

Case Study 6: Museum of the Future

In this simulation students play the role of curator/researcher for the museum's next round of acquisitions. This letter of appointment outlines what is involved in playing this role.



The Museum of the Future

xx/xx/xx

RE: Appointment of Curator / Researcher for The Museum of the Future

Dear xxx,

On behalf of Acquisition Committee at *The Museum of the Future*, we write to formally appoint you as curator/researcher for the museum's next round of acquisitions. Your task will be to develop an acquisition proposal for an object that helps us build a museum collection showcasing material culture of the present-day for preservation into the future.

The Museum of the Future is a museum collection devoted to the exploration of present and future material culture. Our goal is to collect and curate objects that speak to the complexities of 21st-century society. The collection approaches the social, technological, and cultural shifts in our current era through ordinary and unusual objects. As such, our collection encompasses both the mundane and the revolutionary stories of objects, chosen not only to provide insight into the present, but for their relevance into the future.

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Dr. Leili Sreberny-Mohammadi, LSE Department of Sociology.

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We now invite your expertise in proposing an object for the collection that furthers this mission. Therefore, we, the Acquisition Committee at The Museum of the Future, would like to invite you as curators to present an artefact, object, or digital material that captures a certain aspect of 21st-century society and its future significance. In motivating your proposal, please include the following points on why your object should be part of our collection:

- 1. Description and summary of object:** An overview and description of object that includes its history, creator (if known), context, and societal use and relevance.
- 2. Relevance to the Museum of the Future's Vision:** A motivation for how the proposed object will contribute to an understanding of contemporary material culture for the future. What does this object bring from current society to the future? Why should this object be kept for the future?
- 3. Curation and Display:** Suggestions as to how the object can be displayed. How could it be presented to engage museum visitors, generate discussion, and inspire reflection? What is your motivation behind your suggested mode of display?
- 4. Museum label text:** A short 75-100-word museum label that provides the visitors with an overview of the object and its importance.

We will invite you to present your proposed object at the *2025 Museum of the Future Board Meeting* to be held on the **March 14th**. It is during this presentation that your proposal will be carefully considered by the Acquisition Committee and our Board of Trustees. In accordance with our review process, please submit the attached *Acquisition Proposal Form* (please see appendix) by **March 17th**.

We curiously await your acquisition proposal and unique contribution to The Museum of the Future's collection.

Kind Regards,

Acquisition Committee, Museum of the Future

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ACQUISITION PROPOSAL FORM



Curator: (NAME)

Department:

Date:

1. Description and summary of object

An overview and description of object that includes its history, creator (if known), context, and societal use and relevance

– word count: 150-200 max

2. Relevance to the Museum of the Future's Vision

A motivation for how the proposed object will contribute to an understanding of contemporary material culture for the future. What does this object bring from current society to the future?

Why should this object be kept for the future?

– word count: 150-200 max

3. Curation and Display

Suggestions as to how the object can be displayed. How could it be presented to engage museum visitors, generate discussion, and inspire reflection? What is your motivation behind your suggested mode of display?

– word count: 150-200 max

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4. Museum label text

A short 75-100-word museum label that provides the visitors with an overview of the object and its importance.

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