

**Note:** AI-Tools have been used in some parts for enhancing words and paraphrasing.

## **National Museum**

The National Museum of the Philippines is one of the institutions or major cultural agencies that is responsible for managing the National Museum Complex, including the National Planetarium, and other regional museums. It maintains, or rather, preserves collections of cultural, artistic, and heritage such as tangible, intangible, and natural heritage; conducts research in various fields including biodiversity, archaeology, and art history. Moreover, the museum shares its findings and expertise through exhibits, publications, and public programs. The National Museum also implements cultural laws such as the R.A. 10066, or the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009, and it oversees those which are deemed with significant cultural properties and historical sites in the Philippines. The museum's role includes both preservation and promoting public appreciation of the Filipino heritage all throughout the country.

Similar to this, the Museo ni Dr. Pio Valenzuela in Valenzuela City promotes local historical awareness by conserving and honoring Dr. Valenzuela's legacy, which includes his involvement in the revolution (as the Doctor of the Katipunan; a Katipunero), his work as a general practitioner of medicine, and his position as a public figure in the city (mayor and a governor). Like the National Museum, it connects visitors to Filipino heritage by showcasing artifacts and stories tied to the region's historical identity. This alignment or connection with the National Museum's broader mission supports a countrywide effort to educate, promote, and inspire respect for Filipino culture. Both institutions, Museo ni Dr. Pio Valenzuela and the National Museum, help to

sustain a deeper understanding of national identity, fostering pride, particularly through regional significance and community engagement.

- **Citation:** National Museum of the Philippines. (n.d.). *Vision and Mission*. Retrieved November 5, 2024, from <https://www.nationalmuseum.gov.ph/about-us/vision-and-mission/#:~=The%20National%20Museum%20is%20also%20diversity%20of%20their%20cultural%20origins>.

### **Museum during Covid-19**

According to UNESCO, or the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, despite many closures of museums in the world due to the Covid-19 pandemic, some have remained resilient by means of engaging with online communities. In order to stay linked globally, museums have quickly changed and adapted to offering "digital innovations" and "interactive experiences" (UNESCO, 2023). Furthermore, institutions were able to continue inspiring and educating audiences by shifting to online platforms in spite of the ongoing health difficulties. But it's also important to note that financial constraints continue, particularly for smaller museums. UNESCO urges cooperation and sustained rehabilitation strategies to assist these institutions.

Similar tactics could be investigated and employed by the recently opened (2023) and a relatively small Dr. Pio Valenzuela Museum. It can attract larger audiences, particularly younger Filipinos who are interested in local history and heritage, by increasing participation on digital and online platforms, including but not limited to social media

campaigns. The museum could implement and host virtual tours or interactive storytelling focused on Dr. Pio Valenzuela's life and the history of Valenzuela (which are also being explored at the moment by the Cultural and Tourism Office of Valenzuela). This approach would align with UNESCO's emphasis on *community connection and accessibility*. Moreover, online events could serve as platforms for discussing local history and fostering a sense of pride among residents especially among Valenzuelanos.

- **Citation:** UNESCO. (2023). *Museums facing COVID-19 challenges remain engaged with communities.* UNESCO. <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/museums-facing-covid-19-challenges-remain-engaged-communities>

## **Museums** [Paraphrasing tools have been used for paraphrasing]

Museums, as permanent, non-profit institutions, serve society by researching, collecting, conserving, and displaying both tangible and intangible heritage (ICOM, n.d.). Available to everyone, they promote diversity, sustainability, and inclusivity. Museums uphold high ethical and professional standards, involving communities in their operations and ensuring access to knowledge and experiences. They provide educational and contemplative spaces for public enjoyment/leisure, aiming to foster deeper cultural understanding. Conclusively, museums facilitate learning and interaction, supporting cultural cohesion and continuity and societal engagement (ICOM, n.d.).

The Museo ni Dr. Pio Valenzuela in the city of Valenzuela, Philippines embodies this mission by preserving and showcasing the life and contributions of Dr. Pio Valenzuela, a key figure in Philippine history (Katipunero, Doctor, and Political Figure). Through its accessible exhibits, it educates the public, especially the Valenzuelanos, on the city's heritage and the role of Dr. Pio Valenzuela in it, aligning with the values of inclusivity and diversity noted by the ICOM. As a museum dedicated to national and local history, it helps visitors connect with the past and reflect on their cultural heritage and identity. Moreover, the museum's commitment to ethical and community-oriented communication strengthens its role as a local center for education and reflection. Hence, Museo ni Dr. Pio Valenzuela embodies the ideals of ethical operation, accessibility, and community involvement (ICOM, n.d.).

- **Citation:** ICOM (n.d.). Museum Definition. <https://icom.museum/en/resources/standards-guidelines/museum-definition/>

### **Museum in Local Government Units (LGU)**

Museums run by local government units (LGUs) in the Philippines are essential for preserving and sharing local heritage, identity, and community pride. These institutions serve as an accessible learning environment where locals, especially students, can engage with their town's history beyond the four corners of their classroom (Pasion, 2024). Despite having small fundings and resources compared to national museums, LGU museums like Museo ni Dr. Pio Valenzuela contributes significantly to local tourism and identity building among its people. Experts advocate for more LGU museums

nationwide, emphasizing that “***all towns have their own history***” to preserve and celebrate.

The Museo ni Dr. Pio Valenzuela (MPV) exemplifies the vital role of LGU-run museums in reinforcing local identity by showcasing the life of Dr. Pio Valenzuela, a key figure in Philippine history. The museum offers a deeper connection and understanding to Dr. Pio Valenzuela’s contributions, particularly for the city's residents, by providing hands-on exhibits and personal artifacts (Pasion, 2024). This interactivity, such as sitting on Valenzuela's furniture and touching some of the items like the jail bar (representation of his imprisonments in the Philippines and in Spain), enhances visitor engagement and makes history more accessible. Jonathan Balsamo, head of the Cultural Affairs and Tourism Office, notes that MPV’s focus on Valenzuela’s life and aims to foster a sense of pride and connection among locals. Comprehensively, the MPV highlights the distinctive educational value LGU museums bring to their communities, beyond the limitations of traditional learning spaces (Pasion, 2024).

- **Citation:** Pasion, L. (2024, June 29). *Why museums in each local government unit are important.* Rappler. <https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/in-depth/why-museums-each-local-government-unit-important/>

**Museology** [Paraphrasing tools have been used for paraphrasing]

Museology [***museo*** (museum) and ***logus*** (account or science)] is the scientific and managerial study of museums, aiming to train professionals to effectively develop and

maintain these institutions (Soni, 2024). It combines science and humanities addressing both the theoretical and practical aspects of museum management. In the process of museology, it evolves toward specialized disciplines, whereas it requires a curriculum that balances a general training with specific areas of focus. University programs are encouraged to incorporate interdisciplinary study and partner with museums for hands-on training and internships, preparing students for diverse roles within the museum sector.

In alignment with this to Museo ni Dr. Pio Valenzuela, the interdisciplinary of museology and its practical approaches are highly relevant. The museum's focus on the life of Dr. Pio Valenzuela showcases museology's importance in preserving and contextualizing local history for community identity and learning. Practical training in museology would enhance the management of such specialized museums, particularly in community-oriented storytelling and interactive exhibits. Moreover, partnerships between museology programs and community museums like this one could deepen local historical engagement, offering the people, especially students, valuable experiences while enriching cultural heritage and public understanding.

- **Citation:** Soni, Amit. (2004). Museology: an area of study and research. 58. 56-58. Retrieved from:[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/334772999\\_Museology\\_an\\_area\\_of\\_study\\_and\\_research](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/334772999_Museology_an_area_of_study_and_research)

docs.google.com/document/d/1DZZ76ZxMrcSgNHEUOzImz2ndUjxc1fHwI4rdTffbic/edit?tab=t.0

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### National Museum

The National Museum of the Philippines is responsible for managing the National Museum Complex, the National Planetarium, and regional museums. It maintains collections of cultural, artistic, and natural heritage and conducts research in various fields, including biodiversity, archaeology, and art history. The museum shares its findings and expertise through exhibits, publications, and public programs. It also enforces cultural laws and oversees significant cultural properties and sites. The museum's role includes both preservation and promoting public appreciation of Filipino heritage.

Similarly, Museo ni Dr. Pio Valenzuela preserves and honors the legacy of Dr. Valenzuela, contributing to local historical awareness. Like the National Museum, it connects visitors to Filipino heritage by showcasing artifacts and stories tied to the region's historical identity. This alignment with the National Museum's broader mission supports a nationwide effort to educate

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