

To our colleagues of the Brazil National Museum
To the Brazilian people,
To the global museum community,
To all peoples around the world.

The Science Museum and Science Center global community, represented by the Science Center World Summit, publicly expresses their deepest condolences and concern for the destruction of the Brazil National Museum, in Rio de Janeiro.

Fire took away a fundamental legacy of anthropological and natural history of Brazil and of the world: 200 years of work and 20 million specimens, including Luzia, the oldest fossil of an American homo sapiens, and so much more. The most comprehensive collection in Latin America is gone and such a loss makes us reflect on the responsibility we have as a community, to protect our common heritage.

Museums and their collections are gateways for society that help us recognize who we are, our social and natural evolution, and where we are heading.

This tremendous loss highlights the importance of scientific research, of collections as witnesses and memory, and of the access to knowledge as a human right. We have to assume our responsibility and value our institutions as fundamental spaces for society to recognize themselves, participate in constructive dialogue and serve as a foundation for social wellbeing.

The SCWS, which represents science communicators and science advocates from around the world, expresses our deep concern and solidarity.
Humanity should mourn this great loss of heritage and take actions to avoid similar tragedies.

Todo amanhã se cria num ontem, através de um hoje. De modo que o nosso future baseia-se no passado e se corporifica no presente. Temos de saber o que fomos e o que somos, para saber o que seremos

“Every future is built on the past through the present. So that our future is based in the past and it is embodied in the present. We have to know what we did to know who we are”

PAULO REGLUS NEVES FREIRE (1921 –1997), Brazilian educator and philosopher, leading advocate of critical pedagogy. His influential work, Pedagogy of the Oppressed, is considered to be one of the foundational texts of the critical pedagogy movement.

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*Responsible for release,
Silvia Singer
SCWS 2020 Chair, Mexico.*