

TABLE 4.3 – What type of space is my institution?

1

Excerpt from *Exhibitions for Social Justice* by Elena Gonzales, Routledge 2019.

	Which type of space models our goals for inclusion and sharing authority with communities?	Which type of space facilitates serving our goals for visitors?	Which type of space supports our relationship to issues of concern for our stakeholders?	Which type of space relates well to our subject matter and content?	Which type of space supports the kind of environment we want to foster?
Congregant Space: <i>The museum values social experience. Visitors make what they will of content. Emphasis is on this being a safe space. The goal is casual encounters with strangers in the civic space.</i>					
Cosmopolitan Canopy: <i>This museum is interested in fostering civic engagement. It values its relationship to the city and the civic. The goal is co-existing in the civic space, having unexpected encounters.</i>					

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Dialogic Museum: <i>Dialogue is a feature of all institutional practices. This museum wants audiences and stakeholders to co-create meaning, evaluation mechanisms, and more. All visitors may choose to collaborate in documenting / discussing memories.</i>					

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First Voice: <i>This is a culturally specific museum. Advocacy for the first voice community is the primary connection to social justice. The space fosters in-group connections and empowers visitors to join the advocacy efforts.</i>					
Contact Zone: <i>This museum values lively debate. The museum dives into trying to solve knotty contemporary problems. Respectful conflict is the cornerstone of democracy and is valuable in this environment.</i>					

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Decolonizing Museum: <i>This museum focuses on equitably distributing historical voice and redressing the wrongs of the museum / history establishment. Truth telling and healing are vital mechanisms for this. The museum works to reeducate colonized and colonizers alike based on narratives that keep the voices of the colonized at the fore.</i>					