

Session notes

'In conversation'
CSMVS Mumbai, Children's Museum;
a creative culture lab

'In conversations' focus on a particular theme or current issue in the culture and heritage sector. They work alongside our e-learning modules and will add an extra dimension to your 'core skills' sessions. They are informal discussions with

colleagues across the sector and while we can't deliver 'live' sessions the ITP team aim to ask the questions you would be asking if you were in the room with us!

In this 'in conversation' Claire Messenger talks to Vaidehi Savnal, Assistant Curator; International Relations and In-charge; Education at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS Mumbai) and ITP Fellow 2016 about their Children's Museum.



Introduction

This 'in conversation will focus on the Children's Museum at CSMVS, Mumbai's first-ever children's museum and creative centre – a space designed specially to create dynamic and fun educational engagement for the children of the city.

The Children's Museum is a 'creative cultural lab' that encourages discovery, innovation and creativity. With a quarter of all visitors to CSMVS being young people, the Children's Museum provides holistic learning experiences that are relevant to children – their learning needs, enjoyment expectations and life aspirations through vibrant exhibits, programmes, workshops and activities. Through this open and free space, CSMVS strive to nurture a creative, exploratory and balanced environment for children while providing the joys of childhood.

Their objectives for this space are:-

- Creating a space that relinquishes ownership to children to create and explore what they wish to learn.
 - Curates exhibits from the Museum collection that encourage curiosity and motivate learning.
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- Create object- and enquiry-based learning programmes using a highly hands-on and interactive approach.
- Maintain a healthy balance of objects complemented by digital interactives to create relevance.
- Introduce interdisciplinary creative experiences and meaningful play.
- Creating meaningful and sustained engagement with the arts through activities, programmes.
- Actively encourage collaborations with like-minded institutions in Mumbai, India and the World to offer the best arts and educational encounters for children.
- Conversations with communities and groups that work with young people and address their learning issues in order to remain updated about the changing needs of young visitors.

We will hear more about this innovative and creative space, how and why it was conceived and delivered and their approach to shared learning. Vaidehi will also share news about CSMVS's current plans – particularly relevant as on 10 January 2022, CMSVS celebrated it's centenary and tell us about their *Museum on Wheels* outreach project – a bus with travelling exhibitions on different themes.



Course resources

The links below will provide you with more information on the theme of the session. Additional resources are provided with this session which aim to give you reading material that you may find useful – both now and in the future.

Vaidehi's ITP biography

<https://bmitpglobalnetwork.org/our-fellows/?cn-s=vaidehi&cn-cat=>

The CSMVS Children's Museum is Mumbai's first-ever children's museum and creative centre – a space designed specially to create dynamic and fun educational engagement for the children of the city.

<http://www.csmvs.in/children-s-museum>

Throwback Thursday – ITP+ Museums and Education, CSMVS Mumbai

<https://bmitpglobalnetwork.org/2021/06/24/throwback-thursday-itp-museums-and-education-csmvs-mumbai/>

Best museums for kids in the UK

<https://www.list.co.uk/article/86420-best-museums-for-kids-in-the-uk/>

Sudbury Hall and the National Trust Museum of Childhood

Late 17th-century house with lavish interiors and the Museum of Childhood

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sudbury-hall-and-the-national-trust-museum-of-childhood>

Museum of Childhood

The Museum of Childhood was the first museum in the world to be dedicated to the history of childhood and it attracts over 200,000 visitors a year. Amongst the displays you will find toys, games, clothes, books and dolls, dating from the 1800s to the present day.

<https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/venue/museum-childhood>

Museum of the Home

The reimagined Museum is a place for visitors to consider the ways we have lived in the past. And to explore creative ideas about new ways of living in and looking at the world today.

<https://www.museumofthehome.org.uk/>

Experimental archaeology and educational site in the heart of the South Downs

<https://www.butserancientfarm.co.uk/>

Thinktank, Birmingham's award-winning science museum, offers an enlightening and fun packed day out for the family.

<https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank>