Cultural Change and Museums in the Arab World

Barry Lord, Co-President, Lord Cultural Resources

Keynote Address, September 28, 2010

Text and Presentation are available on www.lord.ca and www.culturalchange.ca.
Intercultural Communication / Social Cohesion
Lord Cultural Resources

Network Offices in:
Toronto
New York
San Francisco
Paris
Madrid
Mumbai
Beirut
Cairo
Dhahran
Beijing

Creating Cultural Capital
Lord Cultural Resources Manuals

Published by AltaMira, distributed by the AMA

*The Manual of Museum Exhibitions* (2003)
*The Manual of Museum Planning* (2nd ed., 1999)
*The Manual of Museum Management* (2nd ed., 2009)
*The Manual of Museum Learning* (2007)
*The Manual of Strategic Planning for Museums* (2007)

Visit [www.lord.ca](http://www.lord.ca) for more details.
In their new book, Barry Lord and Gail Dexter Lord focus their two lifetimes of international experience working in the cultural sector on the challenging questions of why and how culture changes.

Visit www.culturalchange.ca to find out about your role and the role of museums in cultural change.
1. Each social group has its own culture
2. The quantity of surplus controlled by a social group impacts the extent of its culture
3. Each social group seeks its own values in the art it patronizes
4. Culture changes in accordance with changes in access to surplus
5. Quantitative change in patronage leads to qualitative cultural change
6. Cultural validation and invalidation by dominant cultures affect all others
7. Intercultural aspects of cultural change offer new opportunities
Cultural Change among Museums in the Arab World

1. Increased access to collections of the heritage.
2. An enhanced educational role.
3. More equitable international partnerships.
Carthage, Jerba, Kairouan, Sousse

Heritage Site Development Plan, 2003–04
Saudi Arabian National Museum

Riyadh, Exhibition Planning, Design & Project Management 1996–99
Qatar Museum of Islamic Art

Doha, Original Functional Program 1998–99
Qatar Museum of Islamic Art: Collection Development

Doha

Alqubaa Head Ornament

Coins of the Abbaside
Qatar Museum of Islamic Art: Education Program
Sheikh Zayed National Museum

Abu Dhabi, Master Plan and Architectural Competition 2007–08
Maritime Museum
Abu Dhabi, Master Plan 2006–07
Louvre Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi, Concept Plan 2006–07
Manarat Al Saadiyat
Abu Dhabi
United Arab Emirates
National Museum of Egyptian Civilization

Fustat, Cairo, Educational Program Planning 2004–05
Grand Egyptian Museum

Giza, Exhibition Tender Management 2010
The Children’s Museum Jordan

Amman, Education Program Review 2008
King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture

Dhahran, Program Planning and Development 2008–ongoing
Over the past half-century Arab nations have taken increasing control over their own:

- Natural Resources
- Airlines
- Cultural Tourism
- Archaeology
- Architectural Heritage
- Museum Collections
- International Partnerships
- Contemporary Art
Routes de l’Arabie

Musee du Louvre, Paris, 2010
Edge of Arabia

Venice Biennale, 2009
Challenges, Limitations and Issues

- Need for sustained peace and stability
- Lack of a museum-going tradition
- Relatively low levels of education for many
- Status of pre-Islamic history
- Need for training
- Need to publish and translate
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