

Developing a public exhibition

Learning Objective

To consider the logistics, ethics, challenges, and rewards of developing a public exhibition of items left at spontaneous memorials

Scenario Summary

LOCATION: IN THE ARCHIVE

You are a curator in a local authority museum. Seven years have passed since a human-made disaster that shook the city and the country. During those seven years, you and your team have led on the task of collecting and documenting the objects left at the spontaneous memorial sites that appeared across the city.

You are now asked by the museum's director to explore the possibility of developing a public exhibition on the 10th year anniversary of the event. Create a 10-point plan of action.

Key Considerations

- Would you undertake consultation and who with?
- What challenges do you anticipate you will encounter?
- How do you prepare yourself for this undertaking?
- What resources/expertise/support do you need to do this effectively?

Further training, support, and key readings

Miles, E., Cordner, S. and Kavanagh, J. (eds) (2020) *Contemporary collecting: an ethical toolkit for museum practitioners*

Society of American Archivists, [Documenting in Times of Crisis: A Resource Kit](#)

Collections Trust (NPOP Guidance) [Guidance for exhibiting archive and library materials](#)

Sodaro, Amy. 2018. *Exhibiting Atrocity: Memorial Museums and the Politics of Past Violence*, New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press