

Introduction to the ROM

The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) is Canada's largest museum, of both natural history and world cultures. Opened in 1914, the ROM currently holds six million objects in its collections with over 30 galleries showcasing art, archaeology and natural science. Located in Toronto, Canada's largest city, it is one of North America's great museums, a research institution of international renown and a leading cultural attraction for the city, province and country. The Royal Ontario Museum is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

Galleries and Exhibition Spaces

World Culture Galleries

A.G. Leventis Foundation Gallery of Ancient Cyprus
Bishop White Gallery of Chinese Temple Art
Daphne Cockwell Gallery of Canada: First Peoples
Eaton Gallery of Rome
Galleries of Africa: Egypt
Galleries of Africa: Nubia
Gallery of Greece
Gallery of Korea
Gallery of the Bronze Age Aegean
Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Gallery of Byzantium
Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Gallery of China
Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Gallery of Rome and the Near East
Matthews Family Court of Chinese Sculpture
Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles & Costume
Prince Takamado Gallery of Japan
ROM Gallery of Chinese Architecture
Samuel European Galleries
Shreyas and Mina Ajmera Gallery of Africa, the Americas and Asia-Pacific
Sigmund Samuel Gallery of Canada
Sir Christopher Ondaatje South Asian Gallery
Wirth Gallery of the Middle East

Natural History Galleries


Bat Cave
Gallery of Birds

James and Louise Temerty Galleries of the Age of Dinosaurs
Patrick and Barbara Keenan Family Gallery of Hands-on Biodiversity
Reed Gallery of the Age of Mammals
Life in Crisis: Schad Gallery of Biodiversity
Teck Suite of Galleries: Earth's Treasures
 Vale Inco Limited Gallery of Minerals
 Gallery of Gems and Gold
 Canadian Mining Hall of Fame Gallery

Children's Gallery

CIBC Discovery Gallery

Exhibition Spaces

Garfield Weston Exhibition Hall
Herman Herzog Levy Gallery
Roloff Beny Gallery
Samuel Hall  Currelly Gallery

Iconic Objects

Among the six million artifacts in the Museum's collections 16 have been chosen as Iconic Objects, based on their cultural importance, rarity and contribution to international scholarship. Sixteen of these objects are on display and are augmented with video kiosks to highlight their significance: *Totem Poles*, made of western red cedar, these four totem poles were carved by the Nis_ga'a and Haida of the Pacific Northwest Coast and display crests commemorating family origins, rights, privileges, achievements, and experiences; the painting *The Death of General Wolfe*, considered a significant representation of a pivotal moment in Canada's history; *The Paradise of Maitreya*, one of the most well-preserved Yuan dynasty temple wall paintings; *Tomb Mound of General Zu Dashou* ("Ming Tomb") the esteemed defender of the Ming dynasty; the rare *White Rhino* at the entrance to the Schad Gallery of Biodiversity; "Gordo" the 90-foot-long *Barosaurus*; the *Parasaurolophus walkon*, the most complete example of the duck-billed hadrosaur; *Burgess Shale*, an extensive collection half-billion-year-old fossils from the Cambrian Explosion; the *Light of the Desert*, a giant 900 carat cerussite gem and the world's largest faceted cerussite; the *Tagish Lake Meteorite*, containing some of the oldest and most primitive organic material dating back to the formation of our solar system; *Bust of Cleopatra VII*, a rare Ptolemaic granite bust; *Statue of Sekhmet*, a magnificent example of Pharaonic sculpture; the ancient *Egyptian Book of the Dead*, at a remarkable five metres in length, it is one of the most outstanding in the world; the *Earl of Pembroke's Armour*, made in the Greenwich Royal Workshop by Erasmus Kyrkenar, one of the great master armourers; *Kunti* sculpture "Blue Lady" created by artist Navjot Altaf in 1999; and the *Striding Lion Terracotta Relief* that once adorned the palace of King Nebuchodnozzar II in Babylon.

Mandate

The ROM's dual mandate of World Cultures and Natural History combines a universal museum of cultures with that of natural history, offering a breadth of experience for visitors from all around the world. Carved in stone in 1933 on the Museum doors along Queen's Park is the inscription "The record of nature through countless ages" and "The arts of man through all the years."

Our vision: To be recognized globally as an essential destination for making sense of the changing natural and cultural worlds.

Our purpose: To inspire wonder and promote learning by sharing the stories of the unique collections that the ROM cares for on behalf of the people of Ontario, to be a champion for the natural and cultural worlds, to serve as a forum for our diverse communities and to create knowledge that contributes to a better future.

Our values: Learning – by promoting curiosity, discovery and teaching. Engagement – by anticipating and responding to the needs of the diverse audience. Authoritativeness – by upholding rigorous inquiry, sound research and scholarship, and professional integrity. Stewardship – by developing and preserving an important public inheritance for future generations in an ethical and fiscally responsible manner. Innovation – by being forward-looking, open to new ideas and knowledge exchange. Enjoyment – by emphasizing a customer-focused, welcoming and fun attitude.

Visitors

Annual attendance is approximately one million visitors, with March Break traditionally being the busiest week of the year. The ROM's Education and Programs department welcomes 150,000 School Group visits annually. Courses, lectures and special events are an additional draw for visitors to the Museum, with some of the offerings related to temporary exhibits while others are perennial favourites such as Summer Club for kids or family-oriented programming during ROM for the Holidays. The ROM's website currently attracts over four million visitors annually. The ROM's Outreach programs of Travelling Exhibits and Travelling Education Kits are enjoyed by nearly half a million people in over a 150 communities.

Education

The School Visits program offers curriculum-related programming for school groups from junior kindergarten to secondary school, including at University level. Classroom and gallery lessons, taught by ROM Teachers, explore diverse themes such as mathematics, classical studies and language, or Canadian and world studies. There are six classrooms, a state-of-the-art Digital Gallery and the main Library in the Learning Centre located on Level 1.

Collections and Research

Since the founded of the ROM in 1912 (opening in 1914), the Museum has continually added to its holdings of artifacts and specimens through acquisitions, donations and fieldwork. The Museum's diverse collections currently contain six million objects.

The ROM is also an important research institution where curators continue to make new discoveries, enhance knowledge of our collections, and make new information available to the public. The ROM's Laboratory of Molecular Systematics enables the Museum to conduct DNA based research. ROM curators publish papers in peer reviewed academic journals, write academic books, monographs and exhibition catalogues, and regularly contribute to popular magazines, newspapers and TV shows geared to general public audiences.

In keeping with the ROM's dual mandate to study world cultures and natural history, projects range from the study of Palaeolithic archaeology in China, 18th century furniture production in Montréal, the origin of species of cichlid freshwater fishes in Guyana, the stunning discovery of new Burgess Shale fossil deposits to the finding of the oldest known nesting site for early Prosauropods dinosaurs in South Africa. There are 42 Curators at the ROM divided between the departments of World Cultures and Natural History.

ROM Governors

The ROM Governors raise and manage funds in support of the Museum's highest priorities and is overseen by the ROM Board of Governors. Each year, the ROM Governors grants funds received from gifts and endowment earnings to help the Museum maintain the highest standards of acquisitions, collections management, gallery and exhibition development, research and education, facilities, and public programming. The ROM Governors also offer annual giving programs such as the Royal Patrons' Circle, Young Patrons' Circle for the under age 45 set, and organizes exclusive programming and special events for donor members. The Renaissance ROM Campaign, launched in 2002 and running until the end of 2009, is the largest and most successful cultural fundraising campaign in Canada's history.

Department of Museum Volunteers

The Department of Museum Volunteers (DMV) are active as Museum Guides, offering regularly scheduled tours in English and French; providing international travel opportunities through ROMtravel; presenting annual lectures and raising funds for the Museum. The DMV has 600 members and is supervised by a volunteer President and Board of Directors.

ICC at the ROM

The Institute for Contemporary Culture (ICC) at the ROM is the Museum's window on contemporary society, providing a unique forum where the new encounters the depth and context of the ROM's historical and anthropological collections. The ICC, with its own Board, presents exhibitions in the Roloff Beny Gallery as well as other locations within the ROM, and organizes lectures and other programs relating to ICC exhibitions or current ROM exhibitions. The ICC's exhibitions, lectures and events present a diversity of views relating to varied and provocative topics and serve as a catalyst for public conversations. The annual Eva Holtby Lecture on Contemporary Culture is the featured lecture of the ICC.

Heritage buildings

On April 16, 1912, the ROM was created by an act of the provincial government, and opened its doors to the public on March 19, 1914. The building was constructed along Philosophers' Walk, with the main entrance facing Bloor Street, and was designed by the Toronto architectural firm of Darling and Pearson. The Museum expanded in 1933 with the addition of the centre block and Queen's Park wings, designed by the Toronto firm of Chapman and Oxley, completing an H-shaped floor plan and containing a stunning new Rotunda lobby entrance facing Queen's Park. The exterior walls of the 1933 addition were faced with Credit Valley and Queenston limestone. At the height of the Depression, quarries in Bancroft were reopened to supply all the interior decorative marble flooring and trim. Brick from Toronto's Don Valley Brickworks was used for the walls facing the old building to match the bricks of the 1914 wing. Inside the Rotunda, a golden ceiling was created from over four thousands sheets of imported Venetian glass that were cut into more than one million tiny squares to cover the ceiling's entire surface. A team of skilled workers from Connolly Marble and Mosaic Tile Company laboured for eight months to install the mosaic ceiling. The marble, tile, and terrazzo used for marble bases, trim and jambs in the Museum were installed by the Italian Mosaic and Tile Co. The Rotunda is considered one of Toronto's finest architectural spaces.

Renaissance ROM

Renaissance ROM was the Museum's major expansion and renovation project. The ROM remained open throughout the construction project with new galleries and building opening in stages. The first set of ten renovated galleries, in the heritage wings opened in December 2005, retrieving the best of the beautiful historic architecture including restoring the long axial views within the Museum. This was followed by the Architectural Opening of the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, designed by Studio Daniel Libeskind, on June 2, 2007. The Michael Lee-Chin Crystal galleries were installed and opened in phases during 2007-2008, followed by the opening of two new galleries in the heritage wings in 2008-2009. In total there are 15 new and refurbished galleries in the existing heritage buildings and seven new galleries in the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, bringing the total number of ROM galleries to 31 which allow the ROM to exhibit artifacts and specimens related to all the major collections held by the Museum.

Over 70% of the funding for Renaissance ROM came from the private sector. The Government of Ontario contributed \$42 million with the Government of Canada contributing \$30 million. A lead gift of \$30 million came from Michael Lee-Chin, Chairman and CEO of AIC Limited and was announced April 2003. Renaissance ROM is also Canada's largest cultural fundraising campaign, raising \$270-million for the project that includes construction of the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, renovating large portions of the existing heritage buildings, and creating new and renovated galleries.