All Are Welcome Here?  
Understanding Visitors' Sense of Belonging in Science and Natural History Museums  
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**Research Questions**

1. How should museums define and use sense of belonging to align with the experiences of visitors?
2. What are the museum experiences, or moments that matter, that impact a visitor's sense of belonging?
3. How do those moments that matter that impact a sense of belonging support, foster, or hinder a visitors’ STEM engagement, interest, and identity?

**Methods**

We are using a photovoice method that includes group interviews.

This project aims to formally define what a sense of belonging means in the science & natural history museum context as a way to measure inclusivity efforts. We think that most of the experiences that make up a museum visit have a relatively neutral effect on visitor sense of belonging. However, visitors may experience moments that make them feel distinctly positive or negative, and these moments that matter may influence a visitor’s STEM engagement, interest, and/or identity.

**Project Activities**

- Shared resources with other researchers/practitioners doing similar work in museums/other informal science contexts
- Started Phase 1 review of research on belonging/current museum-based initiatives

Funded by the National Science Foundation #2005773