

# Community Engagement

## ENGAGING YOUR COMMUNITY: A TOOLKIT FOR MUSEUMS

Community engagement is about people working collaboratively, through inspired action and learning, to create and realize bold visions for their common future.

As community engagement increases, citizens move from being passive to taking active leadership roles, as can be seen in the continuum below. As leaders, citizens can have a powerful influence and effect on the life of their communities.



Adapted From: Hashagen 2002 and Sydney Department of Planning 2003.

### How the community can benefit:

- Involving people can contribute to community cohesion
- People feel that they have more ownership of and control over services
- Increased skills among the community
- Wider understanding of services that the library has to offer
- The community benefits from tailored services that better reflect its needs
- Services are strengthened and improved through partnership with volunteers and community organizations
- Active citizens are essential for healthy vibrant communities

### Benefits to those getting involved

There are many benefits to people of getting actively involved in their communities. Involvement in the community can:

- Increase confidence
- Broaden experiences of diversity
- Influence career choices
- Allow for connectivity between people
- Reduce isolation
- Provide an opportunity to make friends