives a real perspective of what life in the Pacific Region.

True history of our heritage, a reconnection to our people and our culture to make a difference in the future for our children.

The features are important so the new generation can know the history of the Pacific Islands

Rejuvenate interest

Growth Thinking.

Give everyone an insight into Pasifika culture.

I believe they would capture attention and are good ways for people to interact and immerse themselves in the community aspects of the culture

Shows where we come from

Because it shows the Culture

I feel it reinforces the education and connection of our cultural practices in an advanced form of use.

It's a way to activate the space for the community.

Resonate most

Being of Pacific Island descent, we need more representation of our culture here and what better way to display than thru these mediums

I feel like it would be a good way for people who aren't of pacific decent to know more in depth the cultures of the pacific - also for those who are of pacific decent who are finding it hard to connect with their cultural customs

I believe it is important to me that many of the new gen are born overseas and those who would like to connect more with their culture and their families upbringing can have a way in keeping in touch with it by this gallery. Although some may benefit from this at home, this can be an open door and opportunity for those who are halfcast and the public with different cultural backgrounds to learn about our cultures too seeing as this is a multicultural country.

Because they need to see a deeper insight to our culture,

Revive culture

Because I want to feel represented in this country! In New Zealand there's a lot of that but here in Australia there is little to none.

Representation of Pacific Cultures here in Australia (Oceania)

Question 7

Why are these features important to you?

This will be great for the community.

For visitors to understand and appreciate our culture and way or life.

Very important to create a space for cultural exchange between the various community groups as this is at the heart of pasifika cultures.

History , Cultural understanding, tradition to make some all the above mention features has great importance in Pacifica communities in Australia

To share our stories and activities in an inclusive mainstream space provides for a sense of belonging in this new land we now call home.

i think they cover enough of a range of mediums in which to experience customary and contemporary art practice in many ways.

Because the museum is a white institution

We see, share, educate, and celebrate our diverse Pasifika.

To share the before and the now and the futures

The continuation of culture - facilitated by Pacific employees of the gallery.

As a means of oral transmission - safe, dedicated, respectful, joyful, remembering, imagining spaces where Pasifika culture can be shared in all of its expressions.

because I would like to know more than what my Ancestors have told me

Cultural significance rather than contemporary interpretation.

Diverse storytelling ways and perspectives

Gives an option for a wider range of guests to interact.

Physical displays are effective in communicating ideas. A Children's space allows engagement. Light show projections (maybe on the floor showing expansion of people around the pacific) are informative and pleasing to the eye. Virtual reality is new and attractive.

Relevant to our culture today

Learning about the Pacific of then and now

To remind our family of the hardships and idealistic movements that were created for the society we live in today prime examples of survival

Allows you to be more engaged and can learn more with visuals.

Mixing traditional and contemporary aspects can prove to be engaging to all age groups.

Because they would be a diverse way to highlight so many beautiful things about pacific culture in a way that engages different groups of people

Pasifika is more than Polynesia

I am a Pasifika LGBTI Activist. Being Queer in the Pacific and the diaspora in Australia and NZ, is a very much a part of the history, culture, traditions and lived experience of Pasifika peoples.

"As minorities in the space, it is important to showcase the diversity in our people"

A multi modal approach is needed.

It an overall scope that's disappearing in all indigenous culture and identity.

It would create a space for the diaspora that may have lost their links or cultural identity and it would be a great way to reconnect that. It would also be a really good way for the general public to learn more about their pacific neighbours.

Use the vast Pacific Collection as reference points (exhibitions) for Pacific communities. The Pacific Collection is an educational platform for us and the general public

Living culture

It's important to create space where community can meet and connect to the pieces in the museum and each other

Cultural knowledge, interaction and belief in the next generation having a big impact in the future.

Why are these features important to you?

Spaces that Pacific communities can reconnect, access cultural objects, and learn.

For people who don't come from the islands, I think these are the simple ways for people to understand the Pasifika culture

It shows generations our way of life, culture as to how back then to what it is now. For all ages and walks of life.

Nesian values. This should be a space useful to Nesian's not just for other cultures to look at us like monkeys in a zoo.

I really like the idea of turning it into a hub for community activities celebrating Pasifika culture. A lot of these events are currently held in churches and it would be good to bring them into a more... neutral space. :)

"Culture is living and breathing. Cultures stay alive through their practice. If museums want to express their value for cultures they should also represent modern and create opportunities to connect the ancient with modern. Relevancy is key. The old days of anthropological archives are interesting but don't give the complete picture."

Because they frame our cultures in a context of them still being present, relevant and in need of engagement - historically western-centric viewpoints detach objects from people

Pacific History is a living breathing entity it should be shown as such.

1. I'm mostly interested in creating spaces that Pacific people can utilise and use as a resource for cultural knowledge sharing
2. Spaces that reflect our contemporary Pacific life now

"To have the opportunity to view historical taonga [treasure] then sit in a space to talk about present practice and looking towards the future."

What is the Museum for? The current space again lacks that historical storytelling and better understanding of Australia's place in the region.

Because they are the ones on offer. Also what is a Talanoa [discussion] space. Perhaps you could explain that for people as not all people know what that is. What culture is it from and why is it chosen. Also of importance is an acknowledgement to Aboriginal Australia of which Aboriginal nations in the east coast are part of the Pacific too

To keep our traditions alive. Interweaving our past to our present and future where a need of cultural awareness and maintaining it is also another part to keep alive as we live in a diverse state/country and the only way to maintain that is to show it physically, to feel it and bring that sense of pride of our cultural heritage.

Arts / Crafts

I believe that the arts and crafts of Tongan people are slowly fading out. I learnt these ancient skills from my mother so I would be able to preserve her fine mats if ever the day came and no one of that generation was around I would know how.

Traditional vs modern contemporary Arts display etc

To attract and identify origins of specific Art

"As a part of the Pacific, weaving gathered a lot of us. All different in our islands but, all weavers as 1. Also, korero [oral scholarship] on the preparation of the harakeke and the many different techniques used to create what they do."

I am an art teacher and have always had an interest in Pacific's culture and history.

Museum is for art and to make people think not a children's playground with fake and plastic artefacts

I enjoy and very much practice my cultural art and craft. Donate art work to Museum as well

Why are these features important to you?

Children / young people

It is important to me for generations of the future to be able to experience and learn in an appropriate and interactive environment. So my hope is that this space will be able to interest young minds about the Pasifika in a way that will be well received.

Many first generation Australian Pacific Islanders aren't as connected to their cultures as those back in the islands, and as the generation that moved here straight from the islands and have now raised families are getting older and it's on us, the younger generation to hold on to our culture and continue practice and teaching it to the next generations to come.

A great space for our children born and raised here in Australia to learn about our culture and our ancestors.

It creates an interactive space for children to learn and experience a relatively close idea of what our history was like.

They are features that are particularly important within my culture eg. Children, cultural objects, dance and performance. Things that we as a people understand and relate to best.

To keep the legacy of my ancestors alive - to show the importance of traditions and culture to my children. To give my Australian born Pacific Islander child the access to an insight of our motherland on our homeland, Australia

To ensure that our Pasifika culture is accessible to our younger generation to enrich identity and connections.

We need to continue the story of our culture to our children. I have limited knowledge in Pasifika art/heritage but I think having a new spin on it through virtual reality can bring more life to the art space which is pretty traditional.

My husband is Samoan & we have 2 children, we are always looking for ways to connect them with their identity and their fathers homeland.

Children are our future so it would enlighten the next generation to learn about our Island neighbours via cultural objects/displays/performances and discussion.

My son and I are both Maori and recently moved over, so it would be neat to be able to show him our whakapapa (genealogy) without having to make a trip back home.

Because it teaches not only others about different cultures within our country as we are such a multicultural country but it would be awesome for a place I can take my children in this country and teach and show them of my cultural heritage without having to go to NZ we can have a cultural experience within our own country.

More so for children to actually see, feel, hear and touch Pacific culture

Modern, will engage children and it's important to provide a space for workshops to be held.

That the values may be passed on to the next generations and that the meaning of what we do and why we do this is not lost for the generations to follow. Language nest to link in with education. Preserve the language we preserve the culture

Would love to show the grandkids that haven't visited the homeland what life was/is like and encourage them to know their roots and for general public to experience it as well

Museums are for our children mostly so a children's section is important. Having a space to discuss and learn and see live culture is an experience many have not and do not get, but is necessary to learn and form identity.

My children are half Samoa and Macedonian. And love the cultures on both sides. Interaction is key for them to pick up our different practices.

"Allowing spaces for children to explore Pacific history is an important learning tool for them. This should incorporate interactivity through digital technology and performance and workshop spaces as well as it provides a dynamic way for everyone to learn and actively be involved."

Why are these features important to you?

Objects / cultural treasures

Most Pasifika objects that I know of would have been used in everyday life and in important ceremonies on occasions such as a wedding, funeral or coronation. To me such objects are important as they are closely connected with Pasifika culture and history that would have carried down through many generations.

Cultural objects display - I've visited so many museums and galleries since living in Australia & I love seeing cultural objects from around the world. But I've always wished to see something from the Pacific being displayed in a museum, like a beautiful Siapo [designs particular to Samoan tapa] or ietoga [a valuable fine mat (Samoa)]. Not many people know what treasures and tools Pacific history/culture has to offer. I also think it's important we have Talanoa [discussion] spaces to share and hear experiences and knowledge. Performance spaces are so important, you learn so much about Pasifika culture from our songs and dances.

"I have visited too many museums where "things" that our tagata/tangata/wanaka [people] treasure are put on display with no acknowledgement as to whose it family it belongs to and how it got there. Our measina/taonga [treasure] are connected to us personally, please do not display things that have been stolen."

To make the space an interactive one, especially for children and youth.

Cultural objects speak to the heart and soul. They give us an insight not only to the beauty but also to the mighty craftsmanship required. Tells a story about the maker just as much as the piece itself and how it may have been used.

There are treasures there with great significance to Māori Culture such as a carving connected to Te Kooti & the korowai Cloak made for one of the L Blacks which our people would like to know they are there and learn more about them.

Objects on the wall are useful but static. They don't make as much sense without living examples on display.

Re my other comments - these areas are what a museum should show. Anybody can see, at any time on the Internet, Digital screens, light shows, listening devices, Cultural performance, Talanoa [discussion] space, virtual reality and so on. What they can't see are the actual artefacts of the wonderful cultures - both past and present. Anybody can look at a book or google to see photos of, for example, the rare prehistoric stone figures/mortars/pestles of New Guinea - but to actually see the item - That is a privilege that only a museum can show - that is the type of item that A MUSEUM SHOULD SHOW.

View objects in person that may no longer exist, greater immersion & to built togetherness, collective enjoyment & interaction

"Provide real connections to the objects/items and opportunities for all to participate meaningfully."

Artefacts have to be kept active within the living community.

Keeping audio visual and virtual reality ensures that the future generations of Pacific Island children can see value in Thier own artefacts that were stolen and not have to travel to Australia to see them. Artefacts and traditional forms of artwork which have been designated by colonisation are non existent in many islands of the Pacific yet you hoard these things for the voyeurism of the white visitors that visit the museum. Pacific islanders need access to the artefacts.

Family

Because you are holding our ancestors

I visited the collection in 2013 and the cultural objects were on display in a small room. On presentation were over fifty masks, spears, shields all facing one another nameless. At the entrance was a Māori carving also without an identity to the people and arras of which it belonged. As a person deeply connected to my cultures and spirituality, I felt the wrath of the objects and the energy was dense and of despair. I believed that our stories, our people deserved more care, respect and investigation into where the objects came from.

Performance & oral storytelling

Why are these features important to you?

I feel so connected to storytelling through dance and song. As a Pasifika, bonding and learning through song and dance was a big part of my upbringing and culture, so personally this feature would be important to me.

Gives an array of experiences of culture that perhaps patrons may not have had experience with.

Best way to represent the Pacific culture.

Because they would allow me to connect with my culture in a fresh and excellent way.

Our cultures are rich and are made up of so many elements, our music, dance, cultural history, attire, etc. all tell stories about who we are and if we don't treasure & continue sharing it people will forget and i never want to forget who i am where i come from & also hope to share the richness of our culture with everyone.

We tell our story through song and dance.

I feel this would be the best ways to authentically showcase the pacific Islands

I feel like in this day an age, this would help a lot of younger Pacific Islanders understand the history behind each and every one of the Islands our ancestors came from.

It is through these methods my love for my culture was sparked and I love to embrace my culture watching/performing kapahaka [Maori group performances]. Also hands on work

is more interactive and a great alternative particularly for restless children who don't take well to PowerPoint presentations etc.

"Pasifika history was passed down through conversations and stories. Sharing stories and telling stories is a big factor within our Pasifika cultures. Our voices are important not forgetting our ancestors voices. Open and safe spaces where we are able to open up and talk basically about anything is a big thing which creates bridges over differences."

Because they bring the space alive and allow the spirit of the objects to talk.

They allow for people to be at the centre of living cultures to be at the centre of the gallery.

Great mediums for knowledge transfer they are the foundations of our cultures. while the digital screens and other technologies would be cool the chosen features are more connected to what and who we are as pasifika people

To understand ones culture, is to immerse yourself into it, through the form of visual, audio and hands on. Although a brief visit, it would plant the seed of understanding and bloom into appreciation, not only for our culture/country/people but the world that we live in.

Keeps my culture alive in a country I now call home. As well as bringing about awareness of my culture and the importance of it especially in the western world

I believe it's more effective when you learn thru physical objects & interactions and verbal conversations

I have different ways of learning and engaging than a traditional style museum. Also think so much of our storytelling is through dance, music, performing, weaving etc., and it would be great to engage with that, as many of us diaspora are not connected to that. Plus it would be so cool for non Pacific people to learn and engage with it too

Our children are our hope and future. Performance and workshop space mean living culture, instead of frozen in time as a display in a glass box, separated from the touch of the people. Singing is huge for Amis people, likely important to other Pacifika peoples too. And language holds culture and worldview--preserve the languages--preserve the cultures. Speak the languages--live the cultures.

Because these spaces can really communicate and showcase our culture and history

They are real

Showcases the beauty of our pacific culture

Because it really does showcase our pasifika culture and it is what shows people that is is, especially in dance.

Why are these features important to you?

To interact more and allow us to feel the energy through the atmosphere of dance, play and visual objects.

It is a great learning tool for all ages

Because it would provide a engaging, almost lived in experience.

Just to share our culture

Because they allow more immersion of the viewer in the learnings about Pacific culture and the Pacific

They are the main areas of are cultures

To place the community within the space will allow it to be also be and breathing. The artefacts are our relations and we need the space to live in relationship with them

It's our culture

These features will make the objects more accessible and involve community engagement

interactive

People of all ages will be included in the space. Scope to be personal (via listening devices), to being all-encompassing through performance. Elders through to babies could be part of the various performances.

Pasifika cultures are living and extraordinary and dance, talanoa [discussion], workshops and contemporary art exhibition can bring this to life for all communities that will use the museum. Island

dance is infectious and brings a collective joy to spaces.

Performance is a great way to hear the stories and songs of the pacific, and workshops will add to the visual and physical experience

They would best display and portray Pacifika connections and historical and cultural values and concepts to the observer.

They are things that were important to me as a child.

Dance, song and storytelling is a massive part of Pasifika culture. I believe these aspects are key to creating a gallery that celebrates and showcases Pasifika

Knowledge is power and visuals are so important. Dance and song have the capability of sharing stories and knowledge. Pacific Island cultures are so unique, diverse but connected. Each artefact holds a plethora of stories, these stories must be shared and not concealed.

They are the most engaging

Allows for more cultural experiences/ activities

They are the most aligned with values that are shared across various Pacific nations e.g. Inclusion, community, heritage

Interaction is necessary, dance and songs are cultural activities, storytelling and help frame the philosophy of islanders.

These features allow the public to interact with the collection and let elders tell their stories about the objects.

Pasifika communities lack a cultural space in the Sydney CBD. It will be one of a kind to have a safe cultural space to bring family, guests, friends and all others to learn about Pasifika culture, attend a workshop and bring our young ones together to learn and absorb culture together. I yearn for these spaces but they seem to only exist in Western Sydney, which is vital connection spaces for our Pasifika people but hard to get to if you're not based there and live around metro Sydney.

Our culturals rely on the passing of information through on aural and visual information passed on through generals. I think these formats:/ features relay our stories and cultural best.

Digital / immersive

Going with the times and technology would be a contemporary move that could highlight Pasifika in a more visual aspect. I think the flexibility with a digital feature could also mean that there is more to display from aspects of Pasifika that were never physically preserved.

An immersive experience is a great way to convey the wonders of ancient pacific travel and culture.

Because they are the heat of Pacific culture - some of these 5 could be doubled-up and co-located with high tech features. New Pacific culture is cutting edge do the spaces should be flexible and reflect this.

Why are these features important to you?

Immersion in culture in its rawest form

It will keep our next generation of Pasifika well informed about their culture & history esp moving with the times & new technology where we will be able to capture in interests of our young Pasifika.

I think it is important to have a space that allows visitors (Pacific Islanders and non-Pacific Islanders) to view and immerse themselves in the Pacific Island culture. Further to this I think having a kids section offers the opportunity to tailor displays to educate the younger generation.

"It helps those that are born and raised in Australia who are of pacific island decent to experience a bit of history through modern technology"

Immersive experiences and performance spaces

Immersive

Showcase the people's with visual aids yet keeping up with the times via technology. Recent documentaries as well as old ones. And closed captioning on screen for hearing impaired.

I would hope that visual elements on a screen (or similar) would enable the viewer to see representations of Pacific history, events, places, etc. from the past that are worthy of preserving but may no longer be accessible.

Complete immersion by sound, creativity, sight, touch and conversation.

VR technology will be great as it would be a unique and new approach to sharing and showcasing our peoples history.

To immerse in the culture

It will help vistors to immerse themselves in Pasifika cultures.

Interactive

Interactive and engaging

Interactive and brings us close to our true history and culture.

Its interactive and allows people to experience and share the cultures.

Interactive learning

A hands on, visually appealing space gets everyone's attention.

Spaces to share and something interactive

Viewing and hands on is so important for all ages

As pacific people we are Kinstethic Learners, Physical learners. Having interactive mediums would be awesome.

Allows more engagement and interactive learning

Interactive feel

Workshops

Visitors should be able to connect and understand the history and culture. Immersive displays, and interactive spaces, workshops etc, would help facilitate a strong connection.

More of a connection when listening to others talk and host workshops.

It would be good to have some sort of embodied activities or workshops taking place at the Australian Museum. Things that engage senses beyond just visual would be great.

Hands on

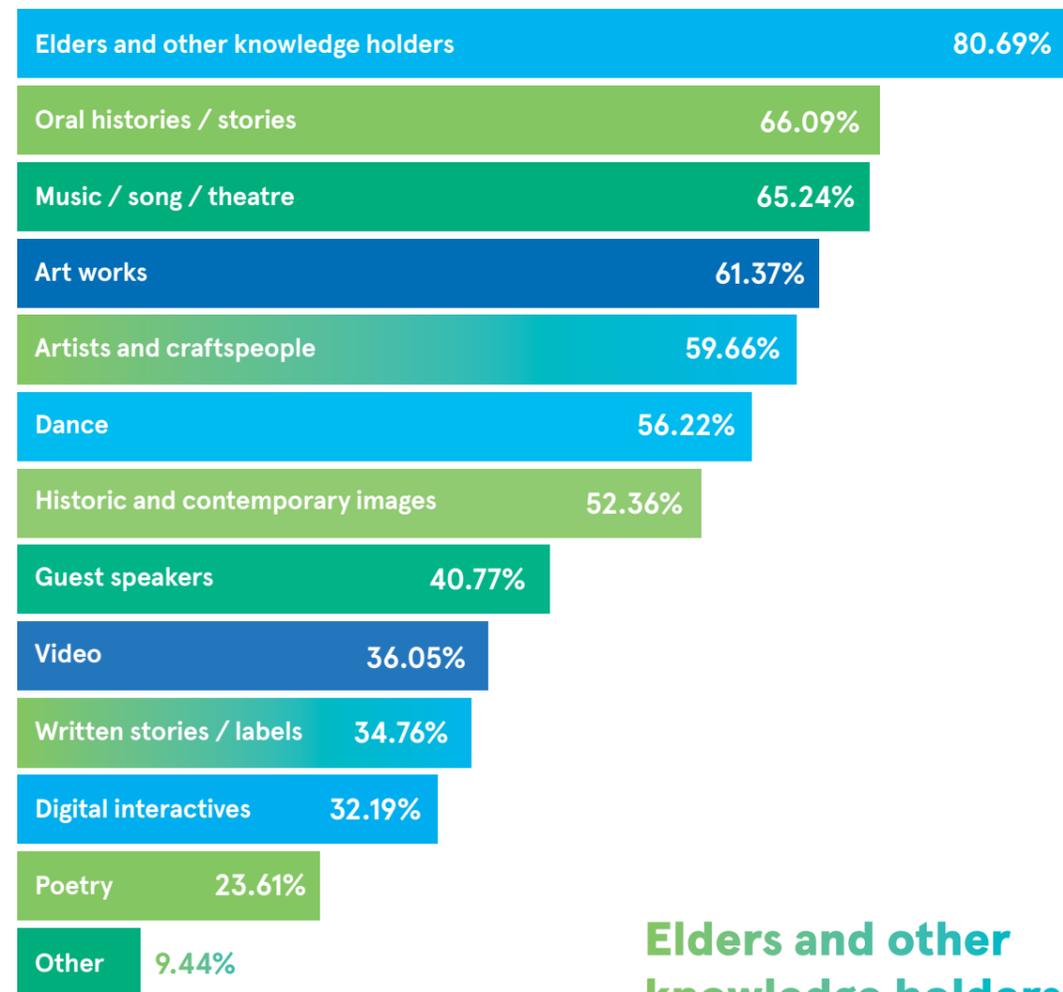
Museums should offer tactile experiences too...

"Interactive sharing of culture helps people connect with the culture on a deeper level even sometimes spiritual level"

Question 8

The following are examples of the possible ways to tell our stories in the new Pasifika Gallery. Select the five most important to you.

Answered 233 | Skipped 0



Elders and other knowledge holders

Received 188 responses as the most important way to tell stories

All comments made

Storytelling and dancing important also

These questions seem to ignore the fact the the Australian Museum has a world famous collection of some 60,000 items which should be on display and interpreted.

Religion

Food

Just overall blend of ancient with contemporary arts and knowledges.

Theatre plays because made from our people told from our people for our people

Performances by Matavai Cultural

Sorry, I honestly couldn't keep it to 5!

Our own. Doing what they do best.

Ancient methods of medicine & cooking

Screen and video is good. But also accessible outside a museum

All are good ideas.

Kai and Whakapapa [food and genealogy].

How the stories manifest is beyond your control as a white institution

Archaeology discoveries and artefacts

Nature and the special connection to the people

All of these things can be used to hold an exhibition and artefacts can be returned.

would expect that music would inevitably incorporate dance and our Elders would inevitably incorporate oral histories.

Think about the water and connecting Australia Museum to other spaces where Pasifika people can meet as part of the Australia Museum but to learn more about voyaging at La Perouse, or Yarra Bay.

Question 9

Why are these ways of storytelling important to you?

Answered 168 | Skipped 65

Reflects Pasifika culture

These are the forms of storytelling that I am familiar with and interested in. I know that historically, stories and important events were carried down the generations during a 'talanoa' [discussion], which highlights how important interaction and fellowship is in the Pasifika. Respecting your elders is vital in Pasifika culture, partly because of their leadership in a family unit but mostly because of the history and wisdom that would have been passed on to them from previous generations. Imaging and artworks provide a more visual concept of storytelling that I would prefer because I myself am not a great oral storyteller but I think places and emotions can be explored more in an image/artwork.

From experience I've learnt about my Fijian heritage and culture through elders in my family. I feel like that is the most accurate information.

Knowledge

"This allows us to remember what was in our past and relate what's contemporary, spoken in a manner that eases the information into our psyche or spirituality to enable it to be passed on to the future generations."

This is how we pass on our history and give the next generation an understanding of where they came from, to help give them a strong identity of being pacific people and what that means. This is how we as a pacific culture and people will continue to live and our histories/cultures to thrive through our stories. If you look at ancient cultures and histories like the Greeks, this is how they pass on their knowledge and pride as a nation ie they are told and learn through their elders, they are taught by teachers at school, through storytelling in theatre etc. as well as this all being documented in books.

All of the above are important and can be done together. The pacific about relationships so real pacific/Pasifika people communicating with AM visitors is the most powerful and unique way AM can contribute to Ausyralian society.

Sensory experiences of the Pasifika cultures.

I feel it is the best way to do so.

Can be easy for people to understand and learning from elders and other knowledge holders mean that it's coming straight from the source and is similar to our traditional ways of storytelling and passing knowledge onto the next generation.

These are probably the closest forms of storytelling to Pacific cultures - art, dance, oral history, learning from our Elders. When I think about my culture these are what immediately come to my mind in terms of childhood memories and learning about my culture.

It's always good to learn about our ancestors and learn about how different life was for them

My grandmother tells the best stories through teaching us dances & the meaning behind them, poetry and music and it is so precious to hear them from her and pass that on. I never want these stories to be lost.

They are the way in which I have always been told the stories of my people and my culture.

There's no other people to learn better from than that of our elders

These are naturally how the oceania teach, by storytelling

Oral histories (through elders etc) is how information was passed around in the past (limited written texts) Cultural Dance/performances song/music tell their own stories. I'm particularly interested in folk tales and stories about how life was like in the past (pre-missionaries ...)

Question 9

Why are these ways of storytelling important to you?

I think my options are important because not only does the Tongan culture verbally tell stories but a lot of them can be interpreted in songs which too are showcased in dances such as the Tauolunga [a particular dance completed in Tonga by a single woman on her wedding day].

"Because majority of Pasifika have have passed down our history orally. All our measina/taonga [treasure] have stories connected to them. If a Pasifika display is to be curated authentically and accurately than have a Pasifika team lead and create it."

Books to tell our myths, music to share our wairua [inherent spirit, good faith], Elders to share knowledge and wisdom of our past, dance to share our ferocious beauty, and art to show the exclusive techniques we use to convey stories/messages/symbolism

Personally from experience, I feel like these are just the simple ways us as Pacific Islanders, know how to communicate and tell the stories of our ancestors. The way we all sing our hymns, our songs that were composed by such talented people in the past. The way we dance to help keep the traditions alive, to help pass on the ways of our people to the future generations. Every movement, every word, carries so much meaning for us so it's only fair we get to share that with others. We are loud, loving and passionate people, so it's only right, we get to represent not only the mix between our old traditions and the present times, but what we always grew up learning about. Regardless of how you portray the importance of our people, each

Islander with family that originated from the Islands, will know how hard life was for them, to have your ancestors struggle in the past to help their kids, grandchildren and even great-grandchildren of today. So they would be brought up in a country, where their is endless opportunities for them and their futures.

Stories are told in Polynesian culture by songs, hymns and dance

The best knowledge is from our elders. They pass down what was taught to them from their ancestors and it's an ongoing effect within our cultures.

I like the passionate aspects of learning through the arts and the people

Because there are different learning styles and this would address all of them.

More appealing to others and showcases our culture

Alternative and creative modes of storytelling that appreciate ancient/new technologies make it engaging for people of all ages.

They provide context and insight into the cultures.

Again these are the ways our ancestors went on to tell stories and I think keeping that connection is so important. with the introduction of technology we have the privilege of being able to document our stories now but maintaining our oral histories through our arts and talanoa [discussion] is just as important

The Rotuman language and culture is dying out with our elders. It is important that we learn as much as we can from them. Dance is a vital part of my culture and displaying it would tell more stories than most

Dance and oral histories are a huge part of pacific history. They connect future generations to the past & it's important these continue on.

They are ways that our peoples have told stories through generations and is a medium that we are accustomed to

I don't know. It's just for me personally I connect to art in terms of performance art - and I feel that's a powerful way to engage others into learning about our culture

"Pacific culture was passed down verbally so sharing Pacific culture through music/storytelling via digital interaction keeps it alive and accessible in a contemporary context."

Because much of PNG traditional history was passed down orally for generations and nothing was recorded. Despite this, we were taught about our culture at a young age and never lost sight of any of our traditions. By telling these stories, we want to show the world that we still maintain our cultural beliefs and practices in this modern world.

Dance, music, arts its all part of how pacific people told their stories before writing.

Why are these ways of storytelling important to you?

As it comes from the person themselves. Not from someone who isn't of the country or missing information to not tell the whole story.

We need to honour our Elders and the stories m/ knothat have been passed down. Hands on opportunities are important too.

"Because we tell the story of our culture and traditionally learn through song, dance and story. It's therefore important to continue that tradition."

Because our Elders & Tohunga [expert in traditional knowledge] are the holders of sacred knowledge. Artists know how to tell stories in a way that we understand.

To keep traditional aspects alive

Pacific people relate well through this

to capture the authenticity of material practices through art practitioners and the oral histories through our living repositories who still have stories to share (our elders)

That is the basis of culture. Customs and traditions.

Storytelling or the spoken word is the most frequently used mechanism on passing down history from generation to generation in the Pacific and Oceania.

Storytelling in the Pacific is the way of life. Our morals and values come from a long line of ancestors.

It was hard to pick. Art, artists etc / there are incredible artists across the Pacific and in the diaspora. Art is a great format to get people to think and feel and Pasifika art engages with major issues of our time (climate change; nuclear power; abuses of power- colonisation, resources exploitation; etc). There are amazing academics and knowledge holders and I can imagine a series of searching and thought provoking talks on a range of topics. Elders have lived on effectively different planets and have lived in magical spiritual places, which modernity tends to deaden and silence. We must hear from and archive the stories and lives of elders.

Pacific history is weaved into songs and stories as it was not a written language

Same as question 7. I think it's important to have some elders and other knowledge holders telling stories or explaining the artworks because they may have knowledge about Pasifika beyond art = answer a broader range of questions (I hope that makes sense).

I believe they are most engaging for the Pacific Island diasporas

To resist in protecting and teaching our Pasifika epistemologies, ontologies and axiologies.

Our people were oral story tellers. Written work is hard to find, the art of oral storytelling is the art form. That dies with our elders and can't be held in drawers in a museum, thank goodness although I am sure coloniser would have tried if they could.

Oral and intergenerational knowledge transfer

Telling stories and sharing stories are great, return the artefacts. You don't need them for a Pacific show. With the importance of returning First Nations artefacts back to where they belong, should be indicative of also returning artefacts that are indigenous to the Pacific Islands.

Because we are more than essays, reports. Reflect our oral traditions

They're authentic.

For me they go to the heart of culture - hearing directly from people and the opportunity to share and be heard is the most natural and true to our culture.

It's part of our culture. Folklore passed down through the generations.

These are the main ways in which Pacific islanders record and share their histories.

Future generations can still hear our voice and our stories

It is how information is passed on to the next.

Why are these ways of storytelling important to you?

Dance, music, song and theatre is food for the soul and forms of storytelling that I have grown up with in Fiji then moving to Australia. I lack finding these connection points in a museum space or arts institution in Sydney. Dance workshops will be amazing to experience and in a museum space. This really will be one-of-a-kind experience.

Because cultural knowledge is best transferred in the closest way to living it. The main way that stories, customs, cultural significance is told is through all of these mediums.

This is how we learn about our culture and heritage. It's important to pass these stories on to the next generations and also to help strengthen our identities as indigenous cultures.

"It is how we did it in the past, through storytelling and it is through storytelling that gets our point across and the message we are trying to convey whether it be a cultural point or political point."

Keeping stories of origin alive

Artists and elders are knowledge keepers

Feel

You won't always remember the details of something but you will always remember the way it made you feel when you heard it. It's important to tie experiences to learning, especially for Pacific people. It creates a more robust space where people can interact and a much deeper space for learning where people can share.

Encourages live interaction

Provides a tangible exchange of information

Illustrative and connected

Its all things expressive and creates emotive learning. We are people of movement, through many generations.

Again because these are immersive ways of encouraging learning especially if 'oral histories' etc are undertaken by an elder/knowledge holder.

Living and active demonstration of culture.

Keep culture alive, passed on to and appreciated by others and more interesting if interactive

To immerse

See / visual

Visual representation is the most effective way to convey meaning of a story.

Audio visual stimulates and rejuvenates interest

Very hands on, practical and visual. Powerful

"These creative expressions are best for me because I am a visual learner. I would love to watch, listen and interact with things of my culture to enhance my experience."

It's visual and genuine. People will understand it better.

Images and interactive digital learning because I think they are just great ways to learn and they are very engaging.

It creates a sense of history becoming present, whilst allowing people who are learning a visual way of learning seeing it in practicality is what makes people understand more

Visualising and listening to stories help not just children but also the youth broaden their knowledge on the Pacific Island Nations history

You feel more involved and as someone with neurological disorder visuals and sounds are the best way for me to hold on to the information.

Why are these ways of storytelling important to you?

Visual interaction and technology a great for kids

Seeing and hearing are the most valuable intriguing way to learn stories and get the true feel of an emotion.

1. I'm interested in historical images because Pacific history is largely untold even to our own people, and museum archives can be a great resource

A picture speaks a thousand words. With labels you can take the time to read about the work.

Listen / hear

It draws people to listen and hear about the stories of the past through expression of Art . The interpretation might be easier to understand.

Oral history has been handed down through the ages, it's powerful to hear the stories spoken with digital image technology

So that many other people here the storys

Can be absorbed better eg music song and dance

Gives the community a platform to voice their story through these mediums

It's a lost form of communication and we should be able to retain this

Easy to understand.

They express oral culture and a reclamation of oral society living. And are often housed in contemporary people.

Without our pacific language, pacific culture is lost

Our culture is not typically written and word of mouth and stories are so valuable. A great way to share this would be amazing & the opportunity to listen is invaluable. Images provide context and pain the picture of the words

Hearing from real people and giving opportunities to Pasifika artists

Audio and visual methods of storytelling are dynamic and are reliable and consistent methods of transferring knowledge to others

Sharing stories and connection to stories and storytellers

Sharing knowledge of the historic stories of our past provide meaning to different behavioural reactions to situations. Provides a deeper meaning with regard to identity.

To properly share our stories

Interaction with humans.

Humanise ancient and culture with actual people. It brings it to life and also offers acceptance tolerance and development for audiences.

"Because we're relational people and our history is best experienced and remembered through sharing with each other."

Must keep our korero [oral scholarship] alive

Shared knowledge from lived experiences and from different sources is important. History does not belong to one gender one age one group it must be varied and different stories experiences good and bad shared.

People remember a one on one story

Engagement with audience

Connection

Because they are not simply objects but can incorporate in person sessions/exhibitions etc

Elders need to share their reality of Aust transit + links back.

I am interested to hear from elders. I am a visual person so digital interactives, historic and contemporary images will be more engaging for me. I also love music and poetry.

The various methods of storytelling keep the culture, the history and the future of Pasifika alive through various methods and medians of storytelling, both contemporary and traditional.

Why are these ways of storytelling important to you?

Other comments

It is more interactive and less theoretical

It's a way to incorporate contemporary and historical culture and storytelling - everyone is able to enjoy

I couldn't choose 5. These are too good. We need to show our beautiful culture to the world.

Encourage keeping our history alive

Record keeping

Learning

To pass on knowledge and learn of the history behind the knowledge

All are effective approaches towards teaching, maintaining our stories and our cultures.

To engage the younger generation with the Pasifika culture and inform those of non Pacific heritage about the beauty of Pacific cultures.

Having a range of storytelling methods to capture engagement from different age groups and different abilities.

Great ways to impart knowledge and information that is accessible to all audiences.

Everyone appreciates art in all forms. This would cover all walks of life.

I don't know. It's just for me personally I connect to art in terms of performance art - and I feel that's a powerful way to engage others into learning about our culture

There are many ways of learning and education

These are creative ways.

As a pasifika individual, the chosen options are things I (personally) don't necessarily have easy or constant access to or representations in.

Because it's educating and sharing our knowledge, customs and culture with the world.

cause its art

Its important our pacific stories are told by our people. Theres a lack of representation here in Australia

Because it's a way for people's history to be bought to life for the younger generation to learn

Because I don't want any time them to be lost over generations the Moreno modernised the world becomes I don't want the stories of our old people to be lost and is a great way for our future generations to connect with culture.

Because it's good to pass on to next generation..Pacific island people are gifted with creativity etc

Stories can be told in different ways, people take things in differently and having the variety will reach everyone with the same story.

Preserving and uplifting the voices and stories of Pasifika Australians as a unique entity with discrete histories, perspectives challenges and victories that differ from those of their kin in homelands or other diasporic centres

They tell of diverse nations throughout the pacific that join the lot of us 1 way or another

It's Australia's backyard it's important to know it exists

Nesian values, you approach it this way and you cover everything anyways..

Most of the areas that you mention can be found in books/Internet/etc - Museums HAVE artefacts, Museums should SHOW actual artefacts.

They show that our cultures are living, contemporary and relevant today and in Australia

I think digital storytelling runs the risk of being dated and gimmicky very quickly. You have to really invest in it to do it right, and I wonder if for that cost, are you better commissioning and installing traditional art??

Help the younger generations understand these objects and culture

Appeal to all ages

Question 9

Why are these ways of storytelling important to you?

Knowing your roots You know you in your journey in/ of life. Your families stories may ground you, humbles you and even drives your purpose. Appreciation of how we navigate through migration (legislations) settling and participation in the new territory together with the challenges and the complexity of this new land. And to celebrate achievements however insignificant they may be. Empowerment is in writing our own stories.

Oration supported by science, artifacts and history.

Again understanding that special long ago relation between us the Pacific people and Australia i. the past and in the modern days.

As above, to incorporate the before, the now and the future

The others exist in some form but I think it's important for museums to become more than exhibitions

It will help the young generation of all cultures to understand and to be aware of our pasific neighbours.

No reason just what I would like to see.

because I love these

It depends on whether we want to preserve history or display the development of cultures, which can be bias and political. Today, cultures have been digitally homogenize. Modern interpretations of history IMHO destroys history and leaves cultures open to conjecture.

most valid to me

Engaging and interactive and tap into historical, present and future knowledge and learning.

They're all important, but these because they involve representation and information to a variety of people and races and require the institution to engage active communities.

Real life experiences expressed in a variety of ways to the visitor or viewer.

People learn in different ways, people express culture in different ways.

Mediums that create more awareness

Because white supremacist practices have nothing to teach us.

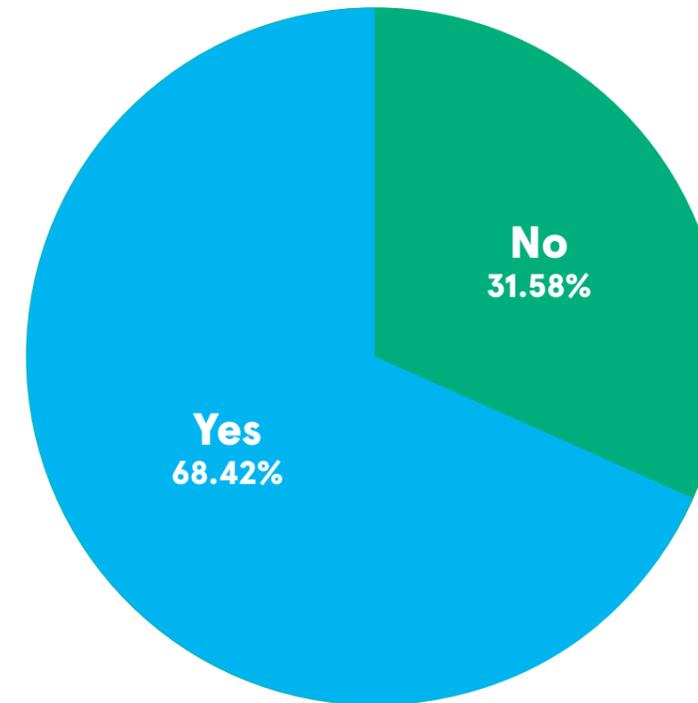
They cover a broad range of learning styles so the knowledge can accessible for all people.

We are a multi faceted people

Question 10

Would you like to receive feedback on the results of this survey?

Answered 228 | Skipped 5



Question 11

We would like to invite you to participate in further activities that will assist in developing the new Pasifika Gallery. If you'd like to stay in the loop, enter your contact details below.

Answered 172 | Skipped 61

Question 12

Is there anything else you wish to say regarding your views on the new Pasifika Gallery?

Answered 121 | Skipped 112

Pasifika voice, role

A wonderful initiative! I hope it is being led and managed by Pasifika staff ...right up to the most senior level.

It should be original and specific and significant to our Pacific people. Sources should be primary and not views and perspectives of the white man but views and perspectives of our people, our stories, and our experiences. This is a big thing for us to be able to have such a platform.

“Please privilege and centre the voices from Australian South Sea Islander Communities as well as include stories of broader pacific resistance and creative revolution in response to colonial attempts to wipe out our cultures.”

I just hope that the museum works very closely if not wholly with the pasifika community and making sure to remember that whilst we are very interconnected people with close histories and cultures there still are some differences that im sure everyone would like to have explored

I'm extremely excited and can not wait to be able to visit the gallery. I believe our pacific people have a voice and have a authentic way of telling our incredible stories. Its beautiful that the Australian Museum will give them a platform to do so and showcase AM's collection.

It would be great to see our pasefika people telling our stories, sharing the knowledge or leading the narrative with the gallery tours. It just connects us in ways that we sometimes long for especially living so far from home shores.

Try to have pasifika people working there

Ask us what should go in to your pacific gallery. Ask the people all of us. From the smallest island to the biggest island. Please include the 1st nation of this great land.

Thankyou so much for Creating a platform for Pacifica to express themselves . Truely grateful

Is the team Pasefika?

It would be a good idea to appoint an agent or two from each country that will be featured in the gallery who will act as a liaison officer to deal with any matters relating to the gallery.

I think this is a really great idea! Thank you so much for asking the Pasifika community what they would like to see in the gallery. All the best!

The Pasifika Gallery must employ Pasifika LBBTIQ people.

How many Pacific islanders are currently employed by the Australian Museum?

This MUST be conceptualized and lead by our diaspora Pasifika curators, academics and communities.

Repatriation

Repatriate these objects to the islands

I wish you would return the artifacts to their island nations and fund their museums.

Excitement, thanks, welcome initiative

It's wonderful, well done.

More people need to know about your amazing work!

Keep up the good work

Question 12

Is there anything else you wish to say regarding your views on the new Pasifika Gallery?

looking forward to it

Excited and looking forward to it. Let me know how I can assist and support the Pasifika Gallery. Vinaka vakalevu. [thank you very much]

Can't wait to visit!

“I would fly from Melbourne to Sydney just to visit!”

I am excited to hear that there will be a Museum celebrating, communicating and allowing people to engage with our culture and history as Polynesian people.

Very excited and keen for future developments! Well done

Thank you for opening/ holding a space for our people to remember & connect with our heritage.

Thank you for this great space!

Love this idea and thank you for creating this survey

I welcome the initiative. Pasifika generations and anyone else may find it of worth and value in a lot of ways.

Can't wait so excited

Wishing the Pasifika team all the very best on their new venture.

I think this is a wonderful idea - and a long time coming. Well done for taking this step. Should you need any help I am more than happy to assist with my skills and knowledge of Fiji.

Thanks for asking us.

Absolutely LOVE this! Great job

Thank you for investing in our people

All the best

Thank you. We have such a rich and vast history in the pacific, so much so that it would be selfish for us to not share it with the everyone.

“Thankyou for creating a space for our diaspora to connect and share our cultures to the rest of the Australian public.”

Very cool that this is happening. Thank you.

Thank you so much for considering setting up a Pasifika Gallery. Love Australian Museum!

I think this is a fantastic idea and am very excited to come and visit and experience all pacific island cultures.

Can't wait to see what unfolds.

Looking forward to being with our artefacts!

All the best with it

It's a great idea and a great way to educate everyone.

It's great this is happening. I can't wait to come to events.

Mahalo [thank you]

Looking forward to seeing the return of our Cultural Material to the Sydney CBD at the AM in a new gallery space and not deposited in the Stores underground, unseen and inaccessible.

“Looking forward to this new establishment as it is much needed more than ever for our generation now and tomorrow.”

Keep up the good work

Great work. I look forward to seeing it all come to life.

Invite me to the opening :)

Hope to see it soon :)

Excited! :)

Well done this is a start!

Excited to see what takes shape!

So many stories to tell and I look forward to hearing them.

Is there anything else you wish to say regarding your views on the new Pasifika Gallery?

Best of Luck and Cannot wait to see the completed Gallery.

I'm so excited!!!

Congrats and I look forward to seeing this all come to life :)

I'm so excited !

I'm excited to see how it turns out

Please make it as accessible as possible. Everyone would love the opportunity to see these pieces but not have the means to access them

Excited!

Approaches to exhibition development, specific content, themes, design and programming

We need to have a ongoing interactive weekly session that people can book for to story tell, orating, cultural information or activity or guest speaker to make use of the space for all Pasifika peoples.

I'm a writer and have written about cruising the Pacific in the seventies. I also have a 7 meter Tongan tapa-cloth which I purchased in Nukualofa in 1973 which has historical significance to the coronation of Queen Salote.

Make it user friendly and make sure that you use Trauma Informed principles when planning the spaces

It is time to stop to hold and hide your treasures Work please

Get our schools involved

Should have been done yesterday but happy to be a part of it today.

Design from a meaningful cultural spaces based on experienced Curators from the represented communities who can engage them in a social ways, think, develop and design from the ground up. Don't base it strictly on audience need and response - it leaves indigenous contributors feeling harvested and drained. Please remember that the physical exhibition is only one finite output, consider satellite touring, publication, podcasting, public programmes, artist responses to themes. It will leave a longer lasting and larger impact.

Go big or go home

Thank you for allowing our stories to be showcased and for proving the space to do so. It is important to also understand that if you do have artefacts to acknowledge that it does not belong to you but the people in which it was made for. Faafetai [many thanks]

DNA blueprint. Original Lore

Would like to hear more and be informed of its formation and development

Sharing knowledge is healthy

Please include what Rotuman artefacts you may have in displays

It is a phenomenal collection. Sydney is a Pacific facing city. All Australians deserve a chance to see, learn and engage with the largest collection of Pacific cultural arts and objects in the world. Pacific arts are celebrated with dedicated with well funded galleries and exhibitions overseas in Europe and the US, here, we have not achieved the same level of recognition for these collections. We can, and should, do better as this country has the dedicated people and the collections to elevate museum visitors understanding and appreciation as well as brings these arts truly to the world stage.

Do a lot of research on the culture

To be inclusive and accessible to all and with integrity.

The preservation of pacific language is critical today to preserve the culture and as the museum continues to grow in awareness and in knowledge I hope to see the same vision instilled in other states where pacific peoples communities are growing

This space should be founded in the values and needs of our Nesian community. We are not objects but living communities. Our history is important and must be acknowledged for true understanding to occur amongst non-Nesians, only when all are aware and engaged can biculturalism / multiculturalism flourish.

Is there anything else you wish to say regarding your views on the new Pasifika Gallery?

Just want to add that this is so sorely needed. Went to the British Museum (pre-covid) and the area on the Pacific was the most insulting, disgusting, offensive exhibition I have ever seen. Full of noble savage ideology, fawning over Cook and racist untruths. And in NZ they just have a collection of artefacts gathering dust in a dim room with no narrative or context for people to engage with. Such a missed opportunity. We absolutely can and must do better to lift the culture of Pasifika peoples and challenge colonial perceptions that refuse to die. I hope you do this justice :)

Ensure Pacifica peoples wellbeing is at the centre of your display, rather than profit.

"The design of the galleries should reflect Pacific spatial and architectural principles."

Please ensure you are not relying exclusively on online surveys to gather this informations. This will not be an effective way to get the opinions of our Elders.

Australia Aborigines, New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia come from the same people originally and should be recognised.

Kia ora, More Māori have immigrated to Australia than any other culture. Several whanau, including my Father are some of these people. I am in the midst of applying for a grant to deliver a project whereby I interview the many Māori who now call Australia their other home to talk about we keep culture alive, being true to our

whakapapa [genealogy] all whilst living on stolen Aboriginal land. There are many threads to discuss here and I've long wanted to interview as many Māori people as possible to discuss these threads. I've already spoken with several Māori friends and whanau and would love to have the funds and time to develop this concept further. I see this being delivered on a screen/s with headphones - several interviews taking place which people can sit, watch and listen to. Please contact me if this is something you're potentially interested in incorporating in the Pasifika Gallery. Ngā mihi [many thanks]

Please include racism between Islanders + Aboriginal ppl. 67 referendum led by Faith Bandler is am Islander women leading a moral crusade which is separate from equality movement. This crux needs to be explored and articulated. Islanders are connecting with their homelands, and have to relinquish the prioritising over Aboriginal ppl based on labour value and religious fervour.

This is a great concept, creating a space to connect and maintain that bond through education in arts and technology. I like to call it as 'writings beyond'

Keep it all digital and through other means of displaying the Pacific and keep replicas if needed of artefacts, or commission Pacific Island artists to create replicas for display and return everything to where they belong.

A balanced perspective across the Pacific, incorporating similarities and differences.

The Australia Museum is already doing a good job informing and educating museum attendees with history and information about First Nations and Pasifika people and our histories. There could be more and better amplification of exhibitions that travel through the Museum and to centre on the artifacts and art featured that speak to First Nations and Pasifika communities.

Engaging Pasifika cultural groups such as Matavai Pacific Cultural Arts and youth organisations like Street University and Information and Cultural Exchange (ICE) with key programming and bespoke workshops will be so exciting to see and again experience at the Australia Museum.

It would be wonderful to see some of the pieces from the collection placed into the public eye so that they may learn more about the pacific, however it would be great if there would be a distinction between Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia - but also showing the similarities between these 3 subgroups

I think this has the potential to be a great way for people not only to learn about the Pacific as a whole but also for Pacific islanders to learn about each other. That we are not just one group of people but a region that contains immense cultural diversity and history.

Please dont make it all about colonialism and make sure to really touch on the richness and true history of Oceania. Also, bring back our Gods

Is there anything else you wish to say regarding your views on the new Pasifika Gallery?

To the Pacific Islander community, regardless of the country we come from. We are all the same, we all have our backstories, the mad love for our countries and families and we all have a purpose. What is the point in serving our purpose and living to do and be better, if we don't acknowledge and respect where it all started. Back in the Islands! I believe, this new Pasifika Gallery, will not only change but help lots of the lost young Pacific Islanders of today. Our traditions are being forgotten and the present times have just gotten the best of the young people. The one thing I love that all the Pacific Islands, have in common. Is our love and faith, in God. I hope to see the spiritual side of our Islands come to light, to showcase our people for their true faith in life.

Regional representation

I hope that the regions of Micronesia and Melanesia are given an equal part of this exhibition. Like, there literally shine someone tallying how much airspace Polynesia, Micronesia, etc. - each region - receives. A Pasifika gallery that centers Polynesia and Polynesian experience is certainly NOT a Pasifika gallery, but merely a Polynesian one.

Need more melanesian and micronesia representation.

We have viewed the Pasifika Gallery when Australian Museum first re opened and I will say, there was an overwhelming amount of information and artefacts from Fiji and Papua New Guinea but we as a family were quite disappointed that the islands of Samoa only featured 2 and Tonga around the same. We have also visited Melbourne Museum and their Pasifika display were far more diverse and equal with the pacific islands represented.

Focus on areas that are not so well represented in the collections. e.g central province of PNG.

More Micronesia representation.

Other comments

I'm an English/History major. And if there are any employment/ or volunteering opportunities for the Pasifika Gallery - I am more than happy to be a part of it in some capacity. Thank you.

Super excited.

Will there be any Pacific Galleries in Brisbane??

Question 8 was so hard! I wanted to pick all of them lol

Love to volunteer

I would love to help in any way. It is crucial for there to be a Pasifika Gallery. It is crucial for these treasures to be viewed by our people and the public.

Our Islands, cultures, and languages are disappearing.

Contact us:

Pasifika Gallery team
Australian Museum
1 William Street Sydney
NSW 2010 Australia
T + 61 2 9320 6000
E PasifikaGalleryProject@Australian.Museum



The new Pasifika Gallery
is supported by:

