The Global Role of Museums in the Development of Civil Society

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• Preservation of Indigenous Culture in the Solomon Islands
  – Training for villagers developing their own cultural centres
  – Planning for a provincial cultural centre in Gizo
  – Weekly radio program about traditional culture
  – Recording oral traditions and publishing books of ‘custom’ stories
Preservation of Indigenous Culture in the Solomon Islands

- Archaeological surveys of traditional sites, such as this skull house

- Legislation to prevent export of World War II relics, including valuable American and Japanese airplanes
• Preservation of Indigenous Culture in the Solomon Islands

  – Continuation of traditional practices, such as how to make and wear ‘custom’ clothing and how to construct and paddle a war canoe over long distances
• Preservation of Indigenous Culture in the Solomon Islands
  - Cultural festivals that celebrated traditional skills and knowledge, such as custom dancing and singing
• Preservation of Indigenous Culture in the Solomon Islands
  – Plays about their history, such as John F. Kennedy being saved by two Solomon Islanders during WWII, written and performed by high school students
• Preservation of Indigenous Culture in the Solomon Islands
  – Sustainable environmental practices, such as a megapode season that are essential for the continuity of traditional culture
  – Regional conference on Developing Cultural Policy in Melanesia in the Solomon Islands, Honiara, SI (1992)
Participation in CAM

• Curatorship in Post-Colonial Societies, Victoria (1994)
  – study tour of First Nations cultural centres on Vancouver Island with indigenous curators from many Commonwealth countries; re-thinking history in a post-colonial environment

• Museums, Peace, Democracy and Governance in the 21st Century, Barbados (1999)
  – examples of how museums can reinterpret colonial artifacts and sites rather than destroy them, e.g., Ireland, South Africa

• Pacific Museums and Sustainable Heritage Development, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia (2006)
  – reconnection with Melanesian curators; cultural property

• Museums & Diversity, Georgetown, Guyana (2008)
  – role of museums in addressing development issues; connecting the past with the future
• Museums & Sustainable Communities, an American Association of Museums led Summit of Museums of the Americas in Costa Rica (1997)
  – coincided with the Summit of the Americas on environmental issues
  – attempt to develop a strategic plan for museums of the Americas to engage in collaborative initiatives and partnerships
  – top-down approach, rather than the bottom-up approach taken by CAM
Museums in Nunavut

- The Nunatta Sunakkutaangit Museum in Iqaluit is a collections-based museum reflecting the culture of the Baffin region
• Museums in Nunavut
  – The Baker Lake Inuit Heritage Centre works closely with local elders to preserve, protect and promote Inuit culture
• Museums in Nunavut
  – The Kitikmeot Heritage Society in Cambridge Bay collects oral histories, artifacts and archives, preserve archaeological sites, and promotes local culture and language.
• Museums in Nunavut
  – The Naijuqsivik Community Museum in Sanikiluaq is situated in the high school and integrated into the community
• Visitor Centres & Communities
  – The Nattinnak Visitor Centre in Pond Inlet, a community of 1300, features history, natural history and demonstrations of traditional customs like drum dancing
Visitor Centres & Communities

- The Angmarlik Visitor Centre in Pangnirtung interprets whaling history in Cumberland Sound and provides an entry to the Hudson’s Bay Blubber Station and Kekerten Territorial Park.
• Visitor Centres & Communities
  – The Rankin Inlet Visitor Centre is currently located in the airport although they would like to acquire a larger facility
Diverse Mandates

- Archives
- Virtual Exhibitions
- Place Names
- Archaeology
- Recording Oral Traditions
Diverse Audiences

• Local people: Inuit & northerners
  – Keep traditional activities alive through continuity
  – Help young people to understand their own heritage

• Visitors: southerners, international tourists
  – Authentic activities enhance cultural tourism experiences
• Community Development:
  – Social benefits: maintain a tangible link to the past, reinforce traditional values, provide elder/youth programs and instil community pride, etc.
  – Economic benefits: employment, tourism, conservation to ensure sustainability
Moving Forward (Sivumut Kajusiniq):
From Plan to Action

Training program for heritage workers in Nunavut developed for the Inuit Heritage Trust

- Research: Education Advisory Committee, interviews, survey, community visits
- Planning: training plan
- Curriculum Development: 8 modules
- Facilitation: 2 Institutes - Iqaluit (April 2007) & Ottawa (Sept 2008)
CAM Distance Learning Program

- CMA distance learning program offered in the 1970s
- CAM offers the program to people working in museums throughout the Commonwealth
- CAM currently updating program
  - planning: establish Advisory Committee, survey former participants & current museum workers, learn from discussions at CAM symposia
  - include basic museum management skills
  - expand our notion of what a museum is, to include community development and position the museum as an active participant in shaping the future