

Leadership styles iv: Outward looking

Chandan, how important

was the role of museum leadership

in those times of change?

OK, so over the years I was there

there were many, many changes

at the Museum of London

and within the heritage sector, more generally,

as there has been in the last 12-15 years.

And over this period I suppose

there was a stronger aspect

from particularly a Jack Lohman

about representing diversity

and he certainly pushed for,

not only in terms of how it was represented,

but also in terms of involving

lots of different audiences.

He was really interested in having different people

take part in discussions at the museum

and help the museum rethink what its role was.

How did that happen?

There was a big discussion.

There were a lot of people invited.

Journalists were invited and musicians,

there were artists, there were historians

and it was just kind of get the museum

thinking about what its role should be.

And also, then, in terms of the work that obviously, a lot of the projects and the programmes and the exhibitions we were involved in, again, he was very keen that we looked at how we would get different voices represented or have different people on board in helping inform some of those projects so that they also were not always led internally.

What was the general feeling and discussion inside the museum?

There were lots of debates about co-curation that were coming up, I mean, they were obviously going on for a long time, and I think this was actually now an opportunity to see if we could test out some of those approaches.

All... I mean, you know, there were open debates, it wasn't something that was just coming from the director.

It was obviously, some of the things that some of the staff also wanted to do, not just the curators, but people in other departments were also part of those discussions.

There were project teams for all types of projects, so you'd have people representing

all different departments

and so it was often a kind of organic discussion,

that would kind of, you know, lead to looking at how

we might do that more broadly.