

Preamble	<i>Exhibitions</i> are central to the visitor experience at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). The purpose of exhibitions is to engage visitors around the world in the process of discovery, spark curiosity, inform, provoke thought and discussion, stimulate imagination, and heighten appreciation and understanding of art, human cultures and the natural world.
Policy	<p>The ROM will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install exhibitions consistent with its mandate, mission, vision, strategies, and principal objectives as approved by the Board of Trustees. • Implement a thought-provoking and diverse exhibition program that reflects the Museum’s broad intellectual mandate encompassing art, culture, and nature from around the globe and across time. The exhibition program will include both major exhibitions designed to appeal to a wide public audience and smaller exhibitions designed to engage specific audiences.
<i>Engagement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop exhibitions that engage the public by presenting art objects, artifacts and specimens, in concert with ideas and research, in ways that are exciting, inspiring, illuminating, informative and entertaining. • Through the exhibition program, implement innovative interpretation and design strategies, use new digital technologies and provide educational context to reach and connect with diverse audiences
<i>Galleries</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a program of collections gallery installations, improvements, and enhancements that engage and inspire the public through rich ideas, innovative interpretation and compelling design and are supported by capital and operating resources.
<i>Criterion of Excellence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the quality of all ROM exhibitions is commensurate with its leading national and international status.
<i>Planning and Circulation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and circulate exhibitions to other national and international institutions which the ROM has either organized independently or in collaboration with other prominent partners.
<i>Financial Authority</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the responsibility of the Director & CEO and of the CFO to ensure that the exhibition program is implemented in a fiscally sound manner. • The annual exhibition plan will be reviewed with the Collections, Engagement & Research Committee as early as possible in the fall (i.e. September) for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins in April. • All Major (A-Level) exhibitions will be brought individually for approval to the Collections, Engagement & Research Committee and to the Board of Trustees.¹

¹ In unusual circumstances, where time is of the essence, the Director & CEO may approve a Major Exhibition or Mid-Sized exhibition that would otherwise require CER/Board approval, after having received approval from the

- All Mid-Sized (B-Level) and Small (C-Level) exhibitions with incoming loans exceeding \$15,000,000 or outgoing loans exceeding \$10,000,000 will be brought individually for approval to the Collections, Engagement & Research Committee. Any such exhibition with incoming loans exceeding \$25,000,000 or outgoing loans exceeding \$15,000,000 will also be brought to the Board of Trustees for approval.²
- All other Mid-Sized and Small exhibitions will be brought for information to the Collections, Engagement & Research Committee and to the Board of Trustees once they have been approved by the Director & CEO.

Explanation of Terms

Exhibition: an interpretive display, large or small, of a temporary nature, that includes (but is not confined to) art objects, artifacts, specimens, or archival material from the ROM's collections, from other institutions, or from private collections; that complements, illustrates, or relates to the ROM's collections and research; and that explores art, culture and the natural world.

Major Exhibition (also known as an A-Level Exhibition): a large-scale exhibition, usually exceeding 10,000 SF and presented in the Garfield Weston Exhibition Hall. Major exhibitions represent a focal point for engagement, and financial, marketing and organizational investment during a programmatic season. Recent examples include Bloodsuckers, Legends to Leeches; Vikings, The Exhibition; Spiders: Life and Death.

Mid-Sized Exhibition (also known as a B-Level Exhibition): a mid-sized exhibition usually between 3,000 – 10,000 SF. Mid-sized exhibitions are critical to ensuring a strong annual exhibition program and could be associated with marketing efforts and programming, but do not anchor a programmatic season. Recent mid-sized exhibitions include *Wildlife Photographer of the Year*, *The Cloth that Changed the World*, and *Christian Dior*.

Small Exhibition (also known as C-Level Exhibitions): Small exhibitions are typically located in our standing galleries, are usually under 3,000 SF in size.

Approval Date

April 19, 2001

Amended

August 29, 2002
July 1, 2007 (reviewed with amendments)
May 2009 (adherence review)
June 18, 2009 (reviewed with amendments)
June 16, 2011 (reviewed with amendments)
June 04, 2013 (reviewed with amendments)
June 25, 2016 (reviewed with amendments)

Chair of the Board and the Chair of the CER Committee. Any such approval shall be reported and ratified at the next CER Committee meeting and/or Board meeting.

² These dollar thresholds correlate to the loan thresholds identified in the Collections Policy.

June 22, 2017 (no changes)
December 13, 2017 (adherence review)
December 10, 2019 (no changes)
March 22, 2022 (reviewed with amendments)

MONITORING

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

Management: The Director & CEO, the Deputy Director, Collections & Research, the Deputy Director, Engagement, the Deputy Director Operations & Chief Financial Officer, and the Vice-President, Exhibition Development & Project Management, will ensure that the Collections, Engagement & Research Committee has all the relevant information for determining adherence.

Policy Review

Method Internal Report

Responsibility Collections, Engagement & Research Committee

Minimum Frequency Biennially (next review 2024)
