

RAME Meeting with Government Authorities

Buenos Aires, 20 October 2020

Arguments for the Value of Museum

1. **Museums and Art Spaces help to revitalizing the range of cultural activities on offer around the City; they are spaces that contribute to the development of the imagination and therefore to human development**, creativity being a fundamental driver of the healthy development of a society.
2. **Museums and Art Spaces produce knowledge and play a fundamental role in education**, if we see Art as a tool to explore reality and find innovative solutions.
3. **Museums and Art Spaces play a civic role in building community and a sense of belonging as citizens.**
4. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), **Museums and Art Spaces are institutions that contribute to the well-being of a society by enabling contact with art**, which in turn contributes to the physical and mental health of all people of all ages linked to the visual, performing, musical and literary arts, either actively as creators or passively as spectators.

We in the Museums are ready to reopen our doors because:

5. **Museums and Art Spaces are SAFE, HISTORICALLY REGULATED spaces where compliance with standards of sociability is part of a museum-goer's usual experience.** As a result, they are easily adaptable to the new rules of cohabitation and care required by the pandemic, and we can very easily guarantee:
 - a. Use of face-masks
 - b. Social distancing
 - c. Fixed capacity
6. **GALLERIES THAT ALLOW SOCIAL DISTANCING AND THE APPLICATION OF PROTOCOLS**
7. **ADMISSION BY APPOINTMENT THROUGH ONLINE BOOKING**
8. **THE MUSEUMS ARE PROPOSING A DYNAMIC SIMILAR TO THE ONE OPERATING IN ART GALLERIES, WITH VISITORS VIEWING WORKS AND OBJECTS AT A DISTANCE**
9. **WE HAVE FITTED THE SPACES WITH SCREENS, COVID SIGNAGE AND TRAINED STAFF**

10. **WE DEMAND THE OPENING OF MUSEUMS SO THAT VISITORS CAN ENTER TO FULFIL THEIR NEED FOR INDIVIDUAL CONTEMPLATION**
11. **CULTURE HAS BEEN A FUNDAMENTAL LIFELINE DURING QUARANTINE AND POSTPONING ITS OPENING IN FAVOUR OF OTHER ITEMS SENDS A DISHEARTENING MESSAGE**

The economic damage of closing museums:

1. **Museums and Art Spaces provide jobs for thousands of artists, and art and culture professionals and administrators who need to resume their activities with the utmost urgency.**
2. **The continued closure of Museums and Art Spaces damages us financially and puts us in debt,** with the loss of admission revenue and ludicrous insurance payments for works of art on loan for exhibitions that opened in February or March and are still closed.

Illuminating Museums:

Faced with the pandemic, we at the Malba, the Proa, the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes and the Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires have co-founded the Red Argentina de Museos y Espacios de Arte (RAME), **which currently embraces over 100 museums across Argentina.**

On Friday, October 23rd, we have invited all the museums RAME to participate in the action ***Illuminating Museums*** in order to draw attention to the importance of these cultural institutions, which need to be reopened so that they can carry through their mission of serving society.

Our heartfelt thanks.