

Museum Essentials: Working Ethically

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The Citizen Curators Programme is a three-year introductory course aimed at volunteers from our communities.

Museum ethics is critical to the Citizen Curators Programme. They're taught about the importance of public engagement, stewardship of collections and institutional and individual integrity as a key part of their learning about the importance of museum in a modern society.

The Code of Ethics has been really important to them to help them navigate their way through finding answers and choosing the right thing to do.

For anyone starting out, whether in a paid job or as a volunteer, engaging with museum ethics will give you a sense of how broadly you need to think about your collections and the audiences to which they are relevant.

Museums that engage with ethics open up a whole world of creative opportunities for them to look at their own role in their communities and society as well as hold up a mirror to the communities and societies that they're part of.

If you find yourself facing a dilemma in your museum, reach out to the MA's Ethics Committee or have a look on the MA's website which is full of case studies and additional guidance, and you will come up with a good ethical solution to your problem.