



Transforming heritage: advocating for multisensory and inclusive practices

1. Why Multisensory Interpretation Matters

- **Broadening Access:** “Every visitor deserves the chance to connect with collections in their own way. Multisensory approaches engage sight, sound, touch, and even smell, ensuring accessibility for all.”
- **Equity in Heritage:** “By embracing multisensory methods, we challenge ableist biases and foster inclusion, allowing everyone, regardless of sensory preferences, to experience heritage on their own terms.”
- **A Deeper Connection:** “Multisensory experiences deepen emotional engagement, making stories more memorable and objects more meaningful.”

2. Co-Creation: Empowering Communities

- **Inclusive Development:** “By working with D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent communities, we ensure that interpretation reflects authentic, lived experiences. Their voices shape the narratives that speak to us all.”
- **Shared Ownership:** “Co-creating experiences with communities turns museums from institutions of authority into spaces of dialogue, learning and shared creation.”
- **Relevance for All:** “The more inclusive the process, the more relevant the experience. Co-created exhibitions resonate with a wider audience, ensuring cultural relevance and inclusivity.”

3. The Benefits of Embedding Access

- **Engagement for Everyone:** “Multisensory practices don’t just benefit disabled visitors—they create richer experiences for *everyone*.”
- **Unlocking Potential:** “Creating a fully inclusive environment unlocks a museum’s potential to reach broader audiences, increasing footfall, engagement, and repeat visits.”
- **Reflecting Diversity:** “Heritage institutions should reflect the diverse ways in which people interact with the world. Multisensory interpretation supports this vision, offering experiences that connect with varied learning styles and sensory needs.”



4. Practical Steps for Implementation

- **Leverage Open Access Tools:** “The Sensational Museum project offers freely available tools that make it easier to integrate multisensory approaches into your practice—from sensory frameworks to digital platforms.”
- **Pilot Projects:** “Start small. Pilot projects allow you to test, refine, and prove the impact of multisensory interpretation, before rolling out to larger collections or exhibits.”
- **Professional Development:** “Engage in hands-on workshops and collaborative projects to build expertise in accessible, multisensory heritage practices. Don’t reinvent the wheel—use the resources and tools at your disposal.”

5. Compelling Reasons for Investment

- **Long-Term Impact:** “Investing in multisensory cataloguing and interpretation is an investment in sustainable, inclusive engagement for years to come.”
- **Meeting Sector Standards:** “Aligning with best practices in accessibility and inclusivity not only strengthens your institution’s reputation, it ensures compliance with key sector guidelines like SPECTRUM and international standards.”
- **Delivering Funders’ Priorities:** “Multisensory approaches help meet funders’ increasing focus on accessibility, diversity, and inclusion, increasing the likelihood of securing future funding.”

Transforming Museums for All: “Multisensory cataloguing and co-created interpretation are not just trends—they are the future of accessible, inclusive heritage. Let’s take the next step in making museums and heritage sites open and welcoming for all visitors, empowering everyone to engage with cultural heritage.”

For more information on resources and tools, visit [The Sensational Museum](#).