As more people struggle to cope with uncertainty and stress带来的 the pandemic, places of refuge are even more crucial. Museums have always been places where people go to take a break from their day-to-day lives. Our recent research has shown that museums are being put to use in just these kinds of jobs — and our panelists have talked specifically about their value in this time of crisis, as places for respite and escape.

This suggests that, for someone leaving out intellectual growth is essential to mental and emotional health. This is also true in previous Annual Surveys of Museum-Goers research, indicating museums are not just places of escape but also places of growth and learning.

For other panelists, museums are a place for the humanities and arts to thrive. Robert Wilkening of Wilkening Consulting notes, "I believe when most people hear that term they immediately think of a place where they can relax and learn about different cultures and historical moments. I believe museums are a place where people can go to escape from their day-to-day lives and find a sense of peace.

For anti-inclusive white people, inclusive content can provide respite, while others were finding just that: museums as a place of growth and intellectual stimulation.

So, how can museums serve the public in this moment? Museums and the Pandemic Data Story #11: Respite and Museums explores these questions and more.

For most white people, inclusive content is perceived as mutually exclusive to respite. This idea has come up repeatedly in interviews with museum professionals and museum-goers, who often felt that growth and intellectual stimulation was a less important aspect of museums.

Yet inclusion is crucial for many people of color or those with marginalized identities. Being inclusive signals that yes, museums are a place for all to be part of the stories shared. For those with more inclusive Neoteric perspectives, museums and escape more creatively, and more equitably, to the public.

The entire series of Museums and the Pandemic Data Stories can be found at wilkeningconsulting.com/data-stories.