TheMuseumsLab 2022
Online and onsite in Africa and Europe

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
“Restitution cannot be simply a return to the kingdom following exile. It must draw on the wealth of new energies and meanings which the objects in question have produced in the art world and will continue to produce after their return, to emphasise that the time has come to reinvent the museum as a realisation of networks and synergies. These objects, which in the words of Amadou Mahtar M’Bow have put down new roots everywhere they have been, now have a role to play in building bridges and thus in forging this new kind of museum network.”

Souleymane Bachir Diagne,
Columbia University, Director of the Institute of African Studies

Museums are part of societies; they bear witness to relationships between societies, countries and continents. As living institutions, they have a responsibility to learn from their history and actively shape change for individuals, locally and globally.

Together with 50 African and European fellows, over 100 lecturers, speakers and mentors from African and European arts, cultures and sciences, the MuseumsLab 2022 aims to change not only museums but also foster societal change by addressing urgent issues such as social justice and climate change.

TheMuseumsLab 2022 is a programme developed to support professional exchanges between curators, researchers, and executives, working in museums, galleries and heritage sites across African and European countries, enabling staff to share knowledge, skills and best practice and support their individual professional development.

TheMuseumsLab is dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming experience for its participants. We value and promote diversity, inclusivity, fairness and openness and reject any form of discrimination, harassment, and racism. TheMuseumsLab includes an introduction into Critical Diversity Literacy to demonstrate its ethical values.

What we offer

• African and European leading-edge, multidisciplinary thinking and experimental practice in museum and heritage studies, divided into six distinct phases:

  Phase I: online kick-off and online seminar
  Phase II: seminar in Berlin
  Phase III: residency at a European partner institution
  Phase IV: closing workshop and farewell
  Phase V: seminar in Cape Town
  Phase VI: project work and presentation in Cape Town
  Follow-Up: online meeting

> for more detailed information and dates see programme schedule

• Innovative formats of learning and practical skills.
• "Residencies" at renowned European institutions.
• Theoretical and practical seminars at renowned museums in Berlin and Cape Town.
• "Networking opportunities" amongst fellows and with international experts, who are linked to museums in the African continent and in Europe by their lives, research, or work.
• A joint certificate, issued by the German Federal Foreign Office, DAAD, Museum for Natural History, HTW Berlin, University of the Western Cape, the Advisors, and the host institution.
• Access to the growing African-European alumni network of TheMuseumsLab.
• Cost coverage* for the onsite phases in Berlin, the residency at a European host institution, and the onsite phase in Cape Town
  - International and national transport
  - Local public transport (also from and to airports onsite)
  - Health insurance and visa costs
  - Accommodation
  - Entrance fees (Phase II and V)
  - Daily allowance

* Please note: Any other costs, such as transport costs between the place of residence and the departure/arrival airport, and travel costs for visa application in the country of residence have to be covered privately.

What we expect

• Professional competencies and experiences
  Experience of at least 2 years in a museum, heritage, or art sector.

• Professional Qualification
  BA, MA, MSc, or PhD in a museum / heritage / art related field.

• Personal Skills
  • Flexibility
  • Creativity
  • Innovativeness
  • Open-mindedness
  • Ability to question established structures
  • Desire to hold a leading position and to act as a multiplier

• Language skills
  Adequate language proficiency in English (written and spoken) is essential in order to participate actively in the programme.

• Commitment to the programme
  A prerequisite for the selection of a candidate is her/his/their binding commitment to participate in all phases of The MuseumsLab. The quality of the programme depends on fellow's participation in all events and continuous work on topics across three modules and intense exchange, both among themselves and with the speakers and lecturers. Employer must provide of letter of consent and approved leave for training purpose.

Application Procedure

The application must include the following documents:
  - The completed application form
  - A short CV (max 2 pages)
  - A letter of recommendation

The application (in English) should emphasise the candidate's motivation as well as the personal and professional benefit sought after from a participation.

Please submit your application on the latest by 23 January 2022 via mlab.berlin@daad.de

The PDF-document should be named ‘Last name_First name_country’ (e.g. Doe_Jane_Germany).
Please note: Completeness of the application will affect the applicant’s as a participant.

After the review by the selection committee, the invited participants will be notified around the end of February 2021.

For further questions, please contact:

Anja Meerschiff | Khansoa Al-Radhi, mlab.berlin@daad.de

Please note: The implementation of the programme TheMuseumsLab 2022 is subject to the availability of the required funding.

Please also note: Due to current EU travel regulations, a full COVID-19 vaccination with an EU-accepted vaccine is necessary for travelers from certain non-EU states to enter the EU/Germany.

You find current information under the following links:

Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community
European Commission

> Regulations for the UK might differ, please check gov.uk for current information.
Participation of more partner institutions to be confirmed

In cooperation with