



## **Our Manifesto – for the wellbeing of people, place and planet**

*The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating. The paths are not to be found, but made, and the activity of making them changes both the maker and the destinations. (John Schaar)*

The IPCC's March 2022 report concludes with this:

*The scientific evidence is unequivocal: climate change is a threat to human well-being and the health of the planet. Any further delay in concerted global action will miss a brief and rapidly closing window to secure a liveable future.*

In addition to the climate and ecological crisis, we face interlinked crises of social injustice, declining wellbeing, increasing polarisation and a global pandemic. These call on us to make urgent and unprecedented changes. How can we build momentum with others in and beyond museums to address and respond to these wider concerns?

Challenging society's focus on economic growth, Happy Museum puts the wellbeing of people, place and planet at the heart of our work, with their flourishing as our goal. We place the immediate financial and resource constraints within the wider frame of environmental limits.

We call on museums to become agents of change in these multiple crises. We are bold and provocative, inviting people to consider the role of museums in helping to imagine and shape the future that we all want and need. We hold deep compassion and human values at the heart of our work.

We focus on the context of place, connecting with others working towards civic change based on community wealth building and regenerative and just economies.

Happy Museum invites and enables people to engage with our ethos and principles whatever their role or organization. We are a community creating change. We convene and support

people to lead and thrive as agents of change, positivity, imagination and innovation. We forge connections, foster mutual support and build multi-solving and creative approaches.

We create space, focus, provocation and permission to experiment, cutting across disciplines and hierarchies. We encourage people to move to practical action; to collaborate and scale up their responses through networked action.

We reach beyond museums and the cultural sector, locating museums within the wider movements for climate and social justice, and regenerative economies for the wellbeing of all. With them, we embrace a longer term and systemic perspective.

In all these ways, we raise aspirations, transform attitudes, spark new ideas, and build capabilities and skills.

Members of the Happy Museum Project community have described our programmes as:

*'A space to experiment with museum practice, through principles of care, inclusion and collaboration, in a critical time of change.'*

*'A light in the darkness.'*

*'Expanding my world.'*

*'My entire mindset has changed in the way I work and the choices I make.'*

*'Working from the edge.'*

*'Forcing us to do different kinds of collaboration.'*

*'I have been inspired to see how willing others are to listen, and to be open to rethinking the way they have traditionally done things.'*

*'I have learnt how museums and cultural spaces can be places of inspiration for people to come together and change how we see the world and our role within it.'*

*'I have come to realise that it is ok to not always be "right", to look outwards rather than inwards, to start to become self-aware as an institution.'*