

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What are the achievements of Renaissance ROM?

- The amount of artifacts & specimens on display at the ROM has doubled, with 300,000 square feet of new and renovated galleries and public space.
- We've created a new 20,000 square foot for world-class exhibitions, the Garfield Weston Exhibition Hall.
- We've opened four distinct, newly restored public spaces including the historic Rotunda; John David & Signy Eaton Court; Samuel Hall Currelly Gallery; Signy & Cléopée Eaton Theatre.
- To engage younger patrons we've opened a new 30,000 square foot Learning Centre, dramatically expanding the ROM's education facilities.
- To keep up with the demands of the digital age, we've created a state-of-the art Digital Gallery to provide digital access to collections for students, scholars and the public.
- To continue to delight our youngest visitors we've renovated the hands-on interactive CIBC Discovery Gallery with more touchable artifacts, real specimens and a special area for pre-schoolers, with puzzles, toys and costumes to try on.
- Our restaurant and retail space has grown by 20,000 square feet.
- We've added 76,840 square feet of program space, a 50% increase in circulation and more than doubling the space available for shops, food services, and event spaces.
- We've improved our classrooms, studios, and teaching spaces, enhancing our reputation as leading educational facility, and have provided school groups with their own entrance—the Loblaws School Entrance—and designated lunch room.

2. Are you still fundraising for Renaissance ROM?

Yes, we are still actively fundraising. The Renaissance ROM Campaign Cabinet, led by the Hon. Hilary M. Weston, is actively fundraising until 2009. To assist the Cabinet is the newly formed Countdown to Completion Task Force, a group of volunteers to guide the final months of fundraising strategy. Chaired by Rob Pierce, the task force consists of Jack Cockwell, Don Lindsay, Rebecca MacDonald, Jack McOuat, Jim Temerty and Alfred Wirth. Honorary Advisors for the task force include Rudy Bratty, Joey Tanenbaum, and Rita Tsang.

3. Why are you still fundraising? Isn't the Michael Lee-Chin building complete?

While a large part of the project was complete with the opening of the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, the Renaissance ROM project consists of many components including:

- The restoration of the heritage buildings (interior and exterior)
- The creation of new iconic architecture through the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal
- The restoration and construction of new galleries for all the ROM's major collections

- The creation of a new Learning Centre, Digital Gallery, Discovery Gallery, classrooms, studios and new school group entrance
- The creation of new amenities in food, retail, and public space

We have completed 80% of the promised galleries through Renaissance ROM and are fundraising for the final phase.

4. What is left to do?

In December 2008 the ROM opens the Teck Suite of Galleries: Earth's Treasures which includes three galleries: Vale Inco Limited Gallery of Minerals, the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame Gallery and the Gallery of Gems and Gold.

In 2009 the ROM opens the Schad Gallery of Biodiversity.

We continue to secure funds to complete and open the following seven galleries:

- Peter F. Bronfman Gallery of Early Life
- Eaton Gallery of Rome
- Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Gallery of the Eastern Roman Empire
- Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Gallery of Byzantium
- Galleries of Africa: Nubia
- Galleries of Africa: Egypt
- Gallery of Modern Design

5. What is the Museum's plan now that the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal is complete?

As the Museum works towards the completion of the final galleries listed above, it will also be developing many new programs to engage family audiences, explore cultural change, and advocate for the environment. The Museum will increasingly focus on becoming a powerful agent and venue for public debate, education, and research.

6. Why should I support the ROM?

Your support enables the ROM to share its collections and programs with millions of visitors from around the world each year. Your investment in the ROM at this time supports its significant role as a cultural, social and educational force in our community. It also supports the Museum's role as a vital engine of economic growth for Toronto and Ontario.

7. Who benefits from the ROM's collection and galleries?

With collections among the most diverse in the world, a stunning location at the centre of Canada's largest city, research that spans the globe and all time, all members of the community benefit from the ROM's treasured collections and galleries. This community includes residents and tourists, youth and adults, Canadians of all backgrounds and interests, and visitors from around the world.

8. How is the Museum more accessible?

The ROM is committed to making its public treasures accessible to everyone. Its partnerships with the United Way and Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children have allowed groups of people to visit the Museum who would otherwise not be able to visit. As well, the transformation has encouraged the Museum to develop a comprehensive accessibility policy and demonstrate its commitment to accessibility for all visitors. To ensure that all visitors can enjoy the collections and allow for greater physical access, the Museum aims to be barrier-free in all public areas. The main entrance is stair-free and all floors are accessible by elevator or platform lift. The Museum's wayfinding system includes Braille and hands-on elements. The ROM offers visitors complimentary wheelchairs, large-format floor plans, captioning of the digital donor wall, sign language podcasts, descriptive audio guides, and increased seating throughout the Museum. Service animals are welcome. The Museum is working towards expanding its offerings, including a tactile-tour for visitors who are blind and those with vision loss and the addition of touchable models to accompany the Museum's descriptive audio tour.

9. What is new at the ROM and what is restored?

Heritage Building Galleries (restored gallery spaces):

- Bishop White Gallery of Chinese Temple Art
- Daphne Cockwell Gallery of Canada: First Peoples
- Gallery of Korea
- Gallery of the Bronze Age Aegean
- Herman Herzog Levy Gallery
- Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Gallery of China
- A.G. Leventis Foundation Gallery of Ancient Cyprus
- Matthews Family Court of Chinese Sculpture
- Prince Takamado Gallery of Japan
- ROM Gallery of Chinese Architecture
- Sigmund Samuel Gallery of Canada
- CIBC Discovery Gallery
- Patrick and Barbara Keenan Family Gallery of Hands-on Biodiversity

Michael Lee-Chin Crystal Galleries (new gallery spaces):

- Shreyas and Mina Ajmera Gallery of Africa, the Americas and Asia-Pacific
- Sir Christopher Ondaatje South Asian Gallery
- Wirth Gallery of the Middle East
- Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles & Costume
- Roloff Beny Gallery which hosts exhibitions presented by the Museum's Institute for Contemporary Culture
- Reed Gallery of the Age of Mammals
- James and Louise Temerty Galleries of the Age of Dinosaurs

10. What new education programs have the new classrooms enabled?

The ROM's Learning Centre includes a library, several classrooms, and Digital Gallery. Classrooms are booked by schools through our School Visits Program. ROM Teachers lead the class through a particular subject using the galleries, exhibits, classroom and real artifacts from our teaching collection.

The number of classroom and gallery based offerings has expanded significantly with the opening of several new galleries including the Sigmund Samuel Gallery of Canada, the James and Louise Temerty Galleries of the Age of Dinosaurs and the Reed Gallery of the Age of Mammals. Teachers continue to give strong positive feedback following their visits.

The Digital Gallery—primarily targeted to school groups—allows visitors to interact with the ROM's collections in virtual two- and three-dimensional spaces. It also offers two 50-minute presentations, including Daily Life in Ancient Egypt and the newest program, Shaping Canada: Our Voices and Stories, that explores Canadian history and the people who have shaped and continue to shape the development of our country.

11. Why should I support Renaissance ROM now?

Renaissance ROM is the most successful cultural campaign in Canada but we still need your support. Your contribution will enable the ROM to complete its final phase of promised galleries. Your support of Renaissance ROM is an investment in Toronto's cultural legacy and allows the ROM to move forward—to continue with our vision and mission of being a forum for world cultures, an advocate for the natural world, and a place for engagement, public debate, and thought-provoking programs.