

What Makes a Museum Experience “Jewish”?

Marvin Pinkert

Description: Marvin Pinkert's 27 years in the museum field has included displays of model trains, a coal mine, the US Constitution and Shaquille O'Neal's sneakers. Now as director of the Jewish Museum of Maryland he is leading the team that is reshaping that organization's future. His biggest surprise at JMM is how often the question arises "what makes that exhibit (on comic books, medicine, scrap industry) Jewish?" Pinkert will draw on examples, past, present and future to try to explain why he finds this question so unusual.

Marvin Pinkert is the Executive Director of the Jewish Museum of Maryland (JMM). JMM is both a museum and an important Jewish historic site, as it includes synagogues built in 1845 and 1876. Prior to joining JMM, Pinkert served as director of the National Archives Experience in D.C. and as Vice President of the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. His first job was at the US Cultural Center in Seoul – where he ran the library! He holds a B.A. in English (Brandeis University), an M.A. in Japanese Studies (Yale University) and an M.B.A. (Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University).