

- Preamble** *Exhibits* are the main attraction for most visitors to the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). The purpose of exhibits is to involve visitors in the process of discovery, to spark curiosity, to inform, to provoke thought, to stimulate imagination, and to heighten appreciation and understanding.
- Policy** The ROM will
- Stage exhibits consistent with its mandate, vision, mission, strategic imperatives, and principal objectives as approved by the Board of Trustees.
  - Implement a thought-provoking and diverse exhibit program that reflects both the natural history of Ontario, Canada, and the world, and the history of humankind.
  - Consider the care and safekeeping of both ROM and loaned objects when mounting an exhibit.
- Accessibility*
- *Make accessible* to the public the collections and collections-based research by featuring ideas, objects, and specimens for their social, aesthetic, historical, or scientific interest, and by implementing innovative interpretation strategies to reach more diverse audiences.
  - Undertake an exhibit program that includes both exhibits with broad audience appeal and some with more targeted appeal.
- Galleries*
- Develop and maintain a program of gallery installations and gallery improvement supported by capital and operating resources.
  - Present an annual program of changing exhibits supported by operating resources and ROM Foundation grants.
- Criterion of Excellence*
- Ensure that the quality of all ROM exhibits is commensurate with its national and international status.
- Planning and Circulation*
- Develop and maintain an exhibits program based on Board-approved thematic categories and directions.
  - Include the exhibits program as part of the business plan and budget presented to the Board.
  - Circulate to other national and international institutions exhibits that the ROM has developed independently or in collaboration with other organizations.
- Financial Authority*
- Given the long lead-time required for exhibit planning, the approved budget line for the current year will form the baseline for future commitments. The commitments will not exceed that baseline without specific authority of the Board. As part of its annual budget and business-plan review, the Board may revisit earlier Board decisions. The Director & CEO holds final approval authority, subject to reporting to the Board, for exhibits individually budgeted up to \$500,000, ~~with the exception that for Garfield Weston Hall, as per the gift agreement, approval for all exhibits rests with the Board.~~ **Exhibits budgeted over \$500,000 require Board approval.**

**Explanation of Terms**     *exhibit*: an interpretative display that includes (but is not confined to) artifacts, specimens, or archival material from the ROM's collections, from private collections, or from other institutions; that complements, illustrates, or relates to the ROM's collections; and that explores human cultures or the natural world.

*make accessible*: present artifacts, specimens, and information in an interpretive and educational context that will promote knowledge and a greater understanding of the ROM's collections.

**Approval Date**             April 19, 2001

**Amended**                August 29, 2002  
July 1, 2007 (housekeeping changes only)  
June 18, 2009 (housekeeping changes only)

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## ***MONITORING***

### **Adherence to Policy**

*Board*: The Collections, Exhibitions & Research Committee will periodically review management's adherence to the policy.

*Management*: The Director & CEO, the Deputy Director, Operations, and the ~~Vice-President, Exhibits, Programs & New Media Resources~~ **Vice-President, Marketing & Sales** will ensure that the Collections, Exhibitions & Research Committee has all the relevant information for determining adherence.

### **Policy Review**

*Method*                     Internal Report  
*Responsibility*           Collections, Exhibitions & Research Committee  
*Minimum Frequency*   Biennially

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