

What is a museum? When did they start and why do they exist?

- Collections
- Exhibits
- Teach art history and art appreciation

Recent shifts in museum goals due to:

Funding sources

Before – funds from philanthropists – collections for knowledgeable and wealthy

Now grant money (foundations, individuals, and government) dictate audiences

- Require that school groups see art = art appreciation programs
- No Child Left Behind NCLB = curriculum based programs (NCLB require we meet national and state education standards and benchmarks in core subjects)
- Requires demand that diverse audiences are reached = community based programs
- Interest in the outcome of the visitor experience – asking how the visitor is changed = social issues programs

Museum now has a social responsibility. The museum is a:

Community space

Encourages conversation

Raises awareness of self and others

Creates social changes

What is our role in education as docents?

Role shifts in response to funding sources and audience needs

- Object-based programs – talk about the art
- Curriculum-based programs – connect art to classroom curriculum
- Visitor-based programs - make social changes through art
- Community-based programs – make the museum a community space

Mission Statements

Mission of the Honolulu Academy of Arts – Anna Rice Cooke 1927

...that our children of many nationalities and races, born far from the centers of art, may receive an intimation of their own cultural legacy and wake to the ideals embodied in the arts of their neighbors...that Hawaiians, Americans, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Filipinos, Northern Americans and all other people living here contacting through the channel of art those deep intuitions common to all, may perceive a foundation on which a new culture enriched by the old strains, may be built in these islands.

Mission Statement from the Honolulu Academy of Arts Strategic Plan 2007

The HAA is dedicated to the collection, preservation, interpretation, and teaching of the visual arts, and the presentation of exhibits, films, performing arts, and public programs specifically relevant to Hawaii's ethnically diverse community.

Mission statement of the Museum Learning Center 2010

The MLC creates learning experiences to engage diverse audiences with the collection through meaningful observation, discussion, and reflection in an interactive environment.