



FY17 PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT REPORT
ROM LEARNING

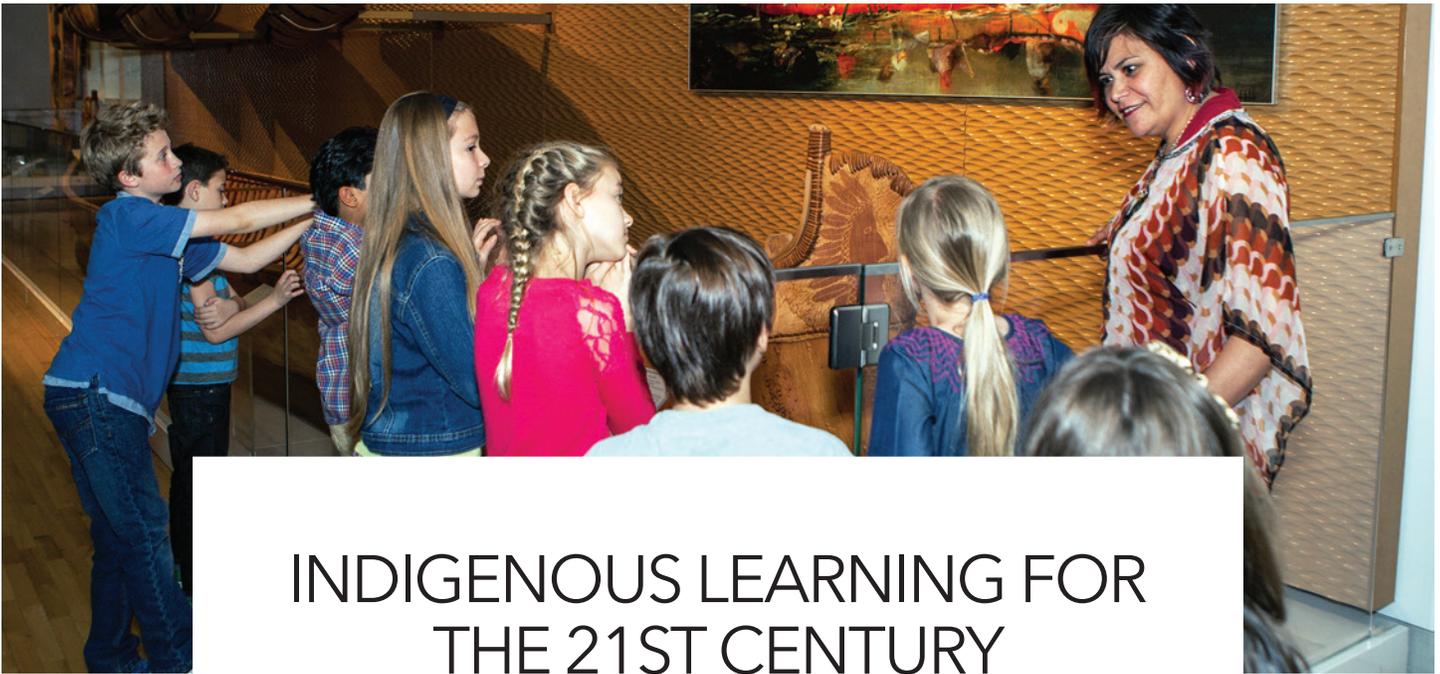


YOUR MUSEUM. YOUR IMPACT.

As one of the largest cross-curricular educational institutions in Canada, the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) plays enhances the formal instruction of students through hands-on, multisensory learning programs. Enabled by the generosity of our donors, the depth and reach of these experiences helps bring learning to life in a way not possible in the classroom, stimulating their curiosities and igniting lifelong passions.

Thank you for supporting enriching educational opportunities at the Museum that help broaden the horizons of children and youth!

Fiscal year for April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017



INDIGENOUS LEARNING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Enabled by a \$1 million gift from The Slight Family Foundation, a new digitally enriched program is connecting Indigenous students and their peers with the ROM's collection of ancestral objects.

In March 2017, The Slight Family Foundation announced a \$12-million donation to be shared by the ROM and 14 other nonprofit organizations committed to improving the well-being of Indigenous populations in Canada. This landmark investment marks one of the largest gifts ever directed to support Indigenous communities nationwide.

At the ROM, this new digital learning initiative will reach more than 5,000 students across the province, integrating 21st-century digital tools with hands-on access to the Museum's collection of ancestral objects. For the 2017-18 school year, six schools across the Greater Toronto Area, as well as Deer Lake First Nation, Sandy Lake First Nation and Moose Factory, will participate in the program. Over multiple onsite visits, participating Indigenous students and their peers in Southern Ontario will engage with galleries and educators as they develop a media project

that is inspired by their interests in Indigenous cultural heritage. For students in more remote communities where geography poses a barrier to reaching the Museum, video conferencing technologies will provide a platform for engaging virtual visits to the ROM. These experiences will culminate with a year-end showcase event where students will celebrate their achievements as they share their media projects with other school groups.

By expanding opportunities for Indigenous children and youth to learn about their cultural heritage, this initiative will help transform learning outcomes by cultivating a stronger sense of identity, while also building digital literacy skills. For their non-Indigenous peers, learning at the ROM will also foster a cultural understanding that promotes more inclusive classrooms; and by extension, more vibrant communities.

Engaging Indigenous Students in ROM Learning

With Indigenous ways of knowing largely absent from educational spheres, many students of First Nations, Métis and Inuit descent are often marginalized in traditional learning settings. In fact, only 73 per cent of off-reserve Indigenous youth in Ontario complete high school; and at on-reserve schools, graduation rates drop to 50 per cent. To engage these students in the educational process and their cultural identity, the ROM works closely with Indigenous elders and knowledge carriers to make our programs more relevant to the learning needs of this audience.





INSPIRING FUTURE CHANGE-MAKERS IN THE ROM MAKERSPACE

Since launching in September 2016, the ROM Makerspace continues to offer visiting school groups collaborative opportunities to apply critical thinking skills to real-world applications.

As the principal learning hub for hands-on, multisensory learning at the Museum, the ROM Makerspace engages students in problem-based activities, where they utilized digital technologies and arts-based processes to design and prototype solutions to real-world challenges. This past year, students from participating school groups connected with two new maker-style programs centred on the exhibitions: *Out of the Blue: The Blue Whale Story*; and *Art, Honour, and Ridicule: Asafo Flags from Southern Ghana*.

For the *Out of the Blue* program, after coming up close with a blue whale's 80-foot skeleton and learning about the life and biology this endangered species, participating students returned to the ROM Makerspace to further explore topics in marine conservation. Working together in groups on an interactive game, students brainstormed creative solutions that aimed to lessen the impacts of human behaviour on blue whale populations.

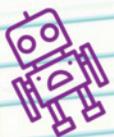
In addition, for the ROM Makerspace program associated with the *Art, Honour, and Ridicule* exhibition, participating students considered the varied expressions of African identity as they constructed their own Asafo-inspired flags. In workshops generously supported by the Hal Jackman Foundation, students had the opportunity to learn about the values and cultures of their peers as they shared their creations. These activities help cultivate a deeper global awareness that promotes more inclusive behaviours—in the classroom and in our communities.

Philanthropy is what enables new and digitally-enriched learning programs that more closely align the Museum's collections and research to Ontario curriculum standards. Donors like you also help fund the purchase of arts and crafts supplies that widen the range of activities through which students are able to apply their learning and think critically about how knowledge can be applied to solve a wide range of societal problems.

The ROM Makerspace is generously supported by the Barrick Gold Corporation.



Last year,
1,506 students*
participated in
ROM Makerspace
activities!



* Fiscal year for April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017

ROM LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

For the 2016-17 fiscal year, **110,364 students** visited the ROM—more than 14 per cent over the previous year—to immerse themselves in galleries and hands-on learning programs that ignite potential. To ensure that every child, regardless of circumstance, has the opportunity to let their imagination soar at the ROM, we depend on the support of donors like you.

Enabled by your generosity, the ROM expanded access to its learning programs through the following initiatives:

School Visits Bursary Program

29,903 STUDENTS

By subsidizing the cost of guided programs led by ROM Teachers, and transportation, the School Visits Bursary Program gives students from marginalized communities the opportunity to visit the Museum for free.

Indigenous Student Engagement Program

2,950 STUDENTS

Providing access to the ROM free-of-charge to school classes with at least one self-identified Indigenous student, this initiative brings young learners from marginalized communities to discover the Museum.

For children and youth living in more remote communities where geography poses a barrier to visiting the Museum, the ROM's Travelling Programs bring our educational resources outside the ROM's doors. Last year, **189,517 individuals** were reached through the following outreach initiatives:

Travelling EduKits

82,409 STUDENTS

Our portable Travelling EduKits bring the wonder of museum learning to classrooms, engaging students in multisensory activities grounded in inquiry-based learning.

Travelling Planetarium

5,826 STUDENTS

Our popular Travelling Planetariums, inflatable domes that bring to life a simulated view of the constellations, enable students across Ontario to discover the wonders of the universe.

Travelling Exhibitions

122,376 PEOPLE

Smaller-scale ROM exhibitions are loaned to museums across Canada, allowing us to impact audiences that may not otherwise be able to visit the Museum in person.



110,364 STUDENTS
ENGAGED IN ROM LEARNING
PROGRAMS ONSITE LAST YEAR