



"HISTORY, DESPITE ITS WRENCHING PAIN, CANNOT BE UNLIVED, BUT IF FACED WITH COURAGE, NEED NOT BE LIVED AGAIN."
- MAYA ANGELOU

A founding member of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, and the first UNESCO World Heritage Site in Africa, Maison des Esclaves shares the history and narratives of the vast transatlantic slave trade. Since its founding as a museum in 1962, the historic site has welcomed thousands of visitors, including Nelson Mandela, Pope John Paul II and Barack and Michelle Obama.

Revitalizing Maison des Esclaves

Prototype
Exhibit

2018



Revitalizing Maison des Esclaves reinforces the museum's physical structure, creates new spaces for exhibitions and dialogue, and updates its interpretation and program offerings.



International Coalition of
SITES of CONSCIENCE

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Qui habitait ici?: Whereas other sites in Africa capture the large scale nature of the slave trade, Maison des Esclaves tells personal stories of a private home and the role of its owners in both local business and the slave trade.

Qui a bénéficié?: One of the site's assets is that it tells a very intimate narrative – of the slave trade as a cottage industry undertaken by private individuals.



Students at the Mariama Bâ School on Gorée Island participated in a focus group on the revitalization in February 2018. When asked if Maison des Esclaves should be a place of reconciliation, every single girl in the class replied in unison with a resounding "Yes!"



Qu'est-ce que l'esclavage?: The new exhibit will not only enhance visitors' understanding of the slave trade, but encourage them to make connections between this history and its modern counterparts.