

**COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS
GCAM WORKSHOP 4**

**The Creative Museum: African Museums Using Culture for the Development of
Children and Youth**

Hosted by the Chief Albert Luthuli Museum
Stanger, South Africa
October 24–29, 2009

Thursday, October 29, 2009
Meeting Resolutions

Group for Children in African Museums Stanger Declaration

1. Whereas museums recognize the importance of fundamental cultural rights—the right to live within one’s own culture; the right to hear different cultural voices; the right to an environment that supports creativity—and the inextricable link between these rights and human economic and social development.
2. Whereas museums recognize that they have in role to play in the realization of these rights.
3. Whereas African museums recognize that conflicts, pandemics, and poverty on the continent disrupt and hinder development.
4. Whereas museums recognize that due to changes in the cultural, social, and economic environment there is a breakdown in the traditional transference of cultural values from community (elders and parents) to children.
5. Whereas museums recognize that culture is not in the mainstream of formal educational curriculum.
6. Whereas museums in the Commonwealth, but particularly in Africa, are aware that more resources are required to reach their capacity to deliver cultural education.

Recommendations

That museums advocate for the mainstreaming of cultural education in school curriculum and for representation in the development and delivery of cultural components of the curriculum.

That museums develop teamwork and ensure that their staff are fully trained in order to provide cultural programs for youth.

That museums as neutral spaces and agents of change provide opportunities for youth to dialogue, with a view to engendering tolerance and intercultural understanding.

That museums give youth opportunities for creative self-expression.

That museums explore as many innovative channels as possible, such as radio and new media, to reach out to youth and their families.

That museums develop cultural programming to support out-of-school children and youth in crisis.

That museums advocate for resources and find creative ways for raising funds to support programming for youth.

That having reviewed *Putting Culture First: Commonwealth perspectives on culture and development* GCAM recommends that (through CAM) museums work closely with the Commonwealth Foundation to develop the direction and goals put forth in this report.