

Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion in Museums: The American Alliance of Museums' Perspective

The American Alliance of Museums (AAM) is a national organization that represents museums of all sizes and types in the United States. The AAM is committed to promoting diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion (DEAI) in the museum field. In this article, we will explore the AAM's perspective on DEAI, its commitment to promoting DEAI in museums, and the resources and initiatives it provides to support museums in their DEAI efforts. We will also highlight examples of how museums are implementing DEAI principles in their work.

The AAM defines DEAI as follows:

- **Diversity** is the presence of individuals with different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives.
- **Equity** is the fair and just treatment of all individuals.
- **Accessibility** is the ability of all individuals to access and participate in museum programs and services.
- **Inclusion** is the active process of creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all individuals.

DEAI is essential for museums because it ensures that all individuals have the opportunity to engage with museums and benefit from their resources. When museums are diverse, equitable, accessible, and inclusive, they are

better able to reflect the communities they serve and to create a more welcoming and equitable society for all.



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by Johnnetta B. Cole

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The AAM is committed to promoting DEAI in the museum field. The AAM's DEAI initiatives include:

- **The AAM's Center for the Future of Museums** provides resources and support to museums on a variety of topics, including DEAI.
- **The AAM's Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion Task Force** is a group of museum professionals who are working to develop and implement DEAI strategies for the museum field.
- **The AAM's DEAI Code of Ethics** provides guidance to museum professionals on how to promote DEAI in their work.
- **The AAM's DEAI Awards** recognize museums that are making significant progress in promoting DEAI.

The AAM's commitment to DEAI is evident in its work to support museums in their DEAI efforts. The AAM provides a variety of resources and initiatives to help museums create more diverse, equitable, accessible, and inclusive environments.

Museums are implementing DEAI principles in a variety of ways. Here are a few examples:

- The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history and culture of African Americans. The museum's exhibits are designed to be accessible to visitors of all ages and backgrounds. The museum also offers a variety of programs and initiatives to promote DEAI, such as its "Talking About Race" initiative.
- The Museum of the City of New York is committed to telling the stories of all New Yorkers. The museum's exhibits are designed to be accessible to visitors of all ages and backgrounds. The museum also offers a variety of programs and initiatives to promote DEAI, such as its "Open House" program, which provides free admission to visitors from underrepresented communities.
- The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art is committed to making its art and programs accessible to all visitors. The museum offers a variety of accessibility services, such as audio

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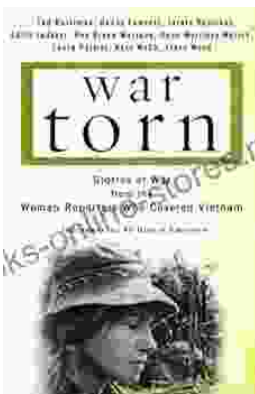
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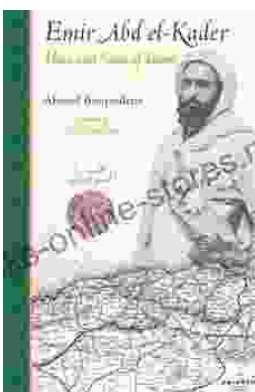


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