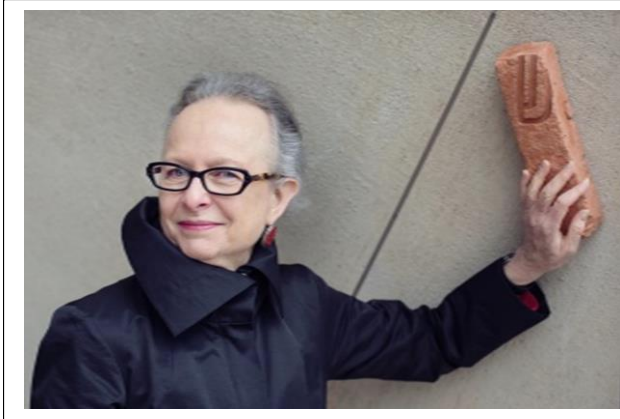


Intangible Cultural Heritage at the Smithsonian presents
Dr. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett



Materializing History: The Role of Intangible Heritage in the Core Exhibition at POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews

When: **2:00-3:30pm on Thursday, May 28, 2015**

Where: **Smithsonian Castle Library**, 1000 Jefferson Drive SW, Washington, D.C. 20560

Please RSVP to PedersenA@si.edu to ensure event capacity and record staff attendance.

Abstract:

POLIN Museum was built on the rubble of the destroyed Warsaw ghetto and prewar Jewish neighborhood of Warsaw. The core exhibition stages the thousand-year history of Polish Jews within a theater of history. It was created from scratch, without an historic building and without a collection. The starting point was the story, rather than a collection, and our top priority was to bring that story to life. Although objects became purchased and borrowed for the core exhibition, objects alone could not tell this thousand-year story. What we lack in material heritage we make up for in intangible heritage. This presentation will explore the role of intangible heritage in materializing the history of Polish Jews.

Bio:

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett is chief curator of the Core Exhibition at POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. She is university professor emerita and professor emerita of performance studies at New York University. Her books include *Destination Culture: Tourism, Museums, and Heritage*; *Image before My Eyes: A Photographic History of Jewish Life in Poland, 1864–1939* (with Lucjan Dobroszycki); and *The Art of Being Jewish in Modern Times* (edited with Jonathan Karp). Her edited volume *Writing a Modern Jewish History: Essays in Honor of Salo W. Baron* won a National Jewish Book Award. *They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland Before the Holocaust*, which she coauthored with her father, Mayer Kirshenblatt, also won several awards.

Intangible Cultural Heritage at the Smithsonian is generously supported by the Smithsonian's Consortium for World Cultures. For more information, please visit: www.folklife.si.edu/ich