



Museum Context Worksheet

1. Consider your museum's context – both concrete (organization type, community served, annual budget, visitation numbers, etc.), as well as cultural (how your institution views/describes itself, how it establishes priorities and plans, etc.). Both help to determine what you are well poised to do now, or what you may need to work on before making significant changes or additions to your teacher-focused work.
2. Work with you partner(s) to discuss the questions below. For each, reflect on what your responses might mean for your teacher professional development work. Use your notebook if you need more space.
3. Share your thoughts with your small group. Be ready to share some reflections with the larger group at the end of this activity.

Question	Answer	What might this mean for your future teacher PD work?
What type of community are you located in (urban, suburban, rural)? Are your visitors or program participants from your immediate community or outside?		
Who does your museum consider to be its primary audience right now (families, schools, adults, etc.)?		
Do you have a sense for how your community views your museum? If you asked a parent to describe it, what would they say? A teacher?		
Is your institution a stand-alone, private, non-profit or part of a larger organization or municipality? Who makes up your governing body? How are big decisions made?		
When it comes to science, does your organization have strength (in exhibits, in collections, in staff expertise, in external partnerships) in some areas more than others (i.e. physics, environmental science, etc.)?		

When it comes to education, where does your organization have strengths? What kinds of skills or audience specialties does your staff possess?		
How are the majority of your institutions annual expenses paid for? What percent of your organization's annual expenses are devoted to education programs?		
What is your annual attendance (including school groups)? What is your annual school field trip attendance?		
How many staff does your organization employ? How many in education?		
If we were to poll a random sample of staff at your organization, what would they say about the priority your museum places on educational programs? How is education perceived or positioned in your institution?		
Has the museum made a commitment to science teacher professional development? Is it a part of the museum's strategic plan?		
Is evaluation and revision of your programs or exhibits a regular part of your institution's work flow?		
What component of your education programming is your institution known for?		