

Ideas and Strategies for Moving the Cultural Offer Forward

Friday 15th May 2009

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What might we mean by culture in this context?

There has been much debate as to the definitions of culture, in relation to people's entitlement. Many consider it part of a citizenship agenda, supporting children's social and emotional development, as well as key attributes necessary to achieve a quality of life. Others focus on the exploration of diversity amongst many different cultures and cultural identities, enabling us to develop a broader understanding of who we are, our place in the world, and issues of belonging. Some revolve around the idea of access to engage with culture, usually a cultural product or experience, often designed to enrich life or lead to more positive human qualities. Others still refer to the term as meaning the opportunity to raise awareness, interpretation and understanding of our cultural heritage, events or objects across the globe. There is also the view that cultural entitlement is largely about audience development in terms of preparing future consumers of culture, but not necessarily participating in it.

Cultural Entitlement in a Nutshell Isaacs UK 2009

<http://www.isaacsuk.co.uk>

<http://www.lulu.com/content/paperback-book/cultural-entitlement-in-a-nutshell/7199852>

It is clear that there is currently no shared or agreed definition of culture or cultural learning amongst cultural and heritage organisations, schools, colleges and other learning settings. For the majority, cultural learning is primarily about arts and heritage.

The consultation reveals that there is, however, a common understanding of cultural learning as a lifelong activity taking place in formal and informal learning settings and cultural and heritage locations. There are also shared aspirations for cultural learning to benefit individuals and communities excluded from culture and learning activities, and to act as a catalyst for all learners to fulfill their creative potential, to participate in local life, and to understand, appreciate and enjoy their own and others' cultures.

Get It: The Power of Cultural Learning Culture and Learning Consortium 2009

<http://www.cultureandlearning.org.uk>

The whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterize a society or social group. It includes not only arts and letters, but also modes of life, the fundamental rights of the human being, value systems, traditions and beliefs.

World Conference on Cultural Policies UNESCO 1982

<http://www.unesco.org.uk>

www.artslearningconsortium.org.uk