



Universiteit  
Leiden  
The Netherlands

**From closed museum spaces to inclusive cultural meeting points:  
connecting indigenous heritage collections and communities in the  
Dominican Republic**

Alvarez, A.V.

**Citation**

Alvarez, A. V. (2021, December 8). *From closed museum spaces to inclusive cultural meeting points: connecting indigenous heritage collections and communities in the Dominican Republic*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3247080>

Version: Publisher's Version

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3247080>

**Note:** To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

**From Closed Museum Spaces to Inclusive Cultural Meeting Points: Connecting Indigenous heritage collections and communities in the Dominican Republic**

1. Dominican museums should move away from traditional collector- based accounts, and incorporate community-inclusive, and multivocal narratives regarding the history of our globalized world.
2. Objects continue to be the focus of the museological service/contribution in the Dominican Republic. Interpretation strategies of museums should be linked to targeted efforts, which reflect the diverse communities they want to serve based on the interests and heritage needs of the respective communities.
3. Museums can build connections to collections based on local geographical contexts to improve the way communities understand the contributions of Indigenous heritage at a regional and national level.
4. As the impact of colonization continues to be felt in museums in the Dominican Republic through traditional exhibitions and activities, museums should work with the education community to develop comprehensive programs that bring forth critical reflection on how to effectively utilize heritage collections for teaching Caribbean history.
5. Museums should use broad community consultation to design more realistic preservation initiatives to protect heritage collections and sites.
6. 'Community' is a loosely defined term in museological literature, subjected to the context of the work museums want to develop.
7. Museums should become comfortable with a simple and flexible definition of communities as groups of people linked through characteristics or shared interests. A straightforward term can aid museums in considering inclusivity to the broadest extent possible, rather than through differentiations.
8. With the advent of technology and the digitization of museum collections, virtual communication turns digital channels into social and educational modes of cultural expression.
9. Ethical collecting practices need consistent enforcement to foster public trust in the knowledge generated by ethical research of museum collections.
10. The expansion of the academic field in the Caribbean beyond traditional research structures, offers opportunities to become truly reflective of the multiculturalist region.
11. Without local knowledge, a cup of coffee will never offer its best taste.