

Education, Programs and Outreach

Education: School Visits

The ROM is one of Canada's largest extra-curricular educators with a School Visits program aimed at enhancing the understanding and appreciation of natural history and world cultures. The programs offer lab lessons that are geared to the provincial education curriculum and provides opportunities for students to engage with real nature specimens and historical artifacts. School groups can participate in Gallery Lessons guided by a ROM teacher, or opt for a Self-Guided museum visit.

Each year the ROM welcomes approximately 150,000 students from more than 3,000 schools. Up to 2,000 students from elementary schools, high schools and post-secondary institutions may be visiting the Museum on a given day.

The School Visits program offers classes geared to students from kindergarten to grade 12. The ROM also offers courses for post-secondary students and Adult ESL (English as a second language).

Education: Secondary School Credit Courses

The ROM, in partnership with Blyth Academy, offers a selection of secondary school courses exploring themes from Science to Humanities. Each course provides Ontario high school students with exclusive access to the Museum's resources, hands-on experiences and includes opportunities to work with experts in a range of fields. Courses are available for grades 9 through 12 and are taught by Blyth teachers, as well as ROM education and curatorial staff.

Outreach: Travelling Education Kits

The ROM produces and distributes two types of Travelling Education Kits — School Cases and Resource Boxes, both of which bring the ROM to the classroom. These hands-on, object-oriented educational kits are based on the Ministry of Education's common core curriculum and built on the ROM's expertise and collections. Teachers can choose from many cases on individual subjects ranging from arts, history and social studies to science and technology. The kits contain teacher's notes, student activity cards, objects/artifacts and resource material.

School Cases are larger and provide lesson plans and student activities suitable for full-class (25-30 people) participation. The smaller sized Resource Boxes are ideal for small group or independent student inquiry, or they can be used to highlight specific points of a topic in a full class (25-30 people) setting.

Outreach: Travelling Exhibitions

Travelling exhibitions bring the ROM's collections, research and expertise to those institutions whose communities cannot readily visit the Museum. Travelling exhibitions are circulated to provincial museums, art galleries, libraries, hospitals and other public institutions. A travelling exhibition consists of display cases containing objects as well as contextual information (e.g. images, maps) on panels. Currently, the ROM has nine travelling exhibitions in circulation. They highlight a range of subjects, from science to art or cultural themes from Canada and across the globe.

World Cultures travelling exhibitions consists of the following exhibitions: Arts of China, Canada at Play: 100 Years of Games, Toys and Sports, Egypt, Gift of the Nile, Ornamenting the Ordinary: Crafts of South Asia, Iroquois Beadwork: Through the Voices of Beads, and Fakes and Forgeries: Yesterday and Today.

Nature and Science travelling exhibitions consists of the following : Listen to the Night, Bats of Ontario, Hands-on Nature, Northern Owls, Seeds in Disguise: The Biology and Lore of Ornamental Seeds.

Travelling Starlab: Discover the wonders of the Universe with a Travelling Starlab. These Starlabs are inflated and have a small projector that displays the stars and constellations around us. The Travelling Starlab programs are designed for schools, community groups, museums, or libraries. Groups renting the Travelling Starlabs can also have sessions presented by ROM instructors teaching the basics of the night sky and Greek and Roman mythology.

ROM Programs

ROM programs offer a remarkable variety of lectures, courses, trips, social events that are enjoyable and advance your understanding of world cultures and natural history. Look for the most recent ROM Programs brochure (published seasonally) or online at the Programs Calendar for additional information and to register for courses or lectures.

Families and kids enjoy events and programs all year long, with special programming added for regular museum visits during holiday periods (March Break, and ROM for the Holidays) and during the engagement of many feature exhibitions. Among the longest running and most popular programs at the ROM are the Saturday Morning Club, Summer Club and March Break Camp, each of which offers many thematic groups to suit each participant's interests.

For those interested in seeing the world with the ROM, the Department of Museum Volunteers (DMV) organizes three types of excursions. ROMtravel offers group tours to destinations around the globe and are accompanied by Museum experts for an informative and memorable voyage. The ROMbus program runs day trips to places in Toronto and surrounding areas. And ROMwalks provides over 40 free guided walking tours each year through Toronto neighbourhoods of architectural and historic interest. Information on upcoming travel opportunities can be found on the ROM's website.

Publications

The ROM publishes and co-publishes a wide variety of books relating to the Museum, its collections and research. ROM books are distributed by University of Toronto Press and are available in bookstores, online and in the ROM Museum Store.

ROM Magazine, included with ROM Memberships, takes readers behind the scenes, revealing objects not on display to Museum visitors, explaining cutting edge techniques, and taking readers along on field adventures with ROM researchers.

The ROM Field Guide series is remarkable for its comprehensive cataloguing of Ontario's flora and fauna. To date four field guides have been published: The ROM Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of Ontario, by Erling Holm, Nick Mandrak, Mary Burrige; The ROM Field Guide to Wildflowers of Ontario, by Timothy Dickinson, Deborah Metsger, Jenny Bull, and Richard Dickinson; The ROM Field Guide to Birds of Ontario, by Janice M. Hughes; and The ROM Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of Ontario, by Ross D. MacCulloch.

For more about the history of the Museum and Renaissance ROM two recommended books are: the colourful Bold Visions: The Architecture of the Royal Ontario Museum, by Kelvin Browne, covers the architectural history and recent addition, while I Brought the Ages Home, by C. T. Currelly, is the memoirs of ROM founding director Charles T. Currelly's and was originally published in 1956.

www.rom.on.ca

The ROM's website continues to grow in popularity each year and now reaches four million visitors annually. The ROM has continued to develop social media features, currently there are Facebook accounts for the ROM, ICC, Library & Archives, YPC and ROMwalks. There are over one hundred podcasts available on the ROM's website. The ROM's digital content is also available on the ROM's YouTube channel and via podcasts on iTunes. In all, the Museum's website is a quickly growing online community of ROM enthusiasts.