

Preserving Heritage and Preserving Identity: Museums in the Future

By Richard Leventhal

Within countries and indigenous communities around the world, there is a direct connection between the past and the present. The preservation of this past has become a critical aspect of modern politics and legal structures. At the same time, this preservation connects directly to modern day issues of cultural identity and the recognition of diversity even within a world-wide economic system.

Museums throughout the world must begin to reassess their desire to acquire and think about creating new types of relationships with countries and communities. These new relationships can preserve heritage and the past while at the same time allowing museums to meet their missions of presenting world cultures and educating their constituencies.