

All Are Welcome Here?

Understanding Visitors' Sense of Belonging in Science and Natural History Museums

Research Questions

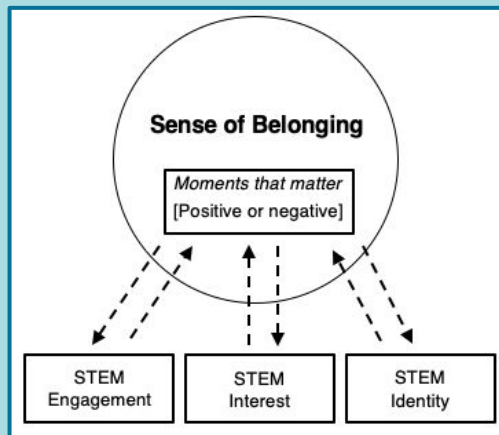
1. How should museums define and use *sense of belonging* to align with the experiences of visitors?
2. What are the museum experiences, or *moments that matter*, that impact a visitor's *sense of belonging*?
3. How do those *moments that matter* that impact a *sense of belonging* support, foster, or hinder a visitor's STEM engagement, interest, and identity?

Methods



We are using a photovoice method that includes group interviews

This project aims to formally define what a *sense of belonging* means in the science & natural history museum context as a way to measure inclusivity efforts. We think that most of the experiences that make up a museum visit have a relatively neutral effect on visitor sense of belonging. However, visitors may experience moments that make them feel distinctly positive or negative, and these *moments that matter* may influence a visitor's STEM engagement, interest, and/or identity.



Project Activities

- Shared resources with other researchers/practitioners doing similar work in museums/other informal science contexts
- Started Phase 1 review of research on belonging/current museum-based initiatives