

A photograph of three bison standing on a rocky, grassy hill under a blue sky with white clouds. The bison are brown with thick fur and small horns. The word 'ENGAGE' is overlaid in large, bold, white capital letters.

ENGAGE

WITH EVERY STORY

**ANNUAL REPORT
2024-2025**

VISION, MISSION & VALUES

VISION

To shape Manitoba's future by expanding knowledge, sharing stories, and encouraging discovery.

MISSION

To preserve the heritage of Manitoba for present and future generations;

To seek, acquire, and share knowledge of Manitoba's history, culture, and natural world with Manitobans and others; and

To inspire personal discovery, appreciation, and understanding of Manitoba, the world, and our universe.

VALUES

Curiosity

We promote innovation by seeking out new ideas and welcoming knowledge exchange.

Integrity

We act with honesty and integrity. We strive to know and uphold the highest ethical standards.

Responsibility

We are responsible stewards of the public trust and institutional assets as stated in the Museum's mandate. We are committed to being socially and environmentally responsible.

Respectfulness

We value the contributions of all Museum stakeholders and treat them with respect and sensitivity.

Inclusivity

We encourage diversity and dialogue, and are committed to creating an environment for staff and the public that is welcoming and one that promotes inclusivity and equity.



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The Manitoba Museum acknowledges that we are on Treaty No. 1 land, the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Nêhiyawak, and Michif. These lands, water, and waterways are the unceded territories of the Dakota, and the homeland of the Red River Métis. The Museum is committed to reflecting the continued legacies of all of the original peoples of this province, including the Ithiniwak, Denesuline, Anisininew, Inuit, and Nakota.

We acknowledge the harms of the past, are committed to improving relationships in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, and appreciate the opportunity to live and learn on these traditional lands in mutual respect.

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

What many may not realize is the vastness of the story we tell at the Manitoba Museum—one that spans over half a billion years. From the silent stirrings of prehistoric life to the complex realities of human history, our galleries invite visitors into a sweeping chronicle of Earth’s evolution and humanity’s place within it. Every exhibit, every object, and every story trembles with echoes of struggle and resilience, of loss and renewal. These are not just tales of the past—they are guides for how we live today, and how we shape tomorrow.

At the Manitoba Museum, we’ve remained steadfast in doing the good, hard, and heart-driven work required to build meaningful, lasting relationships with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. This journey demands honesty, humility, and action—and we are committed to walking it with care, respect, and intention.

Over the past year, we’ve deepened our commitment to using this platform not only to educate, but to engage, to challenge, and to heal. The Manitoba Museum does not simply preserve history—it brings history into active dialogue with the present. In doing so, we bring into the light truths that have been locked away, and offer space for reflection, accountability, and growth.

This was never more evident than during our observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Through Orange Shirt Days, we welcomed nearly 10,000 people into our spaces—individuals of all ages and backgrounds, coming to listen, to learn, and to honour the children impacted by Indian Residential Schools. Through powerful stories, meaningful programming, and courageous conversations, we saw minds open and hearts move. This is the work of truth telling. This is the beginning of reconciliation.

We know that understanding the past is essential to building a better future. We embrace our responsibility—not just as a museum, but as a gathering place where knowledge becomes action, and where history becomes a tool for justice, empathy, and change.

We are deeply grateful to our visitors, our partners, our collaborators, and to the courageous co-conspirators who dare to dream alongside us. It takes boldness to believe in change, and even more to make it real. Together, we are building something extraordinary.

The Manitoba Museum is the largest classroom in the province, and that is both a gift and a responsibility we do not take lightly. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people walk through our doors—including nearly 100,000 K-12 students. The young and the young at heart honour us with their curiosity, their wonder, and their willingness to explore. Through their eyes, our exhibits come alive—bridging generations, connecting cultures, and reminding us that learning is a lifelong journey.

For 55 years, the Manitoba Museum has been a space where the past and present meet—a place where we listen to the lessons of history and embrace the future with open minds. We are proud to showcase the beauty of human achievement, from ancient artifacts to contemporary creations that challenge us to think differently, feel deeply, and act wisely.

But this Museum is more than a collection of stories—it is a living, breathing force for transformation. Through educational programming, immersive workshops, and community events, we’ve ignited curiosity and inspired learning across all ages. We’ve created space for emerging voices—artists, researchers, storytellers—who are shaping the world as it is and as it could be.

This shared journey is only possible because of you. And with your continued support, we will keep growing, keep reaching, and keep inspiring a future where knowledge, culture, and imagination thrive.

As we look to the future, we are energized by possibility. A new chapter has begun for the Manitoba Museum—one filled with ambition, transformation, and a deep belief in what we can achieve together. With our community beside us, we’re not just imagining the next 50 years—we’re shaping them. We are deep in the throes of major construction, improvements with your visitor experience at their core. We are also dreaming boldly of new projects: a vibrant hub for scientific discovery, advanced research, and cultural connection. We envision a dynamic centre where people of all ages and backgrounds come together to explore urgent global challenges—climate change, biodiversity loss, and the stewardship of our natural world. With innovation, collaboration, and a shared sense of purpose, the Manitoba Museum is poised to become a powerful force for education, conservation, and meaningful change.

But time is of the essence. We cannot leave today’s work to future generations to complete. The future of humanity is rooted in science, technology, engineering, and math—and it’s a future built by communities that invest in knowledge, innovation, and exploration. But here in Manitoba, we are slipping behind. While cities across the country proudly showcase world-class Science Centres, our own Science Gallery—though driven by passion and ingenuity—cannot keep pace. The Manitoba Museum is bursting at the seams, our collections are at risk, and our ability to safeguard and study our province’s human and natural histories is being compromised by crumbling infrastructure. We cannot afford to stand still. If we are to inspire the next generation of innovators, leaders, and problem solvers, we must act now. Our commitment to Manitobans remains firm: to shape the province’s future through expanded knowledge, shared stories, and the power of discovery—but we need the tools to deliver on that promise.

The Manitoba Museum belongs to all of us. It is your Museum—your gathering place—a shared space where stories, knowledge, and connections live and grow. It stands at the heart of this province, built by and for the people who call Manitoba home.

We are excited for what's ahead. Today we are building new spaces so that tomorrow we have the opportunity to renew relationships and expand what's possible. As we look to the future, we are deeply committed to making the Museum more accessible, more inclusive, and more reflective of the communities we serve. We believe that every person who walks through our doors should feel a sense of belonging—a feeling of being seen, valued, and welcomed.

We honour and embrace kinship with all communities—urban, rural, northern, Indigenous, newcomer, and beyond—and we promise to always do our best in service to them. This is a living, evolving place, rooted in the memories of generations. It is the Museum of your childhood, a beloved stop on school field trips and family outings. Today, it continues to inspire your children and grandchildren—and it will be here for many generations to come.

To each of you who has walked this path with us—as a visitor, donor, member, partner, collaborator, or co-creator—thank you. Your trust, your passion, and your belief in our mission have shaped every step of this journey.

Let's continue to imagine boldly and build together—a future defined by curiosity, connection, and compassion.

Thank you.



DOUGLAS TKACH

Chair of the Board of Governors



DOROTA BLUMCZYŃSKA

Chief Executive Officer

MANITOBA MUSEUM GOVERNANCE

AT MARCH 31, 2025

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Chair: Douglas Tkach
Heather Bertnick
Jason Bryk
Moe El Tassi
Vinh Huynh
Cora Jalonen
Harun Kibirige
Kathryn McBurney
Cary Miller
Brigitte Sandron
Trudy Schroeder
Nicole Stewart
Jackie Wild

Ex-Officio Non-Voting:
Dorota Blumczyńska, *CEO*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Board Chair: Douglas Tkach
Committee Chair:
Jackie Wild, *Vice-Chair*
Secretary: Heather Bertnick
Past-Chair: Brigitte Sandron
Treasurer: Harun Kibirige,
Chair of Finance Committee
Standing Committee Chairs:
Indigenous Advisory Circle:
Dr. Cary Miller

NOMINATING & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Committee Chair: Brigitte Sandron
Governors: Douglas Tkach, Jackie Wild
Ex-Officio Non-Voting:
Dorota Blumczyńska, *CEO*

STANDING COMMITTEES

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Committee Co-Chairs: Jeoff Chipman
(Community Representative),
Brigitte Sandron (Board of Governors)
Governors: Vinh Huynh, Trudy Schroeder
Community Representative:
Tracy Knowles

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Committee Chair: Harun Kibirige
Vice-Chair: Cora Jalonen
Governors: Jason Bryk
Ex-Officio Non-Voting:
Dorota Blumczyńska, *CEO*
MGMT Support (by invitation):
David Sierhuis

HUMAN RESOURCES & COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Committee Chair: Heather Bertnick
Vice-Chair: Kathryn McBurney
Governors: Moe El Tassi, Nicole Stewart
Ex-Officio Non-Voting:
Dorota Blumczyńska, *CEO*
MGMT Support (by invitation):
Lana Adeleye-Olusae

INDIGENOUS ADVISORY CIRCLE

Committee Chair: Dr. Cary Miller
Community Advisors:
Dr. Kyle Bobiwash, Ron Cook,
Taylor Galvin, Elder Joe Hyslop,
Jaimie Isaac, Sharissa Neault,
Elder Kevin Tacan, Stephanie Thorassie
Ex-Officio Non-Voting:
Douglas Tkach, *Board Chair*,
Dorota Blumczyńska, *CEO*
MGMT Support (by invitation):
Seema Hollenberg
Staff Support (by invitation):
Rachel Erickson, Dr. Amelia Fay,
David Finch, Tabitha Harper,
Tashina Houle-Schlup

ADDITIONAL AD HOC & SPECIAL COMMITTEES

BUDGET & AUDIT COMMITTEES

Comprised of both Executive
& Finance Committees

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

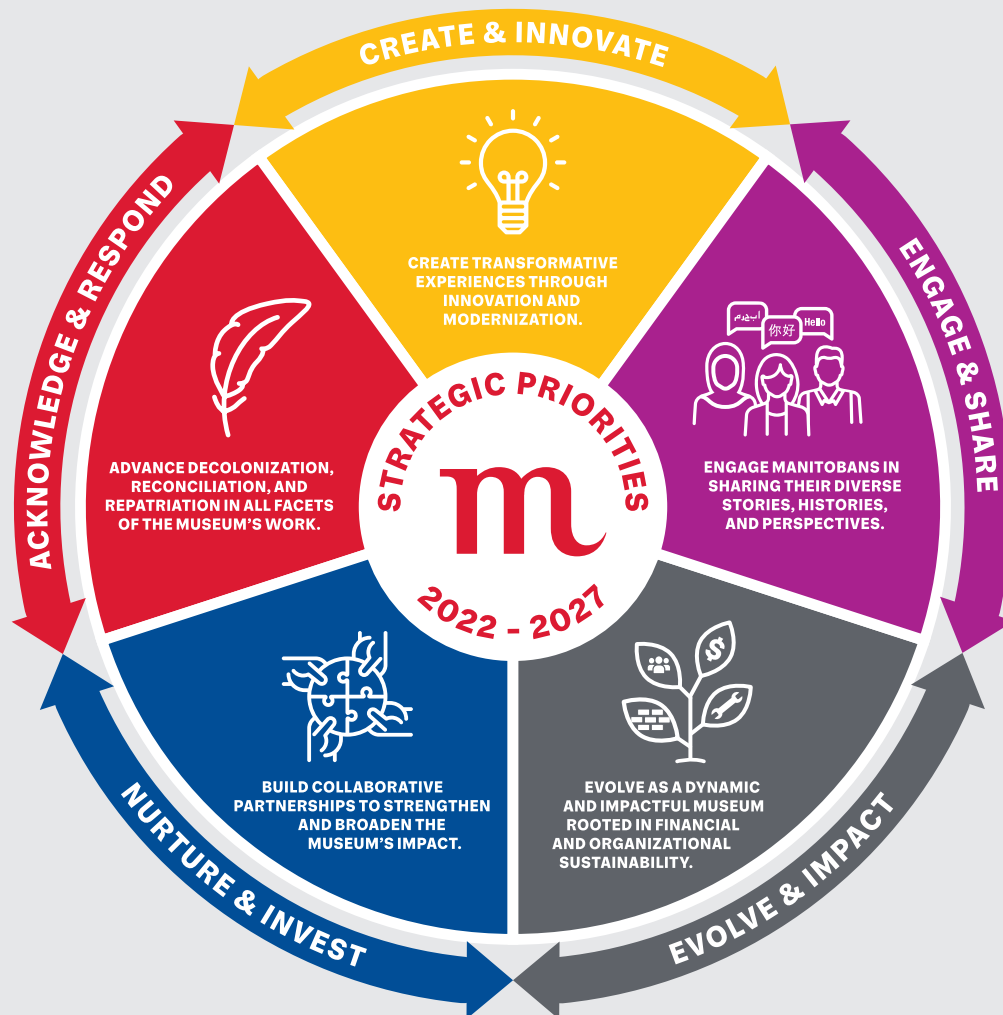
Committee Chair: Brigitte Sandron
Governors: Cora Jalonen, Jackie Wild
Community Members:
Tyler Fehr, Graeme Hay, Edith Samuels,
Ron Youngson
Ex-Officio Non-Voting:
Douglas Tkach, *Board Chair*,
Dorota Blumczyńska, *CEO*
MGMT Support (by invitation):
Lana Adeleye-Olusae, David Sierhuis

PENSION COMMITTEE

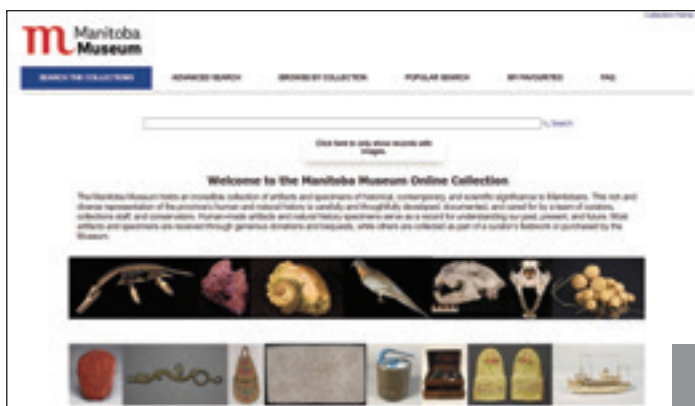
Committee Chair: Lana Adeleye-Olusae
Nancy Anderson, Jack Dubois,
Carolyn Sirett, Brigitte Sandron
MGMT Support: David Sierhuis

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

2022-2027



CREATE & INNOVATE: NEW COLLECTIONS DATABASE



After much anticipation, the Museum has successfully implemented a new Collections Management System to meticulously document our extensive array of specimens, artifacts, and belongings. The migration from STAR/Museums to Argus involved a thorough analysis of our existing fields, data structure, and the data itself. This process included adding new fields, reorganizing datasets, and ensuring the final result is futureproof.

We are currently in the process of cleaning the data, which involves addressing inconsistencies from decades of varied data input and changes in place names and nomenclature. We eagerly anticipate launching the public portal for our database in the coming year, enabling users in Manitoba and around the world to access our collections.

Soon users worldwide will be able to explore the Museum collections through a new Collections Management System.
© Manitoba Museum

ENGAGE & SHARE: NEWCOMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Newcomer Advisory Committee will ensure the voices and stories of Manitoba's newcomer communities are heard. © Manitoba Museum



In 2024, the Museum established its first Newcomer Advisory Committee to ensure the voices and stories of Manitoba's newcomer communities are included in Museum activities. The Committee aims to enhance newcomer representation and foster a sense of belonging in Museum exhibitions, programs, and contexts. Additionally, the Committee will help build meaningful relationships with newcomers and their communities.

EVOLVE & IMPACT: INVESTMENT IN OUR EMPLOYEES



Employee development and work-life balance are key components of our Strategic Priorities. © Manitoba Museum

In 2024-2025, we increased our investment in employee development and training by 85%. Recognizing that our employees are the backbone of the Museum, we focused on enhancing technology expertise, productivity, and work-life balance. This initiative aimed to boost employee satisfaction, resulting in a happier workforce and enriched visitor experiences. We championed professional growth and wellness, addressing physical, emotional, mental, financial, and retirement planning needs. Our supervisors received support to lead diverse teams effectively, fostering a positive and inclusive work environment.

NURTURE & INVEST: BEAD-A-THON

In January 2024, we held our first ever Bead-A-Thon, co-hosted by renowned Red River Métis beadwork artist Jennine Krauchi, and the Museum's Head of Indigenous Programming and Engagement, Tashina Houle-Schlup. Over 325 participants took over Alloway Hall for a full-day of beading and community-building. With some folks working on existing projects, others learned to bead for the first time thanks to a team of volunteer "Beading Buddies" who generously shared their knowledge and skills. Participants were treated to a special visit with ancestral collections, took part in mini-workshops, and enjoyed snacks from local Indigenous vendors.



Over 325 participants took part in our first Bead-a-thon. © Manitoba Museum

ACKNOWLEDGE & RESPOND: PRESERVING INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

The Manitoba Museum is excited to launch *Anishinaabemowin with Amik*, an online game designed to help preserve the Ojibwe language. As part of our commitment to supporting and promoting Indigenous languages through exhibitions, publications, and programs, this game will be accessible to children and youth nationwide. Initially, it will teach Anishinaabe words for 21 animals found in the Museum Galleries, with plans to expand to other words and phrases. Inspired by Amik, the beaver, the game highlights the significance of beavers to their communities and the natural world. This project, supported by the TELUS Friendly Future Foundation, was developed with the expertise of language speaker and Indigenous Protocols Advisor Carol Beaulieu, and artist Micaela Gilbert, who illustrated the game.



An illustration of bison (Mashkode Bizhiki) by Micaela Gilbert is part of an online game designed to help preserve the Ojibwe language. © Micaela Gilbert

TRIBUTE 2024

CELEBRATING COMMITMENT AND COMMUNITY AT TRIBUTE 2024

In 2024, the Manitoba Museum celebrated its 19th annual Tribute Gala with an unforgettable evening that honoured the legacy of community leadership and generosity. This signature event recognized two outstanding pillars of Manitoba's cultural landscape, James Cohen and Linda McGarva-Cohen, and awarded the Community Contributor Award to Dr. Stephanie Phetsamay Stobbe, a distinguished advocate for refugees, and expert in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

Held under the inspiring theme *Celebrating Community Voices*, the gala was hosted by renowned Canadian broadcaster Shelagh Rogers and brought together supporters, partners, and changemakers from across the province. The evening raised essential funds for Access for All, the Museum's flagship initiative dedicated to eliminating financial, social, and cultural barriers to visitation.

Guests celebrated with moving tributes and reflections on the impact of the Manitoba Museum. As the night unfolded, it became clear that the Museum is not only a keeper of stories — it is a space for building bridges between people, past and present, and a shared future.

With support raised through Tribute Gala, the Museum continues its work to grow, diversify, and engage new audiences. These funds support school visits for equity-deserving communities, free First Friday access to all areas of the Museum, and programs that are co-created with community partners to reflect Manitoba's rich and diverse heritage.



"The Manitoba Museum is an iconic institution in our city and province. It tells the stories of First Peoples and the generations of others who followed from all over the world. We are all part of the fabric of this great place, and the Museum strives to bring all of us together in the hopes of learning about the past and helping to create the path to a promising future."

JAMES COHEN, O.M.



As a leading cultural institution, the Manitoba Museum is committed to ensuring its exhibitions, collections, and programming reflect the broad spectrum of Manitoban identities — including differences in ethnicity, culture, gender, age, and ability. Events like Tribute are vital in making this vision a reality.

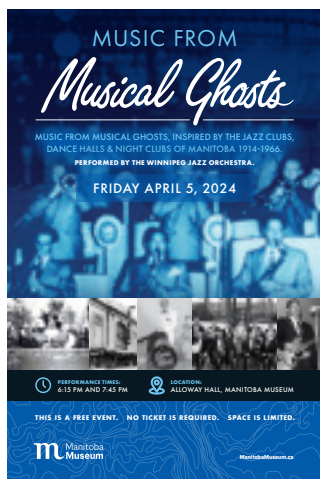
We extend heartfelt thanks to James and Linda, and to Dr. Stobbe, for their inspiring leadership and generosity, and to everyone who joined us for this meaningful celebration. Together, we are shaping a museum that truly belongs to all Manitobans.



WELCOMING MORE TO MANITOBA'S BIGGEST CLASSROOM

As a cornerstone of our commitment to inclusivity, the Manitoba Museum's Access for All initiative ensures that everyone, regardless of background or circumstance, has the opportunity to engage with history, nature, and science.

This year, through Access for All, we welcomed over 37,000 community visits to our First Fridays events. On the first Friday of every month, we open the doors to the Museum Galleries, Planetarium, and Science Gallery at no charge. These evenings are more than free admission—they are vibrant celebrations of community, culture, and connection. Families, friends, and first-time visitors experience an electrifying atmosphere, sparking discovery, joy, and a true sense of belonging.



First Fridays featured diverse community-driven programming. We partnered with organizations like the Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra for Music from Musical Ghosts, and Black History Manitoba, whose event included the third annual Black History Month kick-off event, complete with a marketplace, food stalls, and performances. Science came alive through a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council -funded collaboration with the University of Manitoba, inviting visitors to join research activities in our 'Living Lab.' From cutting-edge science to community storytelling, First Fridays showcase what's possible when barriers are removed and the Museum becomes a space for all.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and sponsors, funding for our Access School Programs helped eliminate barriers for schools across the province, enabling over 425 students from around Manitoba to experience the Museum's unique educational offerings both on-site and online. These funds supported program fees, and tailored learning experiences for students who might not otherwise have had the opportunity to visit.



Our February First Friday, in partnership with Black History Manitoba, was a vibrant celebration of Black History Month. ©Manitoba Museum



Learning about one of Manitoba's iconic mammals, the elk, in the Parklands Gallery. ©Manitoba Museum

Impact Story

At Tyndall Park Community School, a Grade 2 class dreamed of building their own natural history museum—but many students had never visited a museum before and weren't sure what to expect. With a limited field trip budget and the cost of admission posing a significant barrier for families, the Access School Program made their visit possible. Both Grade 2 classes explored the Museum on a self-guided tour, spending four hours immersed in hands-on learning. Their Vice-Principal shared that the experience not only ignited excitement for their classroom project but gave students a new understanding of what a museum could be—and their place in it.

The Museum's connection to schools is a powerful one—offering immersive, curriculum-connected experiences that spark curiosity, deepen learning, and create lifelong memories. Every visit is a step toward a more informed, inspired, and connected Manitoba.

Access for All transforms how the Museum serves Manitobans. By eliminating financial, cultural, and social barriers, we're opening the doors wider than ever before—to connection, to education, and to the stories that shape us all.



Tyndall School students step into the past with a visit to the Nonsuch Gallery. ©Manitoba Museum

HONOURING INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES, KNOWLEDGE, AND STORYTELLING

In 2024–2025, our Learning & Engagement team continued to develop and deliver new and exciting Indigenous content, both virtually and in-person, reaching local, regional, national, and international audiences. Programs ranging from Indigenous Motherhood Tours and Cree sky stories, to the Indigenous history of Winnipeg and Indigenous artistic traditions captivated hearts and minds.

In the Museum Galleries, the “Indigenous Focus Tour” continued to provide meaningful, tailored experiences for both high school students and adult learners. The new “Indigenous Motherhood Tour,” developed as part of our professional development offerings, was warmly received and praised for its depth and relatability. We also continued our popular “Welcome to Treaty 1 Tour,” enriching public understanding of treaty relationships.



Beading Buddies with hosts Jennine Krauchi and Tashina Houle-Schlup. © Manitoba Museum



Powwow Dancers and Singers with Tashina, Head of Indigenous Programming & Engagement. © Manitoba Museum

Among our most celebrated school programs is “First Peoples and the Bison,” created by Tashina Houle-Schlup, Head of Indigenous Programming and Engagement. Specifically designed for grade 5 students, it has become one of our most requested offerings and consistently receives excellent feedback.

The Planetarium has remained a dynamic site for education and inspiration. Two standout shows—*Worlds of Ice* and *Legends of the Northern Sky*—have been praised for their powerful storytelling and engaging visuals. *Worlds of Ice*, narrated by Inuit singer Beatrice Deer, highlights the critical role of ice in the context of climate change and gives voice to Inuit perspectives and experiences. The highly regarded Planetarium show, *Legends of the Northern Sky*, explores Indigenous sky storytelling from the western plains, incorporating narratives such as those of Ocek the Fisher and the giant bear Mista Maskwa. The development of this show was



Beaver illustration created by Micaela Gilbert for Anishinaabemowin with Amik. © Micaela Gilbert



Visitors watching *Legends of the Northern Sky* in the planetarium. © Manitoba Museum

guided by Manitoba-based Cree astronomer Wilfred Buck. The use of the Cree language is integral to the narration and enhances the Museum’s efforts to integrate Indigenous languages in all spaces.

In recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Museum offered free admission September 28, 29, & 30. Over 9,300 people attended “Orange Shirt Days @ the Manitoba Museum,” an event that invited visitors to learn, reflect, and engage with the legacy of Indian Residential Schools. Special programming included a self-guided path, film screenings, a reflection wall, powwow performances, an Anishinaabe language table, and art activities.

Our commitment to traditional skills continued through hands-on workshops such as mukluk and dentalium earring making, proudly collaborating with artists Gloria Beckman and Harmony Lynxleg. In addition to our hands-on art workshops, we hosted our first-ever Indigenous Artist Market and Bead-A-Thon. The market took place during Indigenous History Month and brought together 22 talented



Bead-A-Thon participants. © Manitoba Museum

artists, makers, and crafters. The Bead-A-Thon fundraising event kicked off the new year on January 5th and was a fantastic success, attracting over 350 participants and raising over \$11,000 for our Access for All initiative.

Looking forward, we’re thrilled to introduce *Anishinaabemowin with Amik*, a new online game that teaches children Ojibwe words for animals found in the Museum, with plans to expand to other words and phrases.

CHURCHILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS



A polar bear having a snooze behind our accommodations at CNSC. © Manitoba Museum



A view from the Flats when looking for the old whaling site. © Manitoba Museum

In 2024, members of the Arctic and Subarctic Gallery renewal team returned to Churchill to conduct focus group sessions with interested community members regarding what a revised gallery could and should look like. We spent four days meeting with community members of varying backgrounds to share ideas that can help us determine the key themes and stories, direct future research, and plan follow-up conversations with community members. We recognize that Churchill is only one location within the larger Arctic and Subarctic biome presented in our gallery, so we have plans to conduct similar sessions in other communities as well, but Churchill was a great start!



Members of the Arctic and Subarctic Gallery renewal team outside the Churchill Northern Studies Centre (CNSC). © Manitoba Museum

In preparation for the trip, the renewal team frequently met to discuss our goals for the community visit. We considered specific questions to ask community members and how we envisioned the dynamics of the conversations during these consultations. It was important for us to create a space that allowed participants to lead the discussions, using prepared questions only when required. We believed this approach would ensure that community members felt heard and understood, rather than confined by formalities. The casual atmosphere of these consultations was supplemented by the offering of snacks and coffee. All participants were compensated with honorariums for their time and sharing of information, knowledge, and stories.



Community members engaged in a lively discussion during one of the focus group sessions. © Manitoba Museum

Some of the key themes that emerged were the changing environment, tensions with tourism, human-made effects on the land, and a strong desire to represent the cultural and language diversity of the region. Oral histories and contemporary stories were also flagged as important to include, as well as the continued importance and vitality of many cultural practices and traditions to community members today.



Curators maximized their time in Churchill to conduct research as well. Colleagues from CNSC assisted Dr. Randy Mooi in his search for three-spine sticklebacks. © Manitoba Museum

Now our team will work through this information to develop a preliminary plan that can be used to identify funding opportunities and advance the gallery renewal goals. The stories and information shared with our team will be gradually integrated into Learning & Engagement programming, particularly in “Inuit: People of the North,” “Indigenous Focus Tour,” and our “Northern Tour,” until the gallery renewal is complete. The key elements to be incorporated into our programming are the experiences of the Dëne Sųłíné of Tadolou Lake, the archaeological history of the region, and community relations between the many diverse groups who live and work in the region.

RECONSTRUCTING THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE

In the summer of 2024, the Manitoba Museum embarked on a journey to enhance our visitors' Museum experience, launching a series of upgrades to several of our most frequented spaces, some of which have remained unchanged since we first opened in 1970.



CEO Dorota Blumczyńska laughs with Accessibility Consultant Peter Tonge at our Rupert Ave Groundbreaking. © Manitoba Museum

The end goal: an impression of the renovated Rupert Avenue entrance. ©Stantec/Manitoba Museum



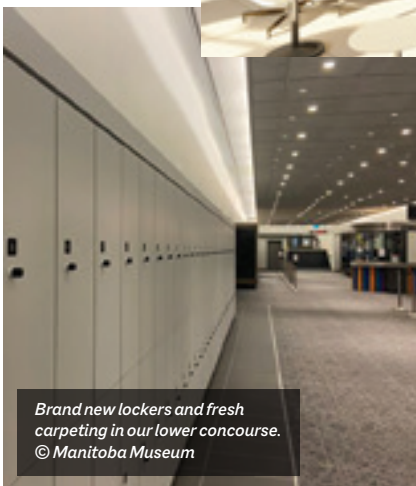
A Grand Entrance

The first step in our transformation was marked by an official construction launch at our main entrance on Rupert Avenue. Once completed, this entrance will be safer and more accessible for all visitors. The updated exterior will feature a visually appealing, fully accessible entrance, sheltered by a canopy that provides improved lighting and protection from the elements. Additionally, natural light streaming through skylights and halo lighting will create a welcoming atmosphere, while upgraded doors and windows will improve insulation and security. This renovation will significantly enhance the Museum's presence downtown, making it more inviting for all.

The Rupert Avenue entrance construction, executed by the architecture and engineering firm Stantec, will be completed in multiple phases, with a goal completion date of Fall 2025. The project is funded by the Government of Manitoba.

A Much-Needed Refresh

Thanks to investments from the Manitoba Centennial Centre Corporation (MCCC), the Science Gallery, Planetarium, and concourse hallway in our lower-level received a much-needed facelift with new carpeting and paint throughout. We also installed new key-fob style lockers in the concourse level as an added benefit to our visitors.



Brand new lockers and fresh carpeting in our lower concourse. © Manitoba Museum

Wait, there's more!

To cap off the year of visitor enhancements, the Museum also launched a significant construction project in the Museum foyer. The result will be a brand-new foyer and Museum Shop, designed to create a brighter, more welcoming atmosphere for visitors, contributing to an enhanced Museum experience.

And if that isn't enough, for the first time in its 55-year history, the Manitoba Museum will also open a café as part of our new and improved Museum Shop! With comfortable seating options, visitors can grab lunch, coffee, or a small snack to enjoy before or after exploring the Museum Galleries, Planetarium, and Science Gallery. The Museum Café will be sure to add value to visitors' exceptional experiences at the Museum.

We can't wait to share our brand new foyer and Museum Shop & Café! ©Stantec/Manitoba Museum



The foyer redevelopment and concourse upgrades are made possible by an Arts, Culture and Sport in Community capital grant, and the furniture for the upgraded foyer is thanks to a Winnipeg Foundation Major Capital Grant. We are deeply grateful for the community's support during construction and look forward to welcoming all to enjoy the new and improved Manitoba Museum.

MANITOBA MUSEUM IN THE COMMUNITY

In 2024-2025, the Manitoba Museum expanded its reach through various community initiatives, connecting with a broader audience and building meaningful relationships with diverse communities. By collaborating with local organizations, we engaged with the public both in person and online, showcasing the important work of our curators and educators.

One of the highlights this year was partnering with Winnipeg Parent Magazine and the Manitoba Theatre for Young People (MTYP) for the 2024 Family Fun & Learning Fair on April 7, at MTYP at The Forks. The Manitoba Museum participated as an exhibitor, connecting science communicators and our visitor experience team with families and caregivers in a fun and engaging atmosphere.



Museum Staff Matty Koltof having a blast at the Family Fun & Learning Fair. ©Manitoba Museum



Museum Staff Mika Pineda and Rhiannon Leier Blacher host an engaging booth at the Bill Nye live stage show. ©Manitoba Museum

staff set up a booth to share information about memberships, school programs, and science education, and we offered a 15% discount on event tickets to our email audience. This partnership with Bill Nye allowed us to highlight the Museum's scientific wonders, increase community interest, and spark engagement with our Science Gallery.

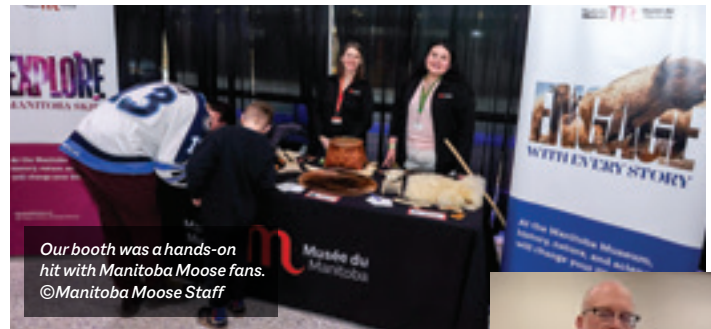
In May 2024, we were thrilled to partner with Bill Nye for his live stage show, *The End Is Nye*, at the Centennial Concert Hall. Bill Nye addressed climate change and the importance of science, followed by a Q&A session hosted by Planetarium Astronomer Scott Young. Museum



Museum members enjoy sweet treats at our first We LOVE our Members event. ©David Lipnowski/Manitoba Museum

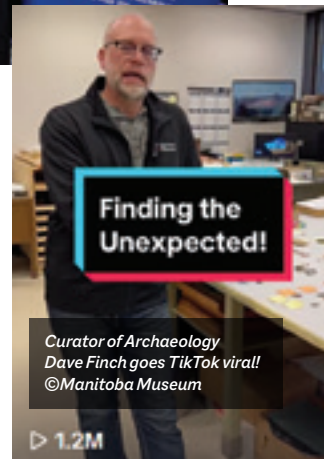
On February 14, 2025, we hosted the first-ever “We LOVE Our Members” event. This special event celebrated our valued members with a variety of fun activities for all ages. Members enjoyed a brand new scavenger hunt through the Museum Galleries, cookie decorating with Lil Bakers, a cozy DIY hot cocoa station, and an airbrush booth by Glitter Girls. The event also featured a 360° photobooth from Winnipeg Selfie Station, capturing unforgettable memories with family and friends.

In March 2025, the Manitoba Museum could be found at the Manitoba Moose’s “Night at the Mooseum” game, which aimed to highlight the wide variety of museums and educational resources in our province. The Museum’s booth was a hit with Moose fans, featuring a hands-on display including artifacts from our Boreal, Arctic-Subarctic, and Prairies Galleries. Held a week before Spring Break, it was an excellent opportunity to remind families to visit the Museum during the upcoming break.



Our booth was a hands-on hit with Manitoba Moose fans. ©Manitoba Moose Staff

Our community outreach also extends beyond in-person events, thanks in part to our large online audience. Our *Did You Know* video series, created by Digital Media & Marketing Coordinator Rebecca Watson, features Curators showcasing unique artifacts, and our Learning & Engagement team sharing fun facts, science experiments, and stories inspired by our collection. These videos have garnered tens of thousands of views, with one featuring Dave Finch and “Bison Stones” going viral in August, amassing 1.2 million views!



Curator of Archaeology Dave Finch goes TikTok viral! ©Manitoba Museum

ADVANCING SCIENCE EDUCATION

Through exciting partnerships, dynamic events both on and off-site, and new hands-on interactive exhibits, the Manitoba Museum has had a busy year advancing science education in our community. Our programming spanned generations and welcomed visitors to explore a multitude of scientific topics.

Planetarium shows for all ages took audiences on *The Great Solar System Adventure*, explored the winter solstice in *The Longest Night*, shared Cree sky tellings in *Legends of the Northern Sky*, explored Pluto and other worlds at the *Edge of Darkness*, and looked ahead to humanity's journey *Forward to the Moon*. Audiences also toured *Manitoba Skies* with the latest information on celestial events and visible constellations and planets for stargazers.



Science Communicator Deni Desautels teaches children about ocean health at our Climate Hero pop-up activity. ©Manitoba Museum

At the end of 2024 we wrapped up our multi-year GenAction climate change education program, funded by the Canadian Association of Science Centres. A highlight of this youth engagement program included our summer-long Climate Hero Pop-up Activity: Warming Waters and Changing Climate. The activities captivated visitors, helping them understand the role that oceans play in climate regulation and the impact that climate change is having on the world's oceans.

Our ongoing partnership with the University of Manitoba's Young Minds Research Lab brought real-time science experimentation into our galleries, introducing audiences to real-life scientists and contemporary science research. Studies were conducted on subject areas such as online safety and the illusion of explanatory depth or "IOED." Participants were invited to enjoy hands-on activities while providing valuable research data for the University.



Over 6,000 people joined us at The Leaf to learn more about and experience a rare solar eclipse. ©Manitoba Museum

Beyond our walls, we engaged with thousands of visitors through both in-person and online events. Highlights included our April 8th solar eclipse event, hosted at the Leaf in partnership with the Assiniboine Park Conservancy and the Winnipeg Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Over 6,000 participants joined us in person to learn more about and experience the rare solar eclipse event, with another 100,000 tuning in online for the livestream.

Planetarium Astronomer Scott Young was involved in one of Winnipeg's most exciting science events this year—hosting Bill Nye the Science Guy live at the Centennial Concert Hall. It was a full house filled with long-time fans of the popular television personality, and we were thrilled to be involved.



Scientist Bill Nye with a starstruck Planetarium Astronomer Scott Young. ©Scott Young

Back at the Planetarium, a special extended run of the Pink Floyd 50th Anniversary show brought a multi-generational crowd to a series of sold out, after-hours events. Commemorating a half century of the album *Dark Side of the Moon*, this unique, immersive experience was well-loved by audiences.



Our brand-new Lite Brite wall helps us promote our very popular Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* planetarium show. ©Manitoba Museum

Our ongoing transformation of the Science Gallery continued to spark joy and excitement in visitors. Newer exhibitions such as the giant Lite Brite and Magnetic Ball Wall continue to be popular with all ages. During our two-week closure period in January 2025,

new carpet was installed throughout the concourse level, including in the Science Gallery and Planetarium Theatre. We took advantage of this closure period to paint the walls in the Science Gallery and continue the ongoing modernization of the venue.

COMMEMORATING WINNIPEG 150

Winnipeg commemorated its 150th year as a city in 2024. The Manitoba Museum recognized this milestone through a social media video series, and the completion of a multi-year, phased renewal of the Winnipeg 1920 Cityscape.

In 1874, Winnipeg promoted itself from a small village nestled within the larger Red River Settlement, to a bona fide city, with all the aspirations of growth and importance it could muster. Since then, our city has experienced its fair share of important events and contributions to the Canadian story, along with deeply challenging social disparities. Winnipeg's history is tumultuous, ever-changing, and sometimes contentious. But it isn't dull!

There is so much Winnipeg history here at the Manitoba Museum that we filmed 16 social media videos for the 150th anniversary year. These have been viewed tens of thousands of times, bringing our Winnipeg stories directly to the public. The topics included children's immigration experiences, Ann Thomas Callahan—one of the first Indigenous graduates of the Winnipeg General Hospital, the military presence in Winnipeg, and many more.

In 2024, we also completed our multi-year project to renew the Winnipeg 1920 Cityscape, formerly known as the Urban Gallery, and popularly referred to as “the little town.” Winnipeg has always been a diverse city, and one goal of the renewal was to bring more of our historic communities to light. When the Urban Gallery originally opened in 1974, it was based on “faux” businesses, so while it provided an immersive experience, it couldn't tell too many authentic stories. With our renewal, we wanted to include real Winnipeg places and people. The Ukrainian bookstore, Sing Wo Laundry, James and Foote Photography studio, Darbey's Taxidermy

The A. and M. Hurtig Furriers workshop features original tools from Jewish furrier shops in Winnipeg.
©Manitoba Museum

E.W. Darbey Taxidermy store front. © Manitoba Museum

One of our more popular TikTok videos saw Curator of History Roland Sawatzky share our Winnipeg 1920 Cityscape.
©Manitoba Museum

shop, the Tribune Newspaper building, Allen Theatre, Colcleugh Drugstore, Immigration Hall, and Hurtig Furriers were all real Winnipeg businesses. In 1920, Winnipeg was also the third largest city in Canada, so to bring the gallery alive with people, we included numerous historic video projections, audio features, and new mannequins.

In all there are 20 new exhibits in the Winnipeg 1920 Cityscape. This includes 7 all-new rooms with artifacts and stories, 13 realistic mannequins, 9 audio and video projections, 2 curatorial notebooks, and many interpretive panels. Some of the stories include the General Strike, the first provincial election where women could vote, the Sleeping Car Porters and the historic Black community in Winnipeg, Métis history, Ukrainian internment during the First World War, First Nations art, the Chinese-Canadian experience during the Chinese Exclusion Act years, the Tribune Newspaper building, and many more. Our two newest additions are Darbey's Taxidermy Shop and the A&M Hurtig Furrier Shop, which also features Jewish history in Winnipeg.

With this renewal we are positioned to provide more accurate information, and more engaging and relevant exhibits for a 21st century audience.

THE COUGAR – MANITOBA'S BIG CAT

The newest addition to the Parklands Gallery features SK10, a radio-collared cougar that travelled over 1,000 km from Saskatchewan to Manitoba. In 2020, at almost 10 years of age, he was accidentally trapped in a legal coyote snare just south of the Duck Mountains. But he still had some travelling to do before reaching his final resting place in our galleries.



SK10 with satellite collar and ear tag prowls the exhibit with skeleton behind and looks out at gallery visitors. ©Manitoba Museum



Museum collections staff measuring and examining SK10 at the Assiniboine Park Zoo laboratory in February 2020. ©Manitoba Museum

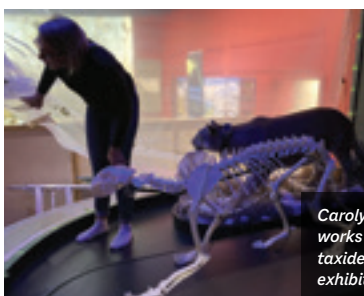
The first stop was at Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park Zoo where he was examined by several collaborating partners, with samples taken for study: Fish & Wildlife Branch, the Zoo, University of Manitoba, and the Museum. When the Museum was offered this incredible animal, we knew we had to tell his story. The curator, designer, conservator, and operations worked closely to design a dynamic exhibit that fit the space and complemented nearby gallery components. Grant-writing quickly ensued to procure the funds necessary for critical elements.



Metal armature for the cougar skeleton being built in the Alberta workshop, testing how the skull, vertebrae, and ribs attach in July, 2024. ©Dinosaur Valley Studios

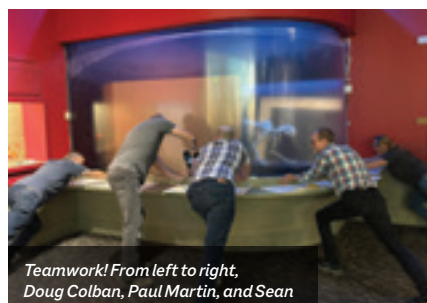
While SK10's skin travelled to a local taxidermist to be mounted, his skeleton was prepared by the Museum's Zoology section. The cleaned, labelled bones went on their way to Dinosaur Valley Studios in Alberta, specialists in metal armature for skeleton mounting. Simultaneously, authentic grasses and plants were carefully chosen

to produce a realistic environment for the cougar to "prowl" through, requiring coordination between taxidermist and Museum to ensure all fit together, and fit into the case.



Carolyn Sirett, Senior Conservator, works on the final positioning of the taxidermy and skeleton mounts in the exhibit case. ©Manitoba Museum

The complex, curved case was constructed by the Operations team under consultation with the designer and conservator. A daytime image from the proper location was transformed into a moonlit scene to match trail cam images of SK10, produced in vinyl, and carefully adhered as a backdrop. The content of the reader rail was designed in-house; a map of SK10's travels was painstakingly recreated from original satellite-tracking data and associated trail camera photos were sourced and transferred to a touchscreen. From the Zoology collection, casts of cougar prints were molded



Teamwork! From left to right, Doug Colban, Paul Martin, and Sean Workman of Operations, Curator of Zoology Randy Mooi, and Senior Conservator Carolyn Sirett install the curved window of the cougar exhibit, ensuring a tight seal to exclude dust and pests. ©Manitoba Museum

and made into touchable paw prints by talented Museum staff. Touchable cougar scat was creatively reproduced for accuracy, realism, and fun! Cougar sounds were brought to life by overhead speakers.

Once the exhibit pieces were in place, Marketing got the word out that SK10 had found a permanent home. Media interviews resulted

in several newspaper articles, including a full-page spread, as well as several TV and web-based productions.

SK10 is already a favourite of gallery visitors. One classroom teacher commented, "I love the new cougar exhibit! My four-year-old niece and I had a great time looking at him, talking about the collar and the skeleton." It is planned to be featured in a gallery highlight trail launched in June as part of Learning & Engagement's *Ultimate Field Trip* package.

It takes more than a cougar specimen to build an exhibit. The successful completion of this four-year project involved external partners, the Museum's customary internal collaboration, and the generous support of The Manitoba Museum Foundation and Thomas Sill Foundation.

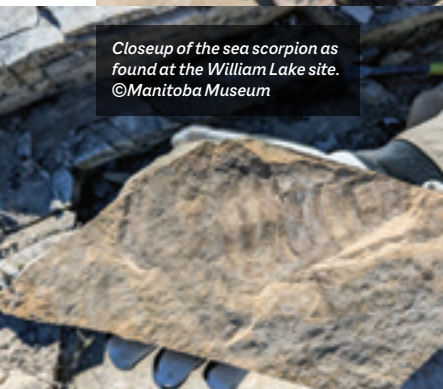
A NEW SPECIES REVEALED

The Manitoba Museum is a place of discovery, and not only for our visitors. Our Curators travel far and wide to acquire specimens and artifacts for the Museum's collection; some of these objects are placed on display in our galleries, while others may be significant for scientific research. Some even turn out to be new species.

Curator of Palaeontology and Geology Dr. Joe Moysiuk and collaborator Michael Cuggy (University of Saskatchewan) making the discovery of the new sea scorpion fossil at the William Lake site. ©Manitoba Museum



Closeup of the sea scorpion as found at the William Lake site. ©Manitoba Museum



This past summer, our Curator of Palaeontology and Geology, Dr. Joe Moysiuk, led a team of researchers on field trips to sites near Churchill and Grand Rapids, with funding support from The Manitoba Museum Foundation. Their finds included at least one never-before-seen extinct species of sea scorpion.

Sea scorpions are an extinct group of aquatic animals, distantly related to modern scorpions, spiders, and horseshoe crabs. This is the biggest intact sea scorpion fossil yet found in Manitoba, though the team also found pieces of even bigger ones, showing that there are still many remarkable discoveries waiting to be made.



Curator of Palaeontology and Geology Dr. Joe Moysiuk examining newly collected fossil specimens in the Churchill Northern Studies Centre. ©Manitoba Museum

Back at the Museum, the specimens have been stabilized using adhesives and painstakingly prepared under the microscope with a micro-jackhammer by our term Collections Preparator, removing overlying rock to

Rock outcrops along the Churchill coastline, close to the discovery site of the world's largest trilobite, visited during summer field work. The lighter coloured rocks are reef limestones from the Ordovician period deposited around much older quartzite boulders and islands. ©Manitoba Museum



The new sea scorpion after careful removal of covering rock and photographed under special lighting conditions to bring out fine anatomical details. ©Manitoba Museum

reveal parts that remained buried. All specimens have also been housed in custom, padded boxes and are ready to be integrated into our permanent collection, with data repositing in our

database. Using special filters and different lighting conditions, we have begun to photograph some of the most significant specimens, such as the new sea scorpion. This lays the foundation for the research still required to characterize the new species in the context of other known sea scorpions and contextualize it in relation to its environment and the processes that led to its preservation.

Stories relating the discovery and subsequent work have been shared through social media posts, an "unboxing" video, film footage for Travel Manitoba, and a THRIVE article in the Winnipeg Free Press. A few specimens have also been previewed at special events including the Museum Stewardship Event and the Canadian Palaeontology Conference. Publication of the research associated with these discoveries will continue to generate public interest in years to come and will lead to opportunities for additions to our Ancient Seas exhibit and associated programming through our Learning & Engagement team.

Fossil deposits in northern Manitoba are of global scientific significance, and the Manitoba Museum has been at the forefront in their discovery and study. These fossils are remarkable for their quality of preservation—even traces of soft organisms like jellyfish and seaweeds have been preserved. The rock layers date back to about 450 million years ago, a time long before the dinosaurs, when Manitoba was covered by a shallow, tropical sea. Few other places in the world preserve such a remarkable record of this time period, and the Manitoba Museum is the only place you can see specimens from these sites on exhibit.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

YEAR IN REVIEW

Museum volunteers are instrumental to the success of the Museum, assisting with a wide range of programs and activities. Through direct assistance to staff or in the delivery of public programs, the Museum recognizes that volunteers give their time, abilities, and enthusiasm freely to help us and we appreciate this significant support.

In the Museum and Science Galleries, Learning & Engagement volunteers interpreted Manitoba's history at the Nonsuch, as well as at many interpretation stations throughout the Galleries, and helped Science Gallery visitors learn scientific principles through their interactions with hands-on exhibits.

In Research, Collections, and Exhibitions, volunteers were involved in many research projects and conservation initiatives. Zoology volunteers Sophia and Melina used the Natural History department's photostacking imaging station to produce over 330 high-resolution photographs of significant scientific specimens used in *The Butterflies of Manitoba*. These digitized images are an important addition to the database and have already been used in a book on the butterflies of Saskatchewan.

Over the past year, History volunteer Tim has logged close to 800 hours transcribing oral histories, including many from the Winnipeg 1919 General Strike collection, while Botany volunteers Jackie and Jane assisted with the Manitoba Flora book project. In the Conservation lab, volunteers helped make and remount 15 bandolier bags in the Anthropology collection.

Palaeontology & Geology volunteer Ian improved the database records for our mineral collection by adding information about mineral classification, chemical formulas, and checking for consistency. This work will make our mineral collection much more accessible, both to researchers and to the public once our public database portal is online.

In 2024-2025, the Museum's 198 volunteers supported the Board of Governors, Public Programs, and Research and Collections by generously giving 10,112 hours of their time to ensure the success of the Museum's programs and initiatives.



In Memory of Doreen Romanow

Doreen Romanow was an integral part of the Manitoba Museum community, dedicating 50 remarkable years as a volunteer with the Education Programs department. She joined the Museum just a few months after its opening in 1970, quickly becoming a beloved member of our team.

Doreen's contributions to the development of Education and Interpretive Programs helped create a better understanding of Indigenous history and culture with her various tours and activities. It is estimated that Doreen reached 60,000 school children during her long-term commitment.

Doreen's dedication, warmth, and unwavering commitment touched countless lives, and her presence enriched the Museum in immeasurable ways. Her departure in 2020 due to health issues, followed by her passing in December 2024, marked the end of an extraordinary chapter of service. We thank Doreen's family for sharing her with us for 50 years.



Volunteer Highlight

Through RRC Polytech's Centre for Newcomer Integration, volunteer Olena was happy to learn about Manitoba's history during her work placement. Interacting with visitors in the Museum Galleries and Science Gallery allowed Olena many opportunities to practice her English language skills.

2024-2025 VOLUNTEERS

Hillary Agbodan	Dennis Dwornick	Harpreet Kaur	Grace Reyes
Josiah Adewuyi	Jennifer Dyson	Micah Kraut	Lorissa Robillard
Ralph Ahlert	Laura Edel	Jackie Krindle	Ellen Robinson
Toluwalope Alabi	Yewande Egbeyemi	Brandon Kruse	Joel Sabale
Lorenz Alupay	Miles Ehlers	Doug Langrell	Irvine Saddul
Sienna Anderson	Melodie Eshoo	McKenna Lapointe-Joyce	Jesus Sanchez Salazar
Dallas Bagby	Sherry Faller	Pui Shan Lee	Oskar Sawatzky
Mey-Ling Basaez Figueroa	Rodrigo Felico-Perez	Nathalie Londono	Rachel Scaletta
Lyllianha Bateman-Courchene	Kelsey Fenwick	Christopher Long	Kieran Schellenberg
Brieanne Beaumont	Kyla Fidler	Damien Lopuck	Signe Schneider
Moksh Bedi	Claire Foster	Simon Lucy	Lexi Schroeder
Roshni Bhullar	Brittanie Gould	Thomas Lurvey	River Shaw
Rylan Bileski	Adrian Grey	Ian MacLeod	Arshiya Simkhada
Lee-Ann Blase	Frank Guijarro	Cole Magnusson	Gagandeep Singh
Lauren Bravo	Alex Halipchuk	Ezra Manchuk	Tarakjot Singh
Sophia Britsky	Kayla Hanslip	Sara Marín Gutiérrez	Sam Smith
Jennifer Brookman	Sarah Hanslip	Julia Matheson	Yifei Tao
Santino Buffone-Magro	Scott Hanslip	Ilyan Michalchyshyn	Sarezka Tapia
Ash Burkowski	Alyssa Hee	Brenda Miller	Sebir Tekie
Grant Cadieux	Carmen Héroux	Gisella Mocha	Illia Tishchenko
Ben Chapman	Carol Hibbert	Sophia Moon	Emma Turney
Eric Chartier	Don Himbeault	Rachel Morgan	Mohamed vall Yehya
Yixuan Chen	Gwyneth Ho	Leopoldo Navarro	Hudson Van Dale
Nancy Chow	Mishelle Holt	Bill Neydli	Hank Vande Kraats
Eduardo Chua Jr.	Taiseer Hoque	Leanne Niemi	Paul Vogl
Savannah Clark	Suprova Hossain	Andrea Ocampo	Jingyi Wang
Diana Clarke	Kathy Hornshaw	Leo Omichinski	Alexander Wasyliv
Jane Curtis	Nicolas Hrynyk	Sasha-Blue O'Reggio	Alex Weidenbacher
Ava Damski	Liz Hydesmith	Varali Patel	Dennis Wishnowski
Ryma Dey	Denis Jeannotte	Ojas Patil	Tim Worth
Raunit Dixit	Asher Jiao	Brody Patterson	Jayden Yang
Edward Dobrzanski	Zihuan Jiao	Bronwyn Pearce	Luis Zambrano Ramirez
Kyle Doherty	Liqiong Jin	Lydia Peloquin-Epp	Sandi Zebrasky
Yuehua Dong	Ruhani Jindal	Purple Peters	Chris Zhang
Bernz Duaban	Melina Jobbins	Thi Hung Pham	Ying Zhang
Eric Dueck	Nandana Kartha	Ian Plummer	
Jake Dueck	Bhartinder Kaur	Yashwin Rajkumar	

MANITOBA MUSEUM STAFF

AT MARCH 31, 2025

Executive Office

Dorota Blumczyńska

Chief Executive Officer

Maia Woodbury *Executive Assistant*

Tabitha Harper *Museum Advisor on
Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation*

Human Resources

Dr. Adelana Adeleye-Olusae *Director*

Noreen Hees *Manager of Volunteer
& Employee Relations*

Fund Development

Charwin Dahl *Director (Parental leave)*

Zoë McQuinn *Director*

Alma Cruz *Development Coordinator*

Cassidy Nicholls

Manager of Partnerships & Events

Cindi Steffan *Manager of Grants*

Finance & Operations

David Sierhuis *Director*

Germine Awad *Financial Controller*

Kathy Moran *Business Office Assistant*

Omodele Ayanniyi

Payroll & Benefits Administrator

OPERATIONAL SERVICES

Sean Workman *Operations Supervisor*

Cesar Robayo *Carpenter/Cabinet Maker*

Paul Martin *Operations Technician*

Douglas Colban *Operations Assistant*

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Ruel Espinoza *System Administrator*

Research, Collections, & Exhibitions

Seema Hollenberg *Director*

Emma Maione *Administrative Assistant*

EXHIBITIONS

Anastasiia Mavrina *Exhibit Designer*

CURATORIAL

Dr. Diana Bizecki Robson

Curator of Botany

David Finch *Curator of Archaeology*

Dr. Amelia Fay

*Curator of Anthropology & the Hudson's
Bay Company Museum Collection*

Dr. Joseph Moysiuk

Curator of Palaeontology & Geology

Dr. Randall Mooi *Curator of Zoology*

Dr. Roland Sawatzky *Curator of History*

COLLECTIONS & CONSERVATION

Nancy Anderson *Collections Management
Specialist Human History*

Dr. Brigit Tronrud *Collections Management
Specialist Natural History*

Cortney Pachet

Collections Technician Human History

Carolyn Sirett *Senior Conservator*

Estelle Girard *Assistant Conservator*

Aro van Dyck

Collections Technician Natural History

Sonya Hauri-Thiessen

Collections Registration Associate

Urgon Snider *Collections Technician*

Palaeontology Preparator

Marketing, Sales, & Visitor Experience

Rhiannon Leier Blacher *Director*

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Brandi Hayberg

Manager of Marketing & Communications

Rebecca Watson

Digital Media & Marketing Coordinator

MUSEUM SHOP

Kyla Klassen

Merchandiser & Buyer (Parental leave)

RENTALS

Bukola Akinola

Manager of Rentals & Events

Carrie Goulet

Rental & Events Coordinator

EVENT ASSISTANTS

Luong Bui

Stefano De Sordi

Addison Sutherland-Dyck

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Natalie Marion

Visitor Experience Supervisor

Kaitlin Aiello Fox

Membership & Data Coordinator

VISITOR EXPERIENCE ASSOCIATES

Riggs Balita

Jobelle Borja

Luong Bui

Crystal Cann

Matthew Kolthof

Andrea Ocampo

Sasha-Blue O'Reggio

Learning & Engagement

Rachel Erickson *Director*

Anya Moodie-Foster

Manager of School & Public Programs

Mike Jensen

Programs & Volunteer Coordinator

Tashina Houle-Schlup *Head of Indigenous*

Programming & Engagement

Scott Young *Planetarium Astronomer*

Fiona Sime

Programs & Reservations Coordinator

Carol Beaulieu

Indigenous Protocols Advisor

Corinne Antoniuk

Learning & Engagement Producer

Erin Buelow

Learning & Engagement Producer

LEARNING FACILITATORS

Claire Constant

Victoria Holmberg

Léane Mallarino

Melina Nielsen

Dhuranka Wijesinghe

SCIENCE COMMUNICATORS

Christopher Beauvilain

Rhianna Cohen

Deni Desautels

Annick Dionne-Floc'h

Ray Saltel

Adriana Sedlak

EXHIBIT ATTENDANTS

Signe Schneider

Maas Steur

RETIREMENTS



MARC HÉBERT

Carpenter/Cabinetmaker

After 25 years of craftsmanship and commitment, Marc Hébert retired in September 2024. He first joined the Museum on a contract during the construction of the HBC Museum Collection Gallery and later returned in a permanent role during development of the Parklands Gallery. Since then, Marc's work has become part of the very structure of the Museum—his builds, repairs, and fabrications can be found in almost every corner.

Marc was involved in countless exhibit installations over the years, always bringing a skilled eye and a craftsman's insistence on doing things properly. Whether building custom exhibit cases, tackling tight timelines, or adapting to last-minute design changes, Marc approached each job with focus and precision. His recent work on "The Cougar – Manitoba's Big Cat" exhibit in the Parklands Gallery stands as a fine example of his ability to bring ideas to life in wood, metal, and more.

Marc had a strong vision for how things should be done and took pride in delivering quality work. His expertise, high standards, and years of experience were invaluable assets to the Museum team. Though he preferred to keep things low-key, Marc's impact is hard to miss. We'll miss his deep knowledge, his craftsmanship, and the countless contributions—big and small—that helped build the Museum.

APPOINTMENTS

DR. ADELANA ADELEYE-OLUSAE

Director of Human Resources

Director, Chartered Professionals in Human Resources Manitoba
Past Chair, Board of Directors, Chartered Professionals in Human Resources Manitoba
Member, CODE Coalition – Commitment to Opportunity, Diversity, and Equity – Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce

DR. DIANA BIZECKI ROBSON

Curator of Botany

Board Member, Manitoba Association of Plant Biologists
Member, Manitoba Scientific Advisory Committee – Nature Conservancy of Canada
Member, Jennifer Shay Scholarship Committee – University of Manitoba

DOROTA BLUMCZYŃSKA

Chief Executive Officer

Vice-President, Canadian Museums Association, and Chair Finance and Audit Committee
Director, TELUS Manitoba and Saskatchewan Community Board
Trustee, United Way of Winnipeg

RACHEL ERICKSON

Director of Learning & Engagement

Executive Director, Commonwealth Association of Museums
Member, Board of Governors, Manitoba Museum

DR. AMELIA FAY

Curator of Anthropology & the Hudson's Bay Company Museum Collection

Founding Board Member, Fair Field Foundation
Research Associate, University of Manitoba – Department of Anthropology
Member, Respectful Repatriation Inter-Institutional Group

DAVID FINCH

Curator of Archaeology

Public Communications Award Committee Member, Canadian Archaeological Association
Member, Respectful Repatriation Inter-Institutional Group

SEEMA HOLLENBERG

Director of Research, Collections & Exhibitions

Vice President/Board of Directors, Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada
Member, Respectful Repatriation Inter-Institutional Group

NATALIE MARION

Visitor Experience Supervisor

Tessitura Community Chair

ZOË MCQUINN

Director of Fund Development

Member, Board of Directors, Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum and Memorial

DR. RANDALL MOOI

Curator of Zoology

Editorial Board, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists
BSc Committee Member, Biological Sciences – University of Winnipeg
Member, Manitoba Ornithological Records Committee

DR. JOSEPH MOYSIUK

Curator of Palaeontology & Geology

Executive Committee Member, Geological Association of Canada – Paleontology Division
Research Associate, Royal Ontario Museum
Adjunct Professor, University of Saskatchewan

DR. ROLAND SAWATZKY

Curator of History







Board Member, Heritage Winnipeg
Jury Member, Heritage Winnipeg Preservation Awards





CINDI STEFFAN



Manager of Grants

Member, Board of Governors, Manitoba Museum

ANNUAL GIVING




Patricia and Darrell Adams
Dr. Lana Adeleye-Olusae 
Renee Aho
Dia and Remo Aiello
Randi Allary
Courtney Allary
Nancy  and Blair Anderson
Dr. Shelley Anderson
Vandana Arya
The Asper Foundation
Margaret Astwood
Amelia Au
Kim Avanthay
Aliyah Baerg
William  and Elizabeth Baines
Christina Barwinsky
Ron Beach
Laure Beare
Ariel Belair
Michael Bell
Diana Beltran
Kira Benjamin
Laura Bergen
Berger
Gabrielle Bernardin
Heather Bertnick 
Susan and Edwin Bethune
The Bhatia Family
Ashley Bialek
The Bill and Margaret Fast Family Foundation
Birchwood Automotive Group Ltd.
Dorota Blumczyńska 
Dan Bockstael and Laneil Smith
Roland Bohr
Marguerite Bourgeois
Wendy Boyd
Diane Boyle
Gail Braun
Rebecca Braun-Huynh and Vinh Huynh 





Shannon Breckman
Doneta and Harry Brotchie
Clara Buelow
Erin Buelow 
James and Dale Buhler
Alyson Bulloch
Roger Burns
Ian Bushie
Teresa Byrne
Canada Life
Canadian Mennonite University
Canadian Museum for Human Rights
Megan Carriere
Michelle Carriere
Lisa Carson
Jane Casey
Angela Cassie
Seema Chan
Tiffany Charuk
Lawrence and Beatrice Cherniack
Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba
Jeffrey Chipman 
Mark and Patricia Chipman
David and Barbara Christie
Lori Church
Amber Clark
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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

BRIGITTE SANDRON

*President, The Manitoba Museum
Foundation Board of Directors*

The Manitoba Museum Foundation was, in every sense, a cornerstone—an essential foundation upon which so much of the Museum’s success has been built. For decades, it provided the stability and strength needed to grow our impact, elevate our work, and dream bigger for the communities we serve. Its unwavering commitment to stewardship and donor engagement made it possible for the Manitoba Museum to flourish as one of the province’s most cherished and respected cultural institutions.

At the heart of this legacy lies the Endowment Fund—an enduring source of support that has, for generations, fueled vital research, enabled new acquisitions, refreshed exhibitions, and powered innovative projects. Thanks to this fund, and the generosity of those who have contributed to it, the Manitoba Museum continues to stand tall as a leading heritage institution—not only in Manitoba, but across Canada and beyond.

This past year, the Foundation was pleased to approve \$61,984 in research grants for the whole Curatorial team and Head of Indigenous Programming & Engagement to visit Churchill to begin reconnaissance work in each of their disciplines in anticipation of the Arctic/Subarctic Gallery renewal.

In 2024, as part of a broader strategic renewal, the Foundation concluded its operations. This thoughtful transition marks the beginning of a new chapter—one where fundraising is brought in-house to deepen connections with donors, streamline operations, and respond more directly to the Museum’s evolving goals and priorities. This shift reflects best practices in philanthropy and positions us to build even stronger relationships with those who believe in our mission. This change does not decrease the Museum’s continued need for donor support, nor the urgency to grow our Endowment Fund, which will now be administered by the Manitoba Museum Board of Governors.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the past and present members of The Manitoba Museum Foundation Board of Directors and to every donor who helped shape the Museum’s journey through their trust, generosity, and vision. Your legacy lives on in every discovery, every moment of wonder, and every visitor who walks through our doors. But our work is far from over—and we cannot do it alone. We need your support. Donations to the Endowment Fund help safeguard the future, ensuring that generations to come can continue to explore, learn, and be inspired. At the same time, gifts to the Museum’s life-changing programs allow us to reach more families, more schools, and more communities right now. Every contribution—no matter the size—helps us ignite curiosity, create a sense of belonging, and build a brighter, more informed future for all. Join us in shaping what comes next.

Grants

RESEARCH PROJECTS & EXHIBITION UPGRADES




ASA Gallery Field Research: Community Consultations for Arctic/Subarctic Gallery	\$ 30,205
ASA Gallery Field Research: Northern Lichen, Fungus and Plant Collecting	\$ 4,200
ASA Gallery Field Research: Three-spined Stickleback on the Churchill River	\$ 7,330
ASA Gallery Field and Reconnaissance Research: Assessing sites of exceptional fossil preservation in Ordovician rocks of Manitoba	\$ 20,249

Bequests

NONE

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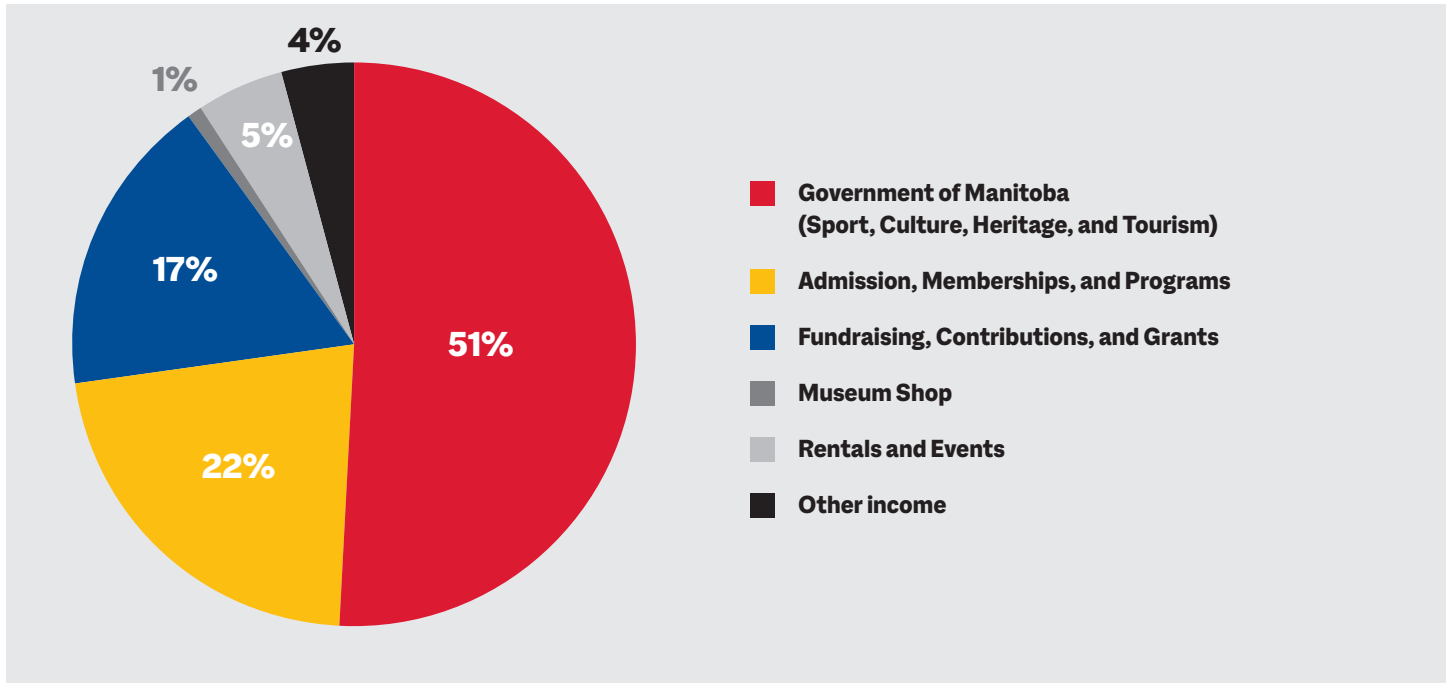
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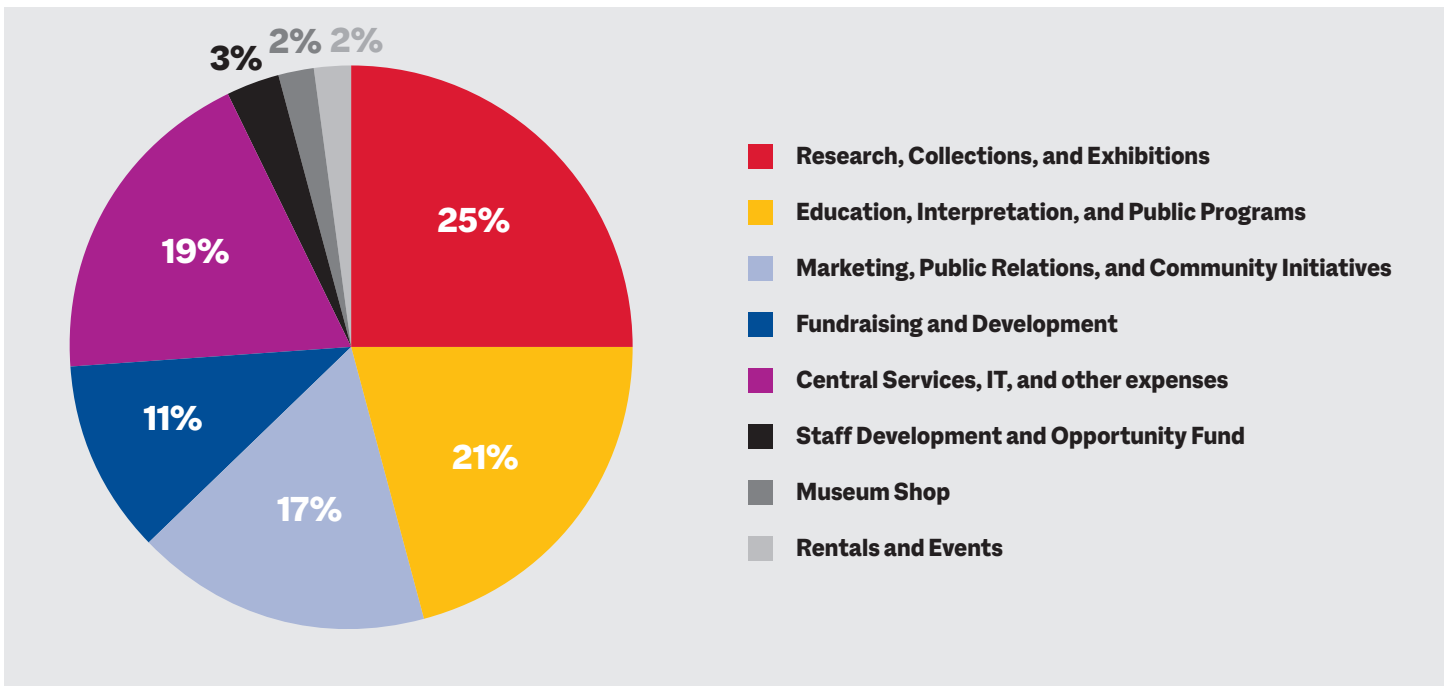
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REVENUE



The Manitoba Museum is supported through a variety of revenue streams – from public funds to earned and fundraised. The Province of Manitoba provided 51% of the Museum’s annual funding, supporting core operations including care of the Province’s collection of 2.9 million artifacts and specimens, original research, exhibition development, and educational programs. Stable public funding enables the Museum to reach out to the community from a position of strength to leverage private sector support and ensure accessibility to the Museum for all Manitobans. Earned revenue reached 32% and is generated through: admissions; membership fees; the Museum Shop; ticketed programs; workshops; interest; as well as, fee-for-service conservation contracts and speaking fees. Fundraised revenues comprised 17% of all revenues, and represent numerous corporate partners and many individual contributors who help ensure the Museum remains sustainable.

EXPENSES



The Museum relies upon a highly educated and skilled workforce whose salaries and benefits have been allocated to appropriate areas. A majority of community funding is dedicated to the Museum’s core activities of research, collections, and exhibitions and represents 25% of expenditures. This area includes curatorial research and conservation activities as well as exhibitions. Many special research and exhibition projects are accomplished with one-time grants (externally restricted projects) and are not reflected above. Whether a student with a school group, a family visiting on the weekend, or a tour group from abroad, the visitor experience is a top priority and represents 21% of expenses (including materials and programs staff for the Museum Galleries, Planetarium, and Science Gallery). The Museum incurs significant costs associated with “keeping the doors open.” Central services comprise 19% of expenditures supporting the overall infrastructure (computer systems, insurance, gallery maintenance and design, bank charges, and administrative support). The Museum has a revitalized public programs area and exciting annual exhibitions designed to grow and develop new audiences. This is accomplished through marketing and communications. At 17% of expenses, the Marketing, Public Relations & Community Initiatives area includes: advertising (leveraged by sponsorship), public relations, design, as well as box office, visitor amenities, and membership. Additional expenses are as follows: Fundraising and Development – 11%; Staff Development and Opportunity Fund – 3%; Museum Shop – 2%; and Rentals and Events – 2%.



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