

Association of Manitoba Museums

***150 for 150* Exhibit Background**

The Association of Manitoba Museums is developing an exhibit that will showcase Manitoba's role in Canada's history. The concept for the exhibit is ***150 for 150*** – 150 artifacts, from 150 museums, marking 150 years of Confederation. The exhibit will allow small community museums to contribute and share in a larger scale exhibit that will reach more people than possible on their own.

Goals

- 150 artifacts
- 150 museums
- Celebrating 150 years

Objectives

- Tell Manitoba's story
- Offer Manitoba museums an opportunity to reach a larger audience
- Provide Training opportunities in exhibit development for staff, volunteers and post-secondary students in Manitoba

Project Phases

- Phase 1 July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016
The project plan is developed and potential artifacts, students, instructors and community partners are identified.
- Phase 2 July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017
The exhibit is created and students are given hands-on training opportunities in all aspects of exhibit work.
- Phase 3 July 1, 2017 – 2020
Exhibit opens in Winnipeg, and then travels around the entire province before returning to Winnipeg for summer 2020.

Exhibit Theme

Manitoba is the heart of the continent. As the heart is a symbol for emotion, the exhibit will ask what feelings would reside in Manitoba's heart. The exhibit will not be organized in traditional ways such as geographic regions or chronologically. It will also not rely on the usual themes of agriculture, sports, religion, etc. Instead it will divide the 150 artifacts by common emotions. Possible emotions will include love, happiness, pride, generosity, perseverance, courage, surprise, sadness, fear and anticipation.

Community Engagement

The exhibit will only succeed if Manitobans become engaged in the project. In phase 1 all Manitoba museums will be informed about the project and ask for their feedback. Potential instructors, students and other community partners will also be identified.

A forum will be created for exchanging project information. The forum may be a website or possibly a Facebook group or YouTube channel that will allow the public to connect with the museums.

Roles for the forum could include:

- Public suggestions of objects to be included in the exhibit.
- Museums' lists of potential exhibit artifacts from their collections.
- The ability for visitors to post images or videos from their museum visits
- A listing of all museum events connected to the 150 for 150 exhibit

Museums will be strongly encouraged to allow their community a meaningful say in artifact selection. This means sharing our role as curators of our province's history.

Possible methods of community engagement include:

- Partnering with a local history class.
- Creating a display about possible exhibit objects and letting visitors vote for their favourite one.
- A dinner event where guest curators would talk about the history of a potential exhibit object and provide a food item themed to that artifact. The event would end with a vote to decide the winning object.

Training Program

One of the main objectives of the 150 project will be to provide training opportunities in exhibit development for staff, volunteers and post-secondary students. Students will be able to experience and learn about all aspects of an exhibit, with hands-on practical experience, guided by some of the most knowledgeable people in the field. An exhibit touches on all aspects of museum work. It is rare that a museum worker gets to experience all aspects of an exhibit. The training program will give students the opportunity to learn about developing exhibit themes and storyline, background research, selection of artifacts, writing text, selecting images, coordinating loans, identifying curriculum links, developing public and school programming, creating an exhibit floorplan, determining the size and style of display cases, mounting artifacts, conservation standards, requirements for travel, marketing and dismantling of the exhibit.