

My paper is a review of literature regarding DEIA policies in the museum space. What's interesting is that, currently, there is little empirical research on how museums are being affected by the Trump administration, as the topic is too current, to be frank.

The evidence that exists about these policy changes is centered around news articles. Within those news articles, we find countless pieces of evidence that illustrate the breakdown of DEIA policies within federally funded museums like the Smithsonian and the National Gallery, which have both shuttered their DEI offices and removed all references to DEI from their respective websites.

We also see this evidenced at the Museum of the Americas, who were forced to cancel a show titled "Before the Americas", which featured Black American artists and queer Canadian artists because of Trump's anti-DEI stance.

As far as what the literature looks like prior to this administration, DEIA policies within these museums are important and actually quite strong, though their futures are uncertain. Some of the ways that museums have and can implement DEI policies are through equity investment - diversifying their collections to house underrepresented communities.

We can also see the redressing of accessibility in museums - education and programming departments are working to address their visitors who might have physical, cognitive, or linguistic challenges. Unfortunately, we won't see the long-lasting effects of the second Trump administration for quite some time in the scholarship. What we have seen, however, is that accessibility is one of the easiest forms of outreach that museums can focus on. From sensory-friendly hours to reduced admission costs are ways that museums can get around the anti-DEI environment being cultivated by this administration.

The bottom line is that museums are not neutral, and they have a curatorial obligation toward activism and that's what the literature so far confirms. We know there will be changes as a result of this administration, we just don't know how sweeping those changes will be.