



ROYAL
ONTARIO
MUSEUM

ANNUAL

2015 / 2016

HIGHLIGHTS





ANNUAL 2015 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

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Welcome



The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) has always been a place of discovery, learning, and inspiration. Our world-renowned collections and acclaimed exhibitions explore subjects that exhilarate visitors from around the globe. This year, more than one million visitors passed through our doors and enjoyed a ROM experience, the most in the Museum's history.

One of the reasons the ROM attracts such an impressive number of people is its ability to spark curiosity and stimulate a thirst for knowledge in visitors of all ages. We are one of the few museums in the world with encyclopedic collections spanning art, culture, and nature. Additionally, the ROM is a global research institution with internationally recognized curators conducting field research in 27 countries. Over the course of the past year, their findings have been published in nearly 100 academic journals.

As you will see in the following pages, 2015–2016 was also a banner year for exhibitions at the ROM. The stunning *Pompeii: In the Shadow of the Volcano* received both popular and critical acclaim, mesmerizing 275,000 visitors with the dramatic story of an ancient city frozen in time. *Viva Mexico! Clothing & Culture* celebrated the ROM's Mexican textiles and costume collection and opened a window onto Mexico's colourful history and vibrant culture. *Generations: Annu Palakunnathu Matthew* explored the many layers of family history through photography, while the popular *Wildlife Photographer of the Year*, shared important messages about biodiversity through award-winning images from around the world, including those of three Canadian photographers.

The ROM is also proud of the role it plays in inspiring the next generation of scientists, artists, world leaders, and curiosity seekers. We continue to offer access to our collections and an array of dynamic programs that promote youth engagement with the

cultural and natural world. One of the most innovative examples is our annual Game Jam Weekend, a workshop for computer game developers. Back by popular demand, this program encourages young gamers to use the natural world as a source of inspiration for game development. It also strengthens the ROM's relationship with youth innovators and entrepreneurs. *Clash of Talons*, a new computer game featuring birds of prey marketed by Last Hour Games, grew out of this year's ROM Game Jam event.

Committed to meeting the diverse needs and abilities of our visitors, the Museum has continued to remove barriers to entry, seeking to ensure that the ROM experience is enriching for all our audiences. Our ROMCAN partnership with 46 non-profit community organizations helped eliminate financial, social, and cultural barriers, facilitating 75,000 free visits to our galleries in 2015. In recognition of this initiative, the ROM received the 2015 Ontario Tourism Award of Excellence for Accessible Tourism.

The ROM enters the new year with tremendous momentum. I hope you visit often to discover our dynamic programs, engaging exhibitions, and thought-provoking research—or come simply to be inspired by the wondrous objects in our collections. We look forward to seeing you soon at your Museum.

JOSH BASSECHES
DIRECTOR & CEO
ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

BONNIE BROOKS
CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

This page: Tom Sandler. Opposite page, clockwise from left: *Six Black Feet Chiefs*, Paul Kane Fort Pitt, Saskatchewan River, 1849–1855, 65.5 cm x 78.5 cm. One of a pair of vases, carved red lacquer, China, Qing, Dynasty-Republic; Late 19th-early 20th century. *Wiwaxia corrugata*, probable mollusc, Walcott Quarry, Burgess Shale, British Columbia, Canada. *Turtle Flight*: © David Doubilet (USA). Finalist, Amphibians and Reptiles.



*Six Black
Feet Chiefs*



*Carved red
lacquer vase*



*Fossil of
Wiwaxia
corrugata*



*Turtle Flight,
Wildlife Photographer
of the Year*

Your ROM



The ROM is very fortunate to have an extensive community of committed donors, patrons, corporate partners, and volunteers, who are instrumental in making the Museum an essential destination for learning, inspiration, and understanding.

We are pleased to share that our Love the ROM Centennial initiative surpassed its fundraising goal of \$15 million, coming to an official close on June 30, 2015. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we raised \$23.8 million to support the ROM's mission to promote learning and create new knowledge for a better shared future.

In addition, to honour the ROM's Centennial, the Currelly Legacy Society achieved its goal of welcoming 100 new members. Named after the Museum's first director, this group of individuals have each committed to leaving a future bequest or promised gift to the ROM. The Museum now has 228 known legacy intentions, valued at just over \$32 million.

With your support, the ROM Governors raised \$12.4 million and granted more than \$10.6 million to the Museum last year. These funds enabled world-class exhibitions such as *Pompeii: In the Shadow of the Volcano*; pioneering research including our Blue Whale Recovery Project; and public programs like ROM Summer Club for kids.

Another highlight of the year was the opening of a preview space for the future *Dawn of Life Gallery*. We continue to raise funds for this exciting project and this tantalizing sneak peek animates spectacular fossils slated for the gallery that tell the story of life on Earth—from its earliest beginnings to the first dinosaurs—generating interest from members of the public and the media.

We are grateful to all the members of our Royal Patrons Circle and Young Patrons Circle, who, together with our Annual Fund donors, contributed \$2.3 million in support of the ROM—your most generous year to date! We were also delighted to have more supporters join our Museum family, increasing our number of donors by 30 per cent.

As leaders of the Museum's philanthropic foundation, it was our privilege to honour our generous supporters and volunteers at the annual Chairs' Reception on May 4, 2016. This memorable evening recognized Donor of Merit Award recipient Richard M. Ivey and Lieutenant Governor's Distinguished Service Award recipients Martha J. Hogarth and W. Robert Farquharson—all of whom have provided extraordinary service to the ROM.

Thank you again for your thoughtful leadership and passionate support of the ROM.

SUSAN HORVATH
PRESIDENT & CEO
ROM GOVERNORS

ROBERT E. PIERCE
CHAIRMAN
ROM BOARD OF GOVERNORS



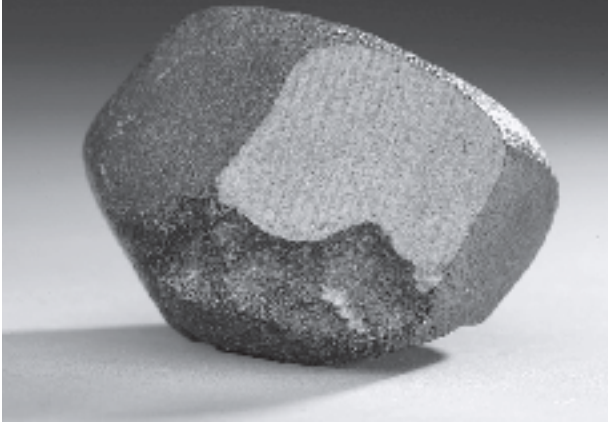
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**This past year we grew our
community of donors by 30 per cent!
Your generous support is helping
the Museum bring engaging
exhibitions, public programs and
educational initiatives to life.**

*Susan Horvath,
President & CEO, ROM Governors*

”

**3 Martian
Meteorites
acquired**



95,175



**STUDENTS
VISITED
THE ROM**

100,000
ROM
Members



**1.1 million
visitors**

**ROM RESEARCH
CONDUCTED IN
27 COUNTRIES
AND 5 PROVINCES**



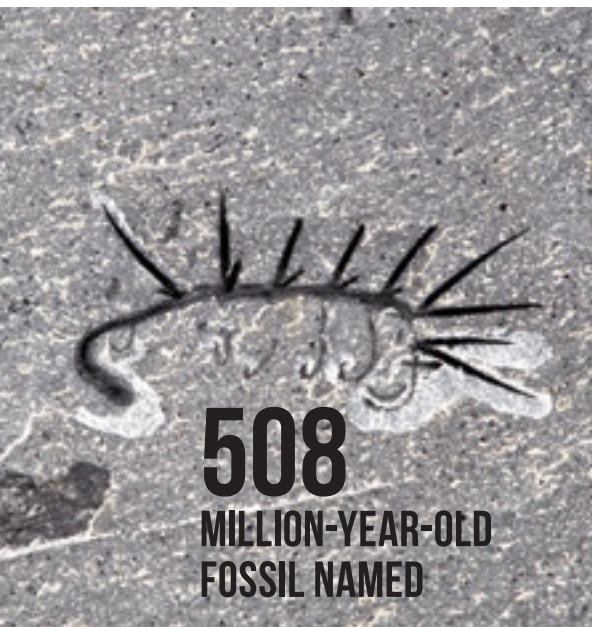
1,142
species
identified
during
BioBlitz



274,695

**PEOPLE VISITED
THE ACCLAIMED
POMPEII
EXHIBITION**





508

**MILLION-YEAR-OLD
FOSSIL NAMED**



62

SYRIAN REFUGEES WERE
WELCOMED ON THE FIRST
CANADIAN HERITAGE TOUR

97 + 5

academic
articles

books written
by ROM experts

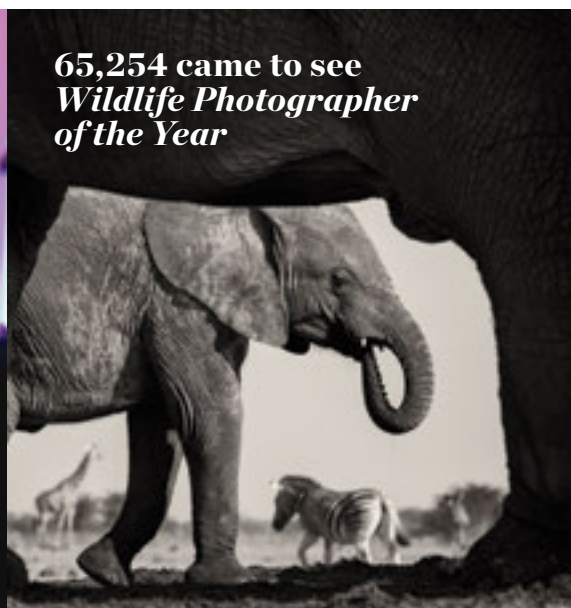


NOW Magazine's
People's Choice Award
for Best Museum



**The Young Patrons Circle and
Royal Patrons Circle donated
\$1,836,453**

3,306 DONORS TO THE ROM



**65,254 came to see
*Wildlife Photographer
of the Year***

EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

2015-2016 EXHIBITIONS

CHAMPLAIN ON
OUR DOORSTEP

DAWN OF LIFE
PREVIEW GALLERY

DECLARATION:
REPATRIATION

GENERATIONS:
ANNU PALAKUNNATHU
MATTHEW

KIRWIN COLLECTION
EXHIBITION

MADE IN CHINA: CULTURAL
ENCOUNTERS THROUGH
EXPORT ART

POMPEII: IN THE SHADOW
OF THE VOLCANO

PUNCH & POINT:
HISTORICAL EDITORIAL
CARTOONS OF
J.W. BENGOUGH
AND SAM HUNTER

¡VIVA MEXICO!
CLOTHING AND CULTURE

WANDERINGS OF AN ARTIST

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER
OF THE YEAR

1

Pompeii: In the Shadow of the Volcano

Exhibition Patrons

Moira & Alfredo Romano,

Air Canada Cargo

Media Partners Toronto Star, CTV

Garfield Weston Exhibition Hall

JUNE 13, 2015, TO JANUARY 3, 2016

The ROM's incredible exhibition unveiled more than 200 objects excavated from this ancient city buried under metres of volcanic ash from the Mount Vesuvius eruption in 79 AD. The exhibition revealed the fragility of life in the face of natural disaster. Almost 2,000 years ago, the once-thriving city suddenly—and completely—vanished from sight until excavations began in 1748. The exhibition, seen by 274,695 visitors, featured stunning gold and silver, exquisite mosaics and jewellery, objects of everyday life, and iconic body casts, all telling the story of Pompeii, its people, and its astonishing legacy—an ancient city frozen in time.

*Organized in partnership by the
Royal Ontario Museum, and the
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts,
in collaboration with the Superinten-
dence for Archaeological Heritage
of Naples, and the Soprintendenza
Speciale di Pompei, Ercolano e Stabia.*

Portrait of
a Youth
Marble
162 cm

2



3



4



2

Generations: Annu Palakunnathu Matthew

Co-Presented as a primary exhibition in the 2015 Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival Third Floor Centre Block

MAY 2 TO OCTOBER 18, 2015

Annu Palakunnathu Matthew's photograph exhibition presented a blend of still and moving imagery, exploring how family photographs shape identity. The exhibition studied not only the connection between the past and present, but also the silences and absences in family photos that cloud our memories.

3

¡Viva Mexico! Clothing and Culture

*Presented by Mexico Tourism Board
Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles & Costume*

MAY 9, 2015, TO MAY 23, 2016

From the iconic to the innovative, this evolution of fashion boldly reflected the history of Mexico, where the textile arts reach back over many centuries. More than 150 historic and contemporary pieces from the ROM's collection of Mexican textiles helped tell the story of Mexico's rich culture.

4

Wildlife Photographer of the Year

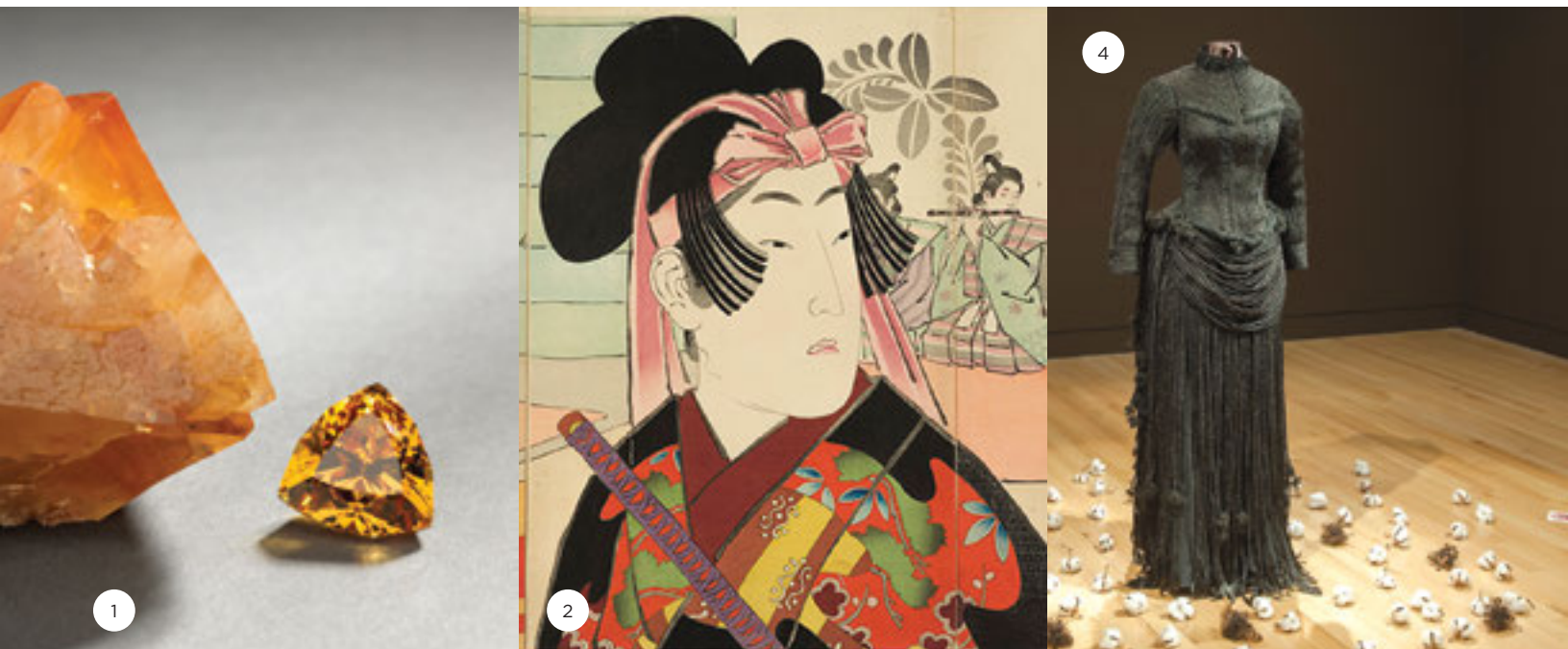
*Presenting Sponsor Quark Expeditions
Media Partner Canadian Geographic
Third Floor Centre Block*

NOVEMBER 21, 2015, TO MARCH 20, 2016

On tour from the Natural History Museum in London, this annual photography competition celebrated nature and wildlife through 100 photographs, selected from thousands of submissions by photographers of all ages from around the world. This year Ontario photographer Don Gutoski was selected as the competition's overall winner for his image *A Tale of Two Foxes*. *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* is developed and produced by the Natural History Museum, London.

SEE [PAGE 18](#) FOR MORE ON OUR EXHIBITIONS.

ACQUISITION HIGHLIGHTS



1

Scheelite Gems

Two rare scheelite gemstones were acquired by the Department of Natural History, Mineralogy, this year: an 81.59-carat, trigonal fancy-cut gem and a single large orange octahedron crystal with a large transparent window at the tip. Both specimens are from the famed Mount Xuebaoding, Pingwu, Sichuan Province in China.

2

Woodblock Prints

Three Japanese woodblock prints joined the ROM's significant collection of Japanese art this year. Produced in the late Edo Period/early Meiji Period by internationally renowned artists Utagawa Kuniyoshi, Kobayashi Kiyochika, and Tsukioka Yoshitoshi, the pieces reflect a tranquil yet modern Japan in the mid- to late 1800s.

3

Dinosaur Skull Bones

New fossils from the bonebed of *Medusaceratops lokii* (Judith River Formation, Kennedy Coulee, Montana) joined the ROM's dinosaur collection. This set of ceratopsian skull bones will allow one of the world's oldest known horned dinosaurs to be re-described and re-assigned to the correct subfamily, thereby contributing significant new information to understanding the early evolution of *Ceratopsidae*.

4

Worn (a black mourning dress)

Created by contemporary African Canadian artist Karin Jones, "Worn" evokes the Victorian mourning dress and all its connotations of constraints. Fashioned of synthetic African hair, hand braided and sewn, it is a stunning piece whose title likewise eloquently and poignantly bespeaks the racial and gender chauvinism experienced by women of African descent world wide.

5

Maué Headdress

Composed of several thousand brilliantly coloured feathers, this headdress made by the Amazonian Maué Indians is very rare and extremely well-crafted. Dating from the 1820s, it gives the ROM's current featherwork collection a new perspective, representing the height of Amazonian material culture.

Louise Hawley Stone was a dedicated ROM volunteer, donor, fundraiser and Board member. In 1997, she established a charitable trust of nearly \$50 million for the Museum. Today, the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust provides a steady income for the ROM to purchase new acquisitions and fund publications related to the ROM's collections.

5

Maué
headdress,
Amazonian
Maué Indians,
c. 1820,
featherwork



THESE ACQUISITIONS WERE MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE LOUISE HAWLEY STONE CHARITABLE TRUST AND THE MONA CAMPBELL ENDOWMENT FUND. SEE [PAGE 32](#) FOR MORE ON OUR ACQUISITIONS.

PROGRAMS, EVENTS & EDUCATION

Programs

The Museum offers a wide variety of programming tailored to specific audiences, including children, adults, and seniors, as well as families and tourists. Programs include in-depth lectures led by ROM experts, as well as programs like the very popular **Friday Night Live** presented by Ford of Canada, which continues to enjoy success, attracting a young and engaged audience to the Museum.

Events

Themed **Big Weekends**, such as **Digging the ROM: International Archaeology Weekend** and **Dinos Rule the ROM**, were monthly festivals jam-packed with lively, interactive, and engaging family-friendly activities that highlighted our galleries, exhibitions, and research. **ROM Summer Fridays** and **ROM Winter Fridays** offered enhanced visitor experiences, including meeting experts in the galleries and enjoying live music. Specialty programming for **ROM for the Holidays**, **Family Day Weekend**, and **March Break** transformed the Museum, with family-friendly programming during peak visitation periods.

Education

The ROM is one of the largest co-curricular educators in the Province, welcoming almost 100,000 students to the Museum last year. These visits help introduce new ideas to young minds, with guided tours, hands-on labs, and interactive activity guides. ROM programs are linked to the Ontario school curriculum, allowing teachers to augment in-class lessons with Museum visits, thus students can build on what they're learning at school with an immersive experience. Our **School Visits Bursary Program**, along with the **Travelling EduKits** and **Travelling Exhibitions**, allow the Museum to reach out to even more students across the country.

ROM GOVERNORS' HIGHLIGHTS

Philanthropic Support

The ROM Governors are responsible for all philanthropic activities in support of the Museum's highest priorities. Their work enables the ROM to better serve its diverse and ever-changing communities, by fostering long-term sustainable relationships of exceptional value—to both the institution and its donors. ROM Governors is supported by an independent board that provides leadership in a wide range of philanthropic activities supporting ROM programs, research, collections, galleries, exhibitions, and outreach programs.

Celebrating Your Generosity

The ROM thanks and acknowledges all the supporters who have generously contributed to the Museum's many exciting projects. Please refer to pages 49-69 for a list of our donors, sponsors, and patrons.

SPECIAL EVENTS

PROM X

MARCH 28, 2015

Hundreds of Young Patrons Circle members and guests enjoyed the 10th and final PROM. Inspired by the work of Douglas Coupland, PROM X paid homage to one of Canada's most celebrated contemporary artists, writers, and thinkers.

Chairs' Reception

MAY 7, 2015

An evening celebration of the philanthropic leadership of our Lieutenant Governor's Distinguished Service Award Recipients: Salvatore (Sal) M. Badali, Jennifer Ivey Bannock, and Harriet Walker. The ROM family also honoured BMO Financial Group with the Donor of Merit Award and enjoyed a preview of the future *Dawn of Life Gallery*.

A Night in Pompeii

JUNE 9, 2015

A private preview of the Canadian premiere of the *Pompeii: In the Shadow of the Volcano* exhibition. Chaired by ROM Governor Jennifer Ivey Bannock, this exquisite dining experience featured Pompeian entertainment.

Fact or Fiction

NOVEMBER 2, 2015

The ROM's signature guessing game returned as an exclusive event offering for Patrons, who engaged with Museum experts to discover the true nature of mysterious objects from the vaults.

Photo: Roger Yip.



Children enjoying
the James and Louise
Temerty Galleries
of the Age of Dinosaurs.

ROM LEADERSHIP

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OF ONTARIO

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All ROM Board of Trustee
Members hold office for a
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*Became Honorary Trustee at
completion of Board term.

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offer valued guidance and
support to the Museum.



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Exhibitions

Exhibitions at the Museum take many forms, from large feature exhibitions like *Pompeii: In the Shadow to the Volcano*, *iViva Mexico! Clothing and Culture*, and *Wildlife Photographer of the Year*, to special exhibitions like *The Dawn of Life* Preview Gallery, to the Travelling Exhibition program that brings the ROM's collections, research, and expertise to communities who cannot readily visit the Museum. Here are some of the ROM's calendar of 2015–2016 exhibitions.



POMPEII: IN THE SHADOW OF THE VOLCANO

Exhibition Patrons Moira & Alfredo Romano, Air Canada Cargo

Media Partners Toronto Star, CTV

Garfield Weston Exhibition Hall

Curator Paul Denis (with assistance from Kate Cooper, Katherine Dunnell)

JUNE 13, 2015, TO JANUARY 3, 2016

This exhibition was enjoyed by more than 274,000 people who viewed over 200 objects excavated from the ancient city of Pompeii prior to the eruption of Mount Vesuvius almost 2,000 years ago, revealing the fragility of life in the face of natural disaster. Buried under metres of volcanic ash, the once-thriving city suddenly—and completely—vanished from sight in the year 79 AD and remained buried for almost 1,700 years until excavations began in 1748. The popular exhibition featured stunning gold and silver, exquisite mosaics and jewellery, objects of everyday life, and iconic body casts, all telling the story of Pompeii, its people, and its astonishing legacy—an ancient city frozen in time.

Organized in partnership by the Royal Ontario Museum and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, in collaboration with the Superintendence for Archaeological Heritage of Naples and the Soprintendenza Speciale di Pompei, Ercolano e Stabia.

EXHIBITIONS

TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS

Travelling exhibitions bring the ROM's collections, research, and expertise to institutions whose communities cannot readily visit the Museum, circulating them to provincial museums, art galleries, and science centres. A travelling exhibition consists of display cases with objects, as well as contextual information on panels (e.g. images, maps). This year, 18 venues hosted exhibits in Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec. Popular travelling exhibitions included *Canada at Play*, *Hands on Nature*, *Egypt Gift of the Nile*, *Northern Owls*, *Bats of Ontario*, *Iroquois Beadwork*, *Seeds in Disguise*, and *Fakes & Forgeries*.

TRAVELLING PLANETARIUM

The ROM's Starlab is a mobile planetarium that projects the galaxy in an enclosed, inflatable dome, recreating the night sky. It offers an opportunity for communities across Ontario to learn more about the wonders of space. Travelling Planetarium teachers from the ROM visited 10 locations across Ontario this year, including schools, community centres, libraries, and community museums, reaching a total of 3,775 people.

GENERATIONS: ANNU PALAKUNNATHU MATTHEW

*Co-Presented as a Primary Exhibition in the 2015 Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival
Third Floor Centre Block
Curator Dr. Deepali Dewan
MAY 2 TO OCTOBER 18, 2015*

Annu Palakunnathu Matthew's photo-based exhibition presented a striking blend of still and moving imagery, exploring the powerful appeal of family photographs and how they shape identity. The exhibition studied not only the connection between the past and present, but also the silences and absences in family photos—where memory and fabricated histories become blurred.

¡VIVA MEXICO! CLOTHING AND CULTURE

*Presented by Mexico Tourism Board
Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles & Costume
Curators Chloë Sayer (Guest Curator),
Dr. Alexandra Palmer
MAY 9, 2015, TO MAY 23, 2016*

More than 150 historic and contemporary pieces from the ROM's world-renowned collection of Mexican textiles told the story of Mexico's rich culture. This evolution of fashion boldly reflected the history of Mexico, where the textile arts reach back over many centuries. From the iconic to the innovative, the exhibition included complete costume ensembles, *sarapes*, *rebozos*, textiles, embroidery, and beadwork.

Research for this exhibition was kindly supported by the ROM's Burnham Brett Endowment Fund, Veronika Gervers Research Fellowship, Kircheis Family Endowment Fund, and Gwendolyn Fraser Fund.

“

“¡Viva Mexico! Clothing & Culture creates awareness of Mexico in Canada, helping contrast the country's past with its modern and sophisticated present.”

Mauricio Toussaint, Ambassador, General Consul of Mexico in Toronto.

”

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

*Presenting Sponsor Quark Expeditions
Media Partner Canadian Geographic
Third Floor Centre Block
Curators Dr. Doug Currie and Mark Peck
NOVEMBER 21, 2015, TO MARCH 20, 2016*

The ROM hosted the compelling *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* exhibition on tour from the Natural History Museum in London. This acclaimed annual photography competition celebrates nature and wildlife through 100 photos, selected from thousands of submissions by photographers of all ages from around the world. This year Canadian photographer Don Gutoski was selected as the competition's overall winner for his image *A Tale of Two Foxes*. *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* is developed and produced by the Natural History Museum, London.

Clockwise from left: Tanagra figurine of standing woman terracotta, c. 250-225 BC, Greece. Annu Palakunnathu Matthew, *Annu, Re-Generation*, 2015. Still life from photo animation. *Sarape*, 1940-1960, Mexican Pictorial. *Sarape* with riders on horseback. Wool, tapestry woven on treadle loom. Don Gutoski, *A Tale of Two Foxes*, 2015.



“

Wildlife photography is one of the most popular activities our Polar Adventure passengers engage in and we're delighted to participate in the promotion of this sustainable, creative way of interacting with, and honouring, some of the world's most rare and elusive creatures.

*Andrew White, President,
Quark Expeditions*

”



EXHIBITIONS

DECLARATION: REPATRIATION

Roloff Beny Gallery
Curator Ken Lister

JUNE 5 TO JULY 5, 2015

This exhibition from Toronto-based arts-activist performance group Article 11 presented a opportunity to celebrate the creative process of indigenous artists as they collaborated on new approaches to original artistic works.

This program was made possible through a partnership between the Royal Ontario Museum and the Toronto Arts Council (TAC) as part of TAC's Animating Historic Sites and Museums Program.

CHAMPLAIN ON OUR DOORSTEP

Sigmund Samuel Gallery of Canada
Curator Dr. Arlene Gehmacher

JUNE 16 TO NOVEMBER 1, 2015

In 2015, Ontarians celebrated the 400th anniversary of francophone presence in the province. The ROM presented an original second edition of Samuel de Champlain's 1613 *Voyages* journal, in which he shared his thoughts on life in the North American colonies.

WANDERINGS OF AN ARTIST

Daphne Cockwell Gallery of Canada:
First Peoples
Curator Ken Lister

AUGUST 8, 2015, TO AUGUST 21, 2016

Featuring artworks from ROM Press' Paul Kane publication, *Wanderings of an Artist Among the Indians of North America*, this installation provided historical context on the contemporary issue surrounding spearfishing among the Ojibwe of northern Wisconsin.



MADE IN CHINA: CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS THROUGH EXPORT ART

Herman Herzog Levy Gallery
Curators Dr. Wen-chien Cheng and Jianfei He

SEPTEMBER 5, 2015, TO AUGUST 1, 2016

Artifacts from the ROM's Chinese, European, and Natural History collections, including works on pith, paper, lacquer, and porcelain, placed the globally recognized trademark "Made in China" in a historical context. The exhibition examined the interrelationship between the East and the West during the 18th and 19th centuries.

KIRWIN COLLECTION

Vale Gallery of Minerals
Teck Suite of Galleries: Earth's Treasures
Curator Dr. Kim Tait

OPENED SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

This display features more than 22,000 mineral and ore specimens from around the world amassed over the past 40 years by geologist Douglas Kirwin. It is a veritable geological library, telling the Earth's complete four-billion-year-old story.

This collection was made possible with the generous support of BMO Financial Group, Yamana Gold Inc., Douglas Kirwin, Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust, Hatch, Rock of Ages Gala 2011, the Bogden Family, Scott and Ellen Hand, Francine and Robert Ruggles, Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada, Christopher Wansbrough, AMC Consultants, and Women in Mining Toronto.

DAWN OF LIFE PREVIEW GALLERY

Rotunda, Level 2
Curator Dr. Jean-Bernard Caron

OPENED SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

In anticipation of the new *Dawn of Life* Gallery, which will be home to the Museum's world-renowned collection of Burgess Shale specimens, this display features some of the spectacular pieces introducing how the gallery will be presented and interpreted.

PUNCH & POINT: HISTORICAL EDITORIAL CARTOONS OF J.W. BENGOUGH (1851-1923) AND SAM HUNTER (1858-1939)

Wilson Canadian Heritage Exhibition Room
Sigmund Samuel Gallery of Canada
Curator Dr. Arlene Gehmacher

DECEMBER 5, 2015, TO
SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

Featuring historic editorial cartoons from the ROM's collections, this exhibition offered visitors an opportunity to read editorial cartoons from a young, confederated Canada.

THE FRANKLIN NETWORK OUTREACH PROJECT

Lead Exhibition Patron The W. Garfield
Weston Foundation
Developing Partner Royal Ontario Museum,
Parks Canada
Samuel Hall ☞ *Currelly Gallery*

OPENED MARCH 24, 2014

In partnership with Parks Canada, the Franklin Exploration Outreach Program launched an interactive display that has been displayed in ten museum partners across Canada, connecting visitors across Canada to this exciting Arctic investigation.



Aquamarine
Pashar Valley,
Pakistan
5 x 5 cm



Collections & Research

ROM curatorial research continued to have a global impact on human knowledge and scientific advancement in 2015. ROM curators conducted field research in 27 countries outside Canada, and in five Canadian provinces. ROM research was published in 97 peer-reviewed journals and five books. In addition, ROM research was shared in 39 academic conference papers delivered in 11 countries, and in 19 invited lectures in six countries.

In February, the annual ROM Research Colloquium and Vaughan Lecture welcomed more than 300 visitors who heard 16 unique reports, directly from ROM researchers. This year's Vaughan Lecture, *A Life in the Past Lane: Four Decades Down and a New Dawn to Come*, was delivered by ROM Assistant Curator, David Rudkin.

DAWN OF LIFE PREVIEW GALLERY

This past December, the ROM's new *Dawn of Life Preview Gallery* opened. The preview exhibition animates spectacular fossils slated for the permanent gallery that tell the story of life on Earth — from its earliest simple beginnings to the first dinosaurs. ROM Curator Dr. Jean-Bernard Caron gave a ROM Daytime talk in September highlighting world-renowned Canadian fossil sites and the key role that the ROM plays in revealing the diversity of life on Earth and how it evolved.

The planned gallery will be home to the ROM's world-renowned collection of Burgess Shale specimens, which will play an integral role in how the new gallery will present and explain Earth's earliest life.

PhD candidate Cédric Aria (right) and Arvid Aase (left) at the 508-million-year-old Marble Canyon fossil site, in Kootenay National Park, British Columbia.

“

The Earth's history is written in the rocks of Canada. ROM experts are sharing this incredible story with the world, thanks to the generous support of the Ivey Family and our donors.

*Dr. Mark Engstrom, Senior Curator and Deputy Director
of Collections & Research*

”



COLLECTIONS & RESEARCH

PUBLISHED ACADEMIC PAPERS

In 2015, ROM original research was published in more than 97 academic papers published in renowned journals including these:

AFRICAN ARTS

AMERICAN MINERALOGIST

ANIMAL GENETICS

ARCHIVES OF ASIAN ART

ASIAN HERPETOLOGICAL RESEARCH

BIOCHEMISTRY AND BIOPHYSICS

BMC EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

BULLETIN OF ZOOLOGICAL
NOMENCLATURE

CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST

CANADIAN JOURNAL OF
EARTH SCIENCES

CLADISTICS

CURRENT BIOLOGY

EVOLUTION

FRESHWATER FISHERIES ECOLOGY

HYDROBIOLOGIA

ICARUS, MOLECULAR ECOLOGY

JOURNAL OF ANATOMY

JOURNAL OF EVOLUTIONARY
BIOLOGY

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
MUSEUM SCIENCE SERIES

MOLECULAR PHYLOGENETICS
AND EVOLUTION

MUSEUM WORLDS

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL
SOCIETY B

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

SCIENCE BULLETIN

THE QUARTERLY REVIEW
OF BIOLOGY

ZOOKEYS



THE BLUE WHALE

The 2014 recovery of two blue whale skeletons and tissue in Newfoundland made international headlines, and Dr. Mark Engstrom, Dr. Burton Lim, and Jacqueline Miller were at the very forefront of the discovery. In 2015, ROM mammal technician Jacqueline Miller led a team of staff and volunteers in the preparation and packaging of the blue whale heart—destined for the laboratory of Gunther von Hagens in Germany, founder of *Bodyworlds*. The massive, 180-kg heart will be plastinated (a first for a blue whale heart) and prepared for a future exhibition.

This project is generously supported by the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust, Nita and Donald Reed and Jean M. Read.



THE HORNED WENDICERATOPS

The announcement of *Wendiceratops pinhomensis*—a new species of horned dinosaur had a significant impact in 2015, with coverage in more than 35 online and print publications around the world. Research by Dr. David Evans, James & Louise Temerty Endowed Chair, Vertebrate Palaeontology, is helping scientists understand the early evolution of skull ornamentation in an iconic group of dinosaurs characterized by their horned faces. Dr. Evans' research has been recognized internationally, the discovery listed in *Discover* magazine's Top 100 Science Stories of 2015.

Wendiceratops is one of the oldest members of the horned dinosaur family *Ceratopsidae*, which includes the famous *Triceratops*. *Wendiceratops* lived during the Late Cretaceous Period, 79 million years ago, in what is now the Milk River badlands of southern Alberta.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

More than \$2,564,097 was generously granted by the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust and The Mona Campbell Endowment Fund to make acquisitions (supporting collections research) in both Natural History and World Cultures collections. Fossils, gems, textiles, ceramics, photographs, paintings, and contemporary installation works were acquired from regions in North and South Americas, Continental Europe, Africa, Asia, and Southeast Asia.



ISIS THREAT TO CULTURAL HERITAGE

The ROM joined other leading museums and culture heritage organizations, including UNESCO, in condemning the destruction of archaeological sites in northern Iraq by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). In April, Associate Curator of the Ancient Near East Dr. Clemens Reichel, Managing Director, Culture Centres, Sascha Priewe and journalist Patrick Graham presented the ROM Speaks event "Cultural Genocide in Iraq and Syria" to discuss the destruction and looting of cultural heritage in the region. The event was followed by an emotional candlelight vigil, co-organized with Saving Antiquities for Everyone (SAFE), which was broadcast live on CBC. During 2015 Reichel conducted numerous interviews with media including CBC, CNN, CTV, and *The Globe and Mail* regarding the threat to cultural heritage in Iraq and Syria.



QUILCAPAMPA, PERU

In July and August, Dr. Justin Jennings, Curator New World Archeology led archaeological excavations at Quilcapampa, a site in southern Peru. The project's objective was to understand rising social inequality and the pervasive stylistic influence of the Wari State (circa AD 1000). The work was funded by grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the National Geographic Society, the University of Toronto, and the ROM.

Media coverage of his previous excavations included several dozen national and international websites, including MSNBC, Fox News, and Yahoo. Particular attention was paid to the huge number of mummified bodies recovered from the tombs. "Entangled Objects and Disarticulated Bodies: Managing Social Upheaval in Middle Horizon Peru," Jennings' research paper, written with Willy Yépez Álvarez, was published this year.



NEW TORTOISE SPECIES

Dr. Bob Murphy, Senior Curator of Herpetology and colleagues published a paper announcing the discovery of a new species of desert tortoise in northern Mexico. After decades of study, the team discovered that what was previously thought to be a single species of tortoise is actually three species.

The new species bears the name Goode's Thornscrub Tortoise (*Gopherus evgoodei*). The previously known tortoises in this group, Agassiz's Desert Tortoise and Morafka's Desert Tortoise, live in the Mojave Desert and Sonoran Desert respectively.

The official inventory of these turtles and tortoises is only 342 species. Additionally, the population of Morafka's Desert Tortoise has diminished over the years, leaving Goode's Thornscrub Tortoise with the smallest distribution among desert tortoises.

Currently the species is not listed as endangered; this allows for assessment of its status to take place. This research redefined the global tortoise inventory and helped Mexico understand its natural history.



ROM RESEARCH GRANT SOURCES

In 2015, ROM internal peer-review grants supported seven research proposals and 17 acquisition proposals. More than \$90,000 was granted to conduct field research projects in countries included Peru, Cuba, Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, the United States, and Canada, in areas of palaeontology, botany, biodiversity, invertebrate palaeontology, and anthropology.

RESEARCH AROUND THE GLOBE

This map shows the specific locations where ROM's research projects were undertaken in 2015–2016. In total, the Museum's curatorial teams conducted research in 27 countries outside Canada as well as in five Canadian provinces over the last year.



MARK PECK

ORNITHOLOGY
TECHNICIAN

Brazil

Mark Peck joined colleagues from US Fish and Wildlife for a research trip to Brazil in January and February 2016, to survey wintering Arctic breeding shorebird species. Unfortunately, the catamaran they chartered sank on the first day out, five miles from the coast. Some of the equipment was salvaged and they were able to cobble together enough of the equipment to continue with the research objectives they surveyed several areas using smaller fishing boats. The last week of the trip was spent trapping shorebirds and taking blood samples for the collection. Nineteen of the Ruddy Turnstones they re-trapped were fitted with geo-locators to provide data on migration routes and breeding site. They collected over 230 shorebird blood samples to add to the ROM Ornithology permanent collections.



DR. CHEN SHEN

SENIOR CURATOR
& BISHOP WHITE CHAIR
OF EAST ASIAN
ARCHAEOLOGY

China

Dr. Shen's fieldwork focuses on human evolution in East Asia, as part of the ongoing ROM-China archaeological project. Although Dr. Shen had limited time to participate in the field excavation due to his interim administrative duties as Deputy Director, Collections and Research, his teams were at work at the Zhoukoudian site where the Peking Man fossil remains were discovered in the 1920s. Dr. Shen published paper summarizing the research, entitled, "Zhoukoudian in Transition: Research History, Lithic Technologies, and Transformation of Chinese Paleolithic Archaeology". Dr. Shen also presented papers in China on the relationship between prehistoric human behaviours and climatic changes.



DR. JEAN-BERNARD CARON

CURATOR, INVERTEBRATE
PALAEOLOGY

Alberta

Dr. Caron and his team published nine scientific papers in 2015 related to 505-million-year-old fossils from various Burgess Shale deposits, including, from newly discovered fossils from Marble Canyon (Kootenay National Park, British Columbia). One paper published in the prestigious journal *Nature*, on the iconic worm-like animal *Hallucigenia sparsa*, attracted worldwide media attention, including an article in *The New York Times*.



DR. DAVID EVANS

JAMES & LOUISE TEMERTY
CHAIR OF VERTEBRATE
PALAEOLOGY

Alberta

Dr. David Evans conducted fieldwork in western Canada and the US over an eight-week period in the summer of 2015. It was Evans' best field season to date, he found four dinosaur skeletons, including a *Tyrannosaurus* skull and two new species of hadrosaur.



ROM CURATORS

ARNI BROWNSTONE
Assistant Curator, Ethnology

MARY BURRIDGE
Assistant Curator, Ichthyology

JEAN-BERNARD CARON
*Senior Curator,
Invertebrate Paleontology*

WEN-CHIEN CHENG
*Louise Hawley Stone
Chair of East Asian Art*

CRAIG CIPOLLA
*Associate Curator,
North American Archaeology*

DOUG CURRIE
*VP, Natural History
Senior Curator, Entomology*

CHRIS DARLING
Senior Curator, Entomology

PAUL DENIS
*Associate Curator,
Greek & Roman*

DEEPALI DEWAN
*Senior Curator, South
Asian Arts & Culture in the
Department of World Cultures*

MARK ENGSTROM
*Deputy Director,
Collections & Research
Senior Curator, Mammalogy*

DAVID EVANS
*Deputy Head, Natural History
Curator and James and
Louise Temerty Endowed Chair
of Vertebrate Palaeontology*

SARAH FEE
Curator, Textiles & Fashion

SILVIA FORNI
Curator, African Art & Culture

ARLENE GEHMACHER
*Curator, Canadian Prints
& Drawings*

KRZYS GRZYMSKI
Senior Curator, Egypt & Nubia

ERLING HOLM
Assistant Curator, Ichthyology

JUSTIN JENNINGS
Curator, New World Archaeology

SEBASTIAN KVIST
*Associate Curator,
Invertebrate Zoology*

ANU LIIVANDI
*Assistant Curator,
Textiles & Fashion*

BURTON LIM
Assistant Curator, Mammalogy

KEN LISTER
Assistant Curator, Ethnology

ROBERT LITTLE
*Mona Campbell Chair of
Decorative Arts*

HERNÁN LÓPEZ-
FERNÁNDEZ
Curator, Ichthyology

DEBORAH METSGER
Assistant Curator, Botany

JEAN-MARC MONCALVO
Senior Curator, Mycology

BOB MURPHY
Senior Curator, Herpetology

ALEXANDRA PALMER
*Nora E. Vaughan Senior
Curator, Textiles & Costume*

CLEMENS REICHEL
*Associate Curator Ancient Near
Eastern Archaeology*

DAVID RUDKIN
*Assistant Curator,
Invertebrate Palaeontology*

KEVIN SEYMOUR
*Assistant Curator,
Vertebrate Palaeontology*

CHEN SHEN
*VP, World Cultures
Senior Curator, Bishop White
Chair of East Asian Archaeology*

KIM TAIT
*Curator and Teck Chair
in Mineralogy*

LINDA TSUJI
*Contract Assistant Curator,
Invertebrate Palaeo-Biology*



DR. BURTON LIM

ASSISTANT CURATOR
OF MAMMALOGY

*Brownsberg
Natural Park,
Suriname*

Bat research fieldwork in
Suriname, South America.



DR. SILVIA FORNI

CURATOR OF AFRICAN
ARTS AND CULTURE

Los Angeles

Worked with Doran Ross
to outline the exhibition and
publication of *Asafo Flags*.



DR. CHRIS DARLING

SENIOR CURATOR
OF ENTOMOLOGY

Sarawak, Borneo

Inventory of parasitic wasps
and a survey of the cicadas of
Gunung Mulu National Park.



DR. DEEPALI DEWAN

SENIOR CURATOR
OF SOUTH ASIAN ARTS
& CULTURE, DEPARTMENT
OF WORLD CULTURES

London, U.K.

Furthering her study in
South Asian photography.

SHARING COLLECTIONS

The ROM's extensive collections of natural history specimens and cultural artifacts are often loaned to other institutions around the world for research and exhibition purposes. In 2015–2016 the ROM loaned 384 items, both natural history specimens and culture artifacts, to institutions in 12 countries. Some of these loans went as far as China and Australia, and approximately half were loaned for research or display within Canada. The map below shows the locations where items were loaned last year.



1
**DRESS 1867, CREAM SILK
WITH GREEN INSPIRED BY
CHARLES F. WORTH**
HOUSTON, TEXAS



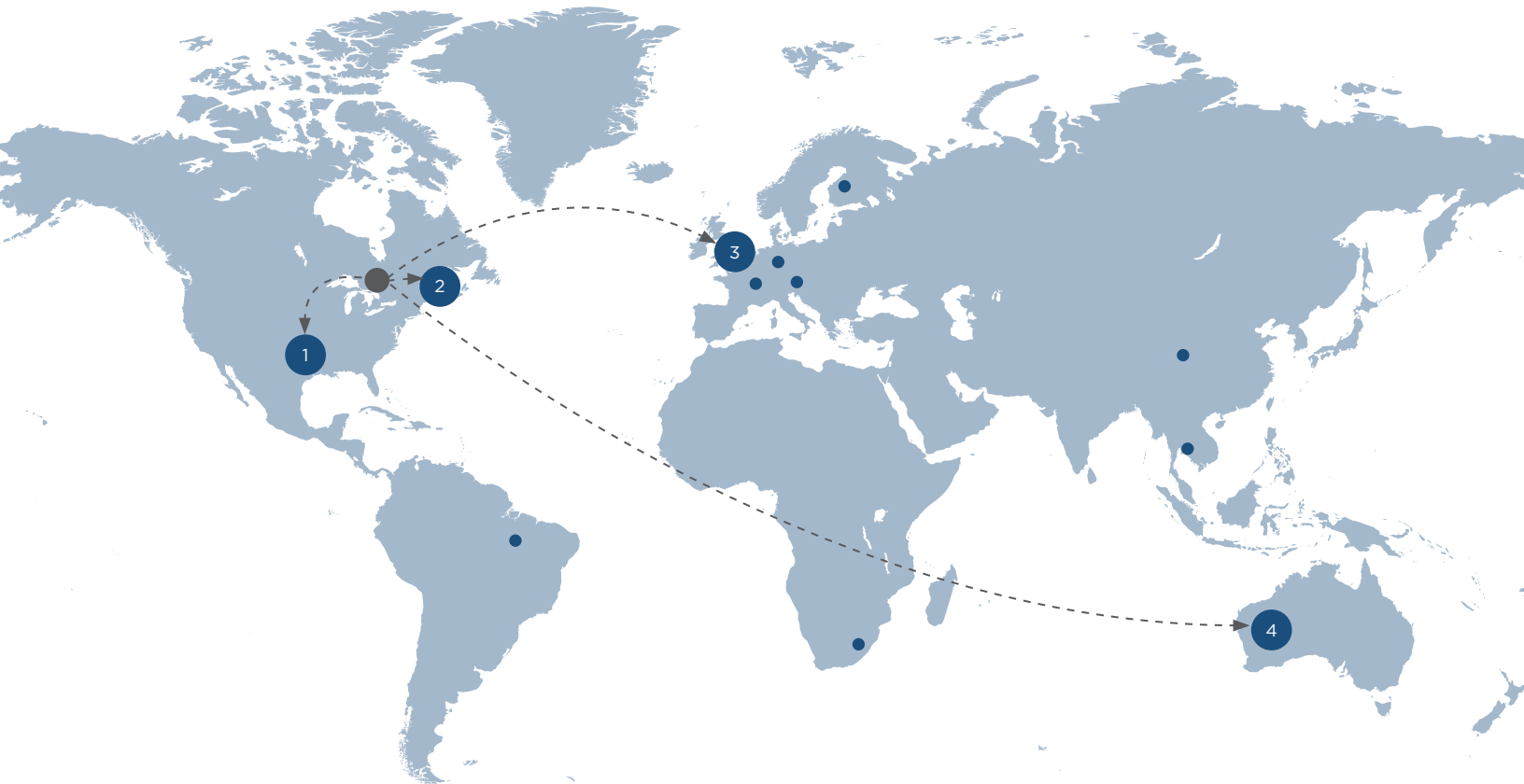
2
5 ROMAN COINS
MONTREAL, QUEBEC



3
**53 BURGESS SHALE
SPECIMENS**
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE,
ENGLAND



4
FIVE METEORITE SAMPLES
CURTIN UNIVERSITY,
PERTH, AUSTRALIA



CREATING A 21ST CENTURY MUSEUM

ENHANCING THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE WITH DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

The Royal Ontario Museum's vision is to be counted among the world's top tier of museums and inspire our visitors to experience its wonders. This includes opening the institution's doors even wider and strengthening all aspects of the visitor experience in person and online.

As the ROM considers what it means to be a 21st century museum, we are exploring innovative ways to infuse technology into all facets of the Museum. In 2016, digital technologies offer exciting opportunities for the ROM to spark wonder and discovery. This may include creating more digitally enhanced gallery activations and sharing photos and videos of your ROM experience on social media. It may mean bringing dinosaurs to life with augmented reality and joining students of all ages in the ROM's new Makerspace to imagine and design your own objects based on the ROM's collections. Each of these experiences deepens the connection our visitors have with the Museum and creates richer and more robust opportunities to explore our world. They also encourage visitors to curate their own experiences and customize their ROM visit to focus on the objects and areas that most engage and excite them. The once static experience of viewing an object in a gallery is now transformed into a launching pad for deeper learning and connecting to ideas and perspectives enhancing how one learns about our collections.

The ROM's holdings represent a wellspring of knowledge, however, only a small portion of our six million objects of art and culture and natural history specimens are on display. To further realize our collections' potential, the ROM is digitizing our most iconic objects so they can be accessed by a wider audience.

The Museum has a strong foundation on which to build with more than 3.2 million online visitors last year. The ROM made more than one billion digital impressions last year, with our online community growing to over 410,000 members across our social networks—all inspired by our research, collections, and exhibitions. In the coming year, we will continue to build on our digital strengths to take the ROM to its next level as a globally renowned innovator and thought leader.



The ROM's digitization project is made possible by the generosity of our donors. Special thanks to Nancy and Jon Love, the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust and Glenna and George Fierheller for their generous support this past year.

New Acquisitions

These recent additions to ROM collections were made possible by the generous support of the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust and the Mona Campbell Endowment Fund.



¹ BARCELONA CHAIRS

In 2015, the ROM acquired two Barcelona Chairs, both created in the late 1920s. They show two different aspects of the shift toward Modernism in European furniture design at that time, with examples of both featured at the International Exhibition held in Barcelona in 1929.

The chairs were designed by two of the most influential European designer-architects of the century. The mahogany and leather red chair was designed for the Danish pavilion at Barcelona by Danish architect Kaare Klint, often described as the father of Danish modern furniture design. The design won a Grand Prize at Barcelona that year. The other is by German architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. Versions of it were shown in the pavilion that Mies designed for the German government at Barcelona.

This acquisition was made possible by the generous support of the Mona Campbell Endowment Fund. The chairs are destined for the new Gallery of Modern Design.



1

2 MARTIAN METEORITES

The ROM is now home to one of the most important planetary science collections in the world, with the addition of three new Martian meteorites, bringing the total to 22. The ROM's collection accounts for a quarter of all known meteorites from Mars.

One of the samples became a social media sensation while on display, thanks to the efforts of Commander Chris Hadfield and actor

Matt Damon at the premiere of *The Martian* at the Toronto International Film Festival. As well, visitors to the Planet ROM-themed ROM for the Holidays event were able to touch a piece of Mars—a rare experience and a first for our meteorite collection.

3 THE GRAND PELIKE

A rare Gnathian ware vessel was acquired to complement the Museum's collection of 32 Gnathia ceramics. It stands out from the others in the collection because of its size: at 63.5 cm tall, it is significantly taller than the next tallest, which measures 22 cm. This is one of the largest pelikes that Paul Denis, Assistant Curator of Greek and Roman Collections, has seen. The skilful construction and intricate decoration of this vessel make it a particularly remarkable feather in our cap.

In approximately 300 BC, the main centre for the production of Gnathian ware pottery was likely Taranto, Apulia, in southern Italy.

This acquisition was made possible by the generous support of the Mona Campbell Endowment Fund. The vase is on display in the Gallery of Greece.

4 GREEK COIN

In April, the ROM acquired a silver Greek coin known as a decadrachm, signed by the die engraver Kimon, whose coins are some of the most attractive ever minted in the history of numismatic art.

The ROM's collection of some 1,800 Greek coins in gold, silver, and bronze is the largest and most important public collection in Canada, and one of the top five in North America.

The last quarter of the 5th century BC marked the time when the Greek city-state of Syracuse was attempting to become the leading power in Sicily under Dionysius I. This high-value decadrachm was issued to provide financial support for the mercenary troops, ships, and supplies needed by Dionysius to wage war. The coin's artistry and large size were bold symbols of the glory of Syracuse, a message that would be broadcasted to allies and enemies alike.

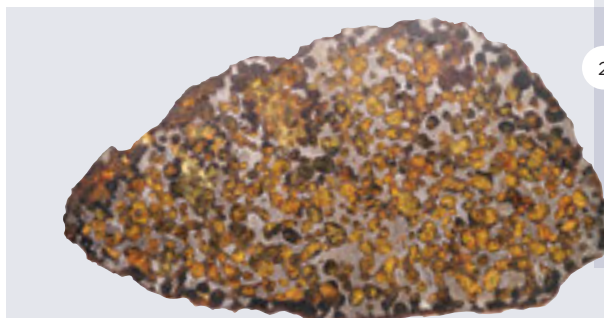
This acquisition was made possible by the generous support of the Mona Campbell Endowment Fund. This coin is on display in the Gallery of Greece.

5 TUAREG SHIELD

Made of the skin of an oryx, a gazelle-like animal, and decorated with leather and metal inserts, this Tuareg shield is a rare find, an iconic element of Tuareg warrior attire. The Berber-speaking Tuareg people inhabit an area in North and West Africa that includes Algeria, Libya, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria. Highly diverse in historical origin, social stratification, and political organization, the Tuareg have nevertheless maintained a coherent culture that extends beyond national boundaries. They are widely known for the refined aesthetics and craftsmanship expressed in all aspects of their cultural and social lives.

Ethnography shows that by the early 20th century, Tuareg men had given up using the shield as part of fighting weaponry, while still donning it on important social and ceremonial occasions as a component of their visual identity.

After acquiring the Seligman Collection last year, the ROM now has one of the most extensive Tuareg collections in North America. The Tuareg material is important to the presentation of African cultural diversity and the continental scope of the ROM's approach to Africa.



Programs & Events

The ROM is a dynamic place full of events and programs, that offers a wide range of opportunities designed to inspire. They include special cultural programs, social events like Friday Night Live, presented by Ford of Canada, lectures, and gaming weekends, as well as programming designed for children and families.

Photo: Tommy Nguyen.





FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

Presented by Ford of Canada

Supporting Sponsor Peroni Nastro Azzurro

Media Sponsor NOW

The spring and fall series of Friday Night Live, presented by Ford of Canada, were incredibly successful, with 18 weeks of what is now known as Toronto's favourite party. These adults-only events offered up the City's best DJs, live performances, lots to eat and drink, and a chance to experience the Museum and its exhibitions like never before. This year's unique entertainment and cultural experiences included themed nights inspired by the *iViva México! Clothing and Culture* exhibition, the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival, the *Pompeii: In the Shadow of the Volcano* exhibition, the PanAm Games, and more. New this year, ROM galleries were activated with wearable technology demonstrations, digital photo booths, and tales from the ROM's vaults, and a new #FNLROM Member Concierge offered exclusive Member services and insider access.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The ROM celebrated Black History Month with a calendar of events to recognize Africa's rich heritage and histories. Highlights included the exhibition *Worn: Shaping Black Feminine Identity*, an installation by Vancouver-based artist Karin Jones; Friday Night Live, presented by Ford of Canada, which centred on Carnival and an exploration of cuisine from South America and the Caribbean; a ROM Speaks event on the use of photography for social change; and an afternoon conversation with Grammy-winning New York DJ Kid Capri.

GAME JAM

This weekend-long gaming event started in 2013 and continues to gain popularity. Game Jam has evolved into a comprehensive event that now comprises four key parts:

- Game Jam Weekend Events
- Game Jam School Visits
- Game Jam Arcade (part of ROM Public Programs)
- Commercialization of games

ROM Game Jam is an example of a multi-platform experience that attracts younger audiences, stimulates creativity, and creates a sense of renewal and liveliness in our galleries.

Over an intense 72-hour period in October, ROM Earth & Space hosted Space Rocks, said to be the best Game Jam ever by veteran Ontario game developers. A number of high-quality games resulted, featured throughout the year at ROM school visits, Friday Night Live events, and ROM for the Holidays.

Clash of the Talons, developed during the 2014 Game Jam and created by Last Hour Games, can now be purchased on the company's website, lasthourgames.com.

The ROM would like to thank Barrick Gold Corporation for its support of the 2015 ROM Game Jam.

BIG WEEKENDS

Our popular Big Weekends lived up to their name, with nine amazing events from May to February.

May 23–24 | **Global Family**
June 13–14 | **Pompeii and the Volcano**
July 18–19 | **Ready, Set, Go!**
August 15–16 | **FrancoFUN**
September 19–20 | **Wild Science**
October 17–18 | **Digging the ROM: Amazing Archaeology**
November 21–22 | **Burning Bright: Light and Tradition**
January 16–17 | **Dinos Rule the ROM**
February 13–15 | **Lunar New Year**

ROM SPEAKS

An ongoing lecture series that continues to be both unique and provocative, with participants engaging in lively and thought-provoking discussions on a variety of topics. Talks this year centred on these subjects:

- *Cultural Genocide in Iraq and Syria*
- *¡Viva México!*
- *Space Rock Man*
- *Generations: History Through Family Photography*
- *The Carbon Bubble*
- *Pompeii in the 21st Century*
- *Memories & the Museum: Sacred Objects in Secular Spaces*
- *Kitchen Conversations: Neopolitan Gastronomy*
- *Annual Darwin Day Lecture*

EVA HOLTBY LECTURE

H.E. Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi, President of the Sharjah Art Foundation and Director of Sharjah Biennial, presented the 10th annual Eva Holtby Lecture on Contemporary Culture, speaking about art and culture in the Gulf region in November. The presentation was followed

by a conversation with *Toronto Star* arts journalist Murray Whyte. Approximately 300 guests attended the lecture and it was streamed to 140 viewers across Canada, the US, and UAE. Extensive media coverage resulted, including pieces in *The Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Star*, *Elle Canada*, *The Strand*, *Blog TO*, and *Chatham Daily News*. ROM social media generated 4.242 million impressions.

The Eva Holtby Lecture is generously supported by the Holtby and Schury families.

BIOBLITZ

Since 2012, the ROM has been leading a large-scale citizen science initiative—the Ontario BioBlitz Program, which documents all wildlife in a specific location. This year, over the course of two days, scientists and non-scientists worked together on the Don Watershed BioBlitz and the event was a incredible success. Of the 1,142 species documented, 10 are registered as federally listed Species at Risk.

ROM RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

This year's ROM Research Colloquium was a thought-provoking one-day event highlighting the ROM's ongoing research and recent discoveries presented as 15-minute lectures delivered by ROM curatorial staff. The day closed with this year's Vaughan Lecture, which brought palaeontology closer to home with a focus on Canada's record of ancient life.

Clockwise from left

Performer singing during Friday Night Live's One Love night.

Volunteers participating in the Don Watershed BioBlitz.

Artist painting during the ROM's March Break Camp 2016.

H.E. Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi speaking at the Eva Holtby Lecture.

Student providing feedback on games during Game Jam.



Photo, top left: Tommy Nguyen. Photo, top right: Cassidy McAuliffe.



Visitors, Members, Patrons & Volunteers

This year, the ROM welcomed 1.1 million visitors through its doors! Our visitors enjoyed a huge variety of exhibitions, programming and events. And our inspired volunteers help make us one of the world's leading museums.

MEMBERSHIP

More than 100,000 Members support the Museum, enjoying exclusive benefits, and unlimited access to the galleries, exhibitions, and previews, along with discounts on programs and lectures.

VOLUNTEERS

Community support and people-power are truly what make the ROM tick. We greatly appreciate the support of a very dedicated and reliable group of 1,322 volunteers who together contribute approximately 200,000 hours of their time every year. Our Department of Museum Volunteers (DMV) supports programming in a multitude of ways, including providing docents to conduct all public and most paid group tours of galleries and special exhibitions. Other DMV groups actively represent the ROM and its collections internally and externally through Gallery Interpreter and Outreach programs. The DMV also organizes engaging trips and tours such as the ROMtravel, ROMbus, and ROMwalk programs. The ROM is grateful for the continued support of these passionate volunteers.

SUPPORTERS

Thanks to your generosity, the ROM Governors raised over \$12.4 million and granted more than \$10.6 million to the Museum for exciting exhibitions, research, and programs. Donors to our Patron programs collectively contributed \$1.8 million to the ROM—your most generous year to date. Thank you for your generous support of the ROM!

Young Patrons Circle and Royal Patrons Circle Members enjoy exclusive access to curators, behind-the-scenes content, special events, and opening party previews with the highest level of membership offered at the ROM.

Photo: Roger Yip.



When I first attended the ROM tour for people with dementia, I was blown away by the sensitivity and compassion of the docents. The ROM tour is one of our most popular programs and is sold out months in advance.

*Ekta Hattagandy
Social Worker, Alzheimer Society of Toronto (a ROMCAN partner)*

“EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED. CLICHÉD? ABSOLUTELY, BUT IT IS TRUE. I’VE BEEN SURPRISED BY GLIMPSES BEHIND THE CURTAIN, DELIGHTED BY FASCINATING CONVERSATIONS WITH CURATORS AND BUILT INCREDIBLE FRIENDSHIPS WITH FELLOW MEMBERS. YPC IS ALL OF THIS AND MORE. BY SUPPORTING THE MUSEUM FINANCIALLY, I AM ALSO BUILDING A LASTING LEGACY AT THE ROM. WHAT MORE CAN I WANT?”

Aaron Cheung (YPC Member)

“EACH COLLECTION CAN STAND ON ITS OWN MERITS. ADD THEM UP AND THE SUM OF THE PARTS IS MORE THAN THE WHOLE. IT MAKES FOR AN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD MUSEUM.

Lapster2011 (ROM visitor), via TripAdvisor (5 stars)



“OVER 30 YEARS AGO, I STEPPED INTO THE ROM AS A UNIVERSITY STUDENT WHO HAILED FROM A SMALL TOWN WITHOUT A LIBRARY OR A BOOKSTORE. THIS PLACE FILLED ME WITH AWE AND REVERENCE. AS A VOLUNTEER, I GET TO SHARE THAT DELIGHT AND EXCITEMENT WITH VISITORS FROM ACROSS CANADA AND AROUND THE GLOBE. LIFE IS FULL OF WONDER!

Catherine Maclean (ROM volunteer)



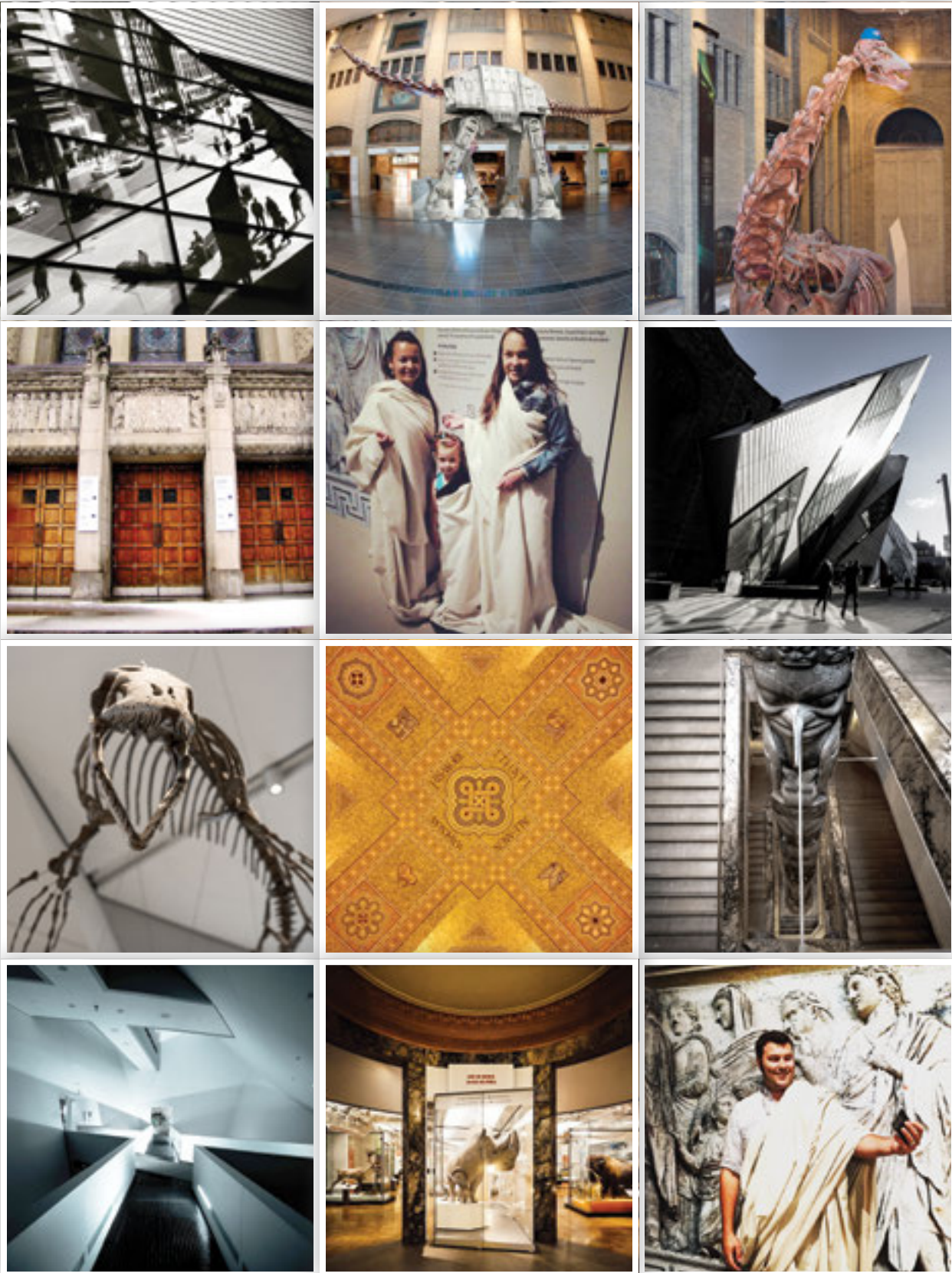
“I came to the ROM as a child and my experiences instilled in me a sense of wonder. To see that on the faces of the kids today makes my day.”

*Jamie Irving, Hands-on Biodiversity Gallery
(ROM volunteer)*

After almost 30 years as a ROM volunteer, I remain as enchanted and engaged as ever! The ROM continues to offer life-long learning and wonderful opportunities to share knowledge with the ROM’s visitors.

Gary Cassidy, Department of Museum Volunteers

Some of the compelling Instagram postings from visitors and the ROM social media team.



Digital Media & Publications

The ROM's multi-platform approach to connecting with its international audience means we're sharing the ROM experience with more people than ever before

ROM DIGITAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Sharing experiences in real time is increasingly becoming part of the museum-going adventure worldwide. The ROM is a leader in this respect, creating many digital experiences that build new connections with visitors.

The ROM's website received more than eight million visits last year, an increase of 25 per cent from the previous year. The Museum now has a community of close to 160,000 Twitter followers, 68,000 Likes on Facebook, and almost 16,000 Instagram followers. Other social media highlights included our #EmptyROM tours and #MuseumWeek.

The efforts of the digital team resulted in hundreds of interactions each day, continuing to build strong relationships with our communities. Over the year, this totalled more than nine million webpage views, 50,000 visitor photos shared with us, 72,400 visitor interactions on Twitter, and 50,000 visitor interactions on Facebook.

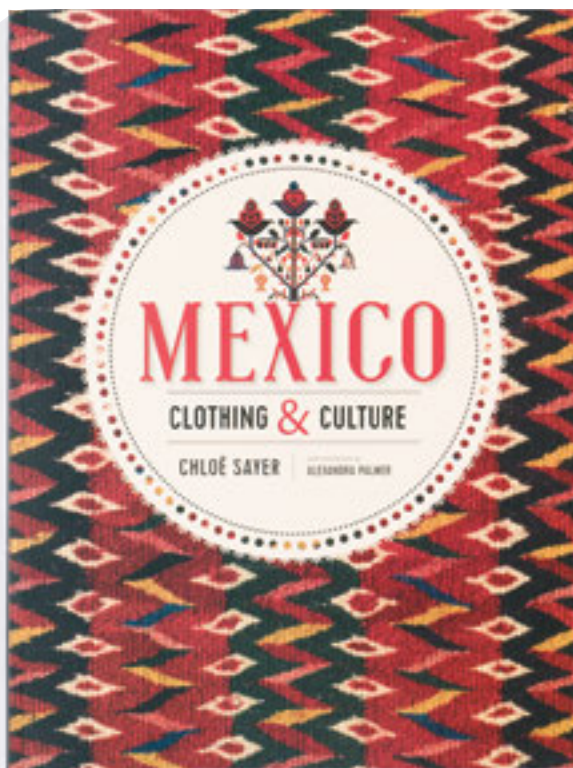
DIGITAL MEDIA & PUBLICATIONS



ROM PRESS AND MAGAZINE

The Museum's renowned ROM Press is generously supported by the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust. ROM Press shares and expands the reach of the Museum's important work, with both scientific and general-interest books, catalogues, and academic journals.

ROM magazine is published four times a year and distributed to Museum members, and is an essential resource to the Museum.



POMPEII: IN THE SHADOW OF THE VOLCANO

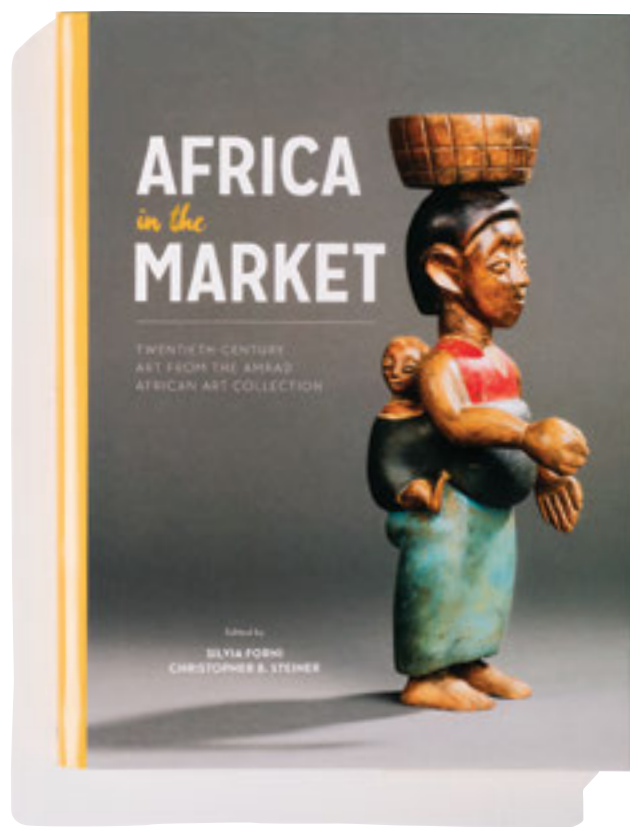
BY PAUL DENIS AND KATE COOPER

The city of Pompeii and the story of its fate are explored through six distinct sections that examine the chronology of the disaster, from bustling city life to the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, as well as its devastating toll and aftermath. This exhibition guide focuses on the people living in the city, revealing the fragility of life in the face of natural disaster.

MEXICO: CULTURE AND CLOTHING

BY CHLOË SAYER, WITH A FOREWORD BY ALEXANDRA PALMER

This exhibition catalogue covers the evolution of male and female clothing within the cultural context of various Mexican communities, showing how garment styles and design motifs of *rebozos* and *sarapes* reflect the fusion that has taken place over the last 500 years.



AFRICA IN THE MARKET

EDITED BY SILVIA FORNI AND CHRISTOPHER STEINER

This book showcases the Amrad African Art collection at the ROM. The collection contains a range of mostly 20th-century pieces produced or collected at a time of great expansion of the market for African art. The book addresses market trends, the transformation of tastes in relation to changing historical conditions, and the role of artisans and traders in mediating knowledge and value in the international art market.



Education

One of the ROM's proudest achievements is the scope of the educational experiences we offer to students, teachers, and families across the Province. The school visits program make the ROM one of the Province's largest co-curricular educators and inspire visiting students to learn about the world around them. This year, the ROM welcomed almost 100,000 students to the Museum from schools across Ontario. Our programs offer guided tours and hands-on labs that are linked to the Ontario curriculum, giving students and their teachers a chance to bring learning to life with time spent investigating specimens and cultural objects first-hand.



ROM SCHOOL VISITS BURSARY PROGRAM

This program gives students from marginalized communities across the province the opportunity to visit the ROM and participate in its creative, hands-on education programs for free. In 2015, the School Visits Bursary Program helped 14,343 students. The program is supported by Ada Slight, the Bennett Family Foundation, Goldman Sachs Canada, Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life, HSBC Bank Canada, Jenkins Foundation, KPMG, Linamar, Proteus, and the Weinberg Family Foundation.

"It was a pleasure to visit the ROM, a great experience for my class, many of whom are newcomers to Canada and could not afford to go otherwise. The tour guide was very accommodating of the ESL students' language level and knowledgeable about the information relating to Canadian geography. Thanks to the Ada Slight School Visits Bursary for allowing this to happen."

OSCAR STAM, TEACHER,
CENTRAL TORONTO ACADEMY

TRAVELLING EDUKITS

The successful ROM EduKits reach students who can't easily get to the Museum, and offer multisensory, object-based learning that covers topics parallel to the Ontario curriculum. These portable cases contain original and reproduced artifacts and specimens, loaned to schools throughout the province. Our Travelling EduKits reached 136,021 people this year at schools, libraries, museums, community centres, and parks—almost double the number from last year.

Generously supported by the Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation and the Slight Family Foundation.

TRAVELLING PLANETARIUM

The inflatable and portable Travelling Planetarium, which projects a night view of the constellations, was loaned to 10 educational venues across Ontario this year, including schools, libraries, community centres, and museums, reaching a total of 3,775 people.

TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS

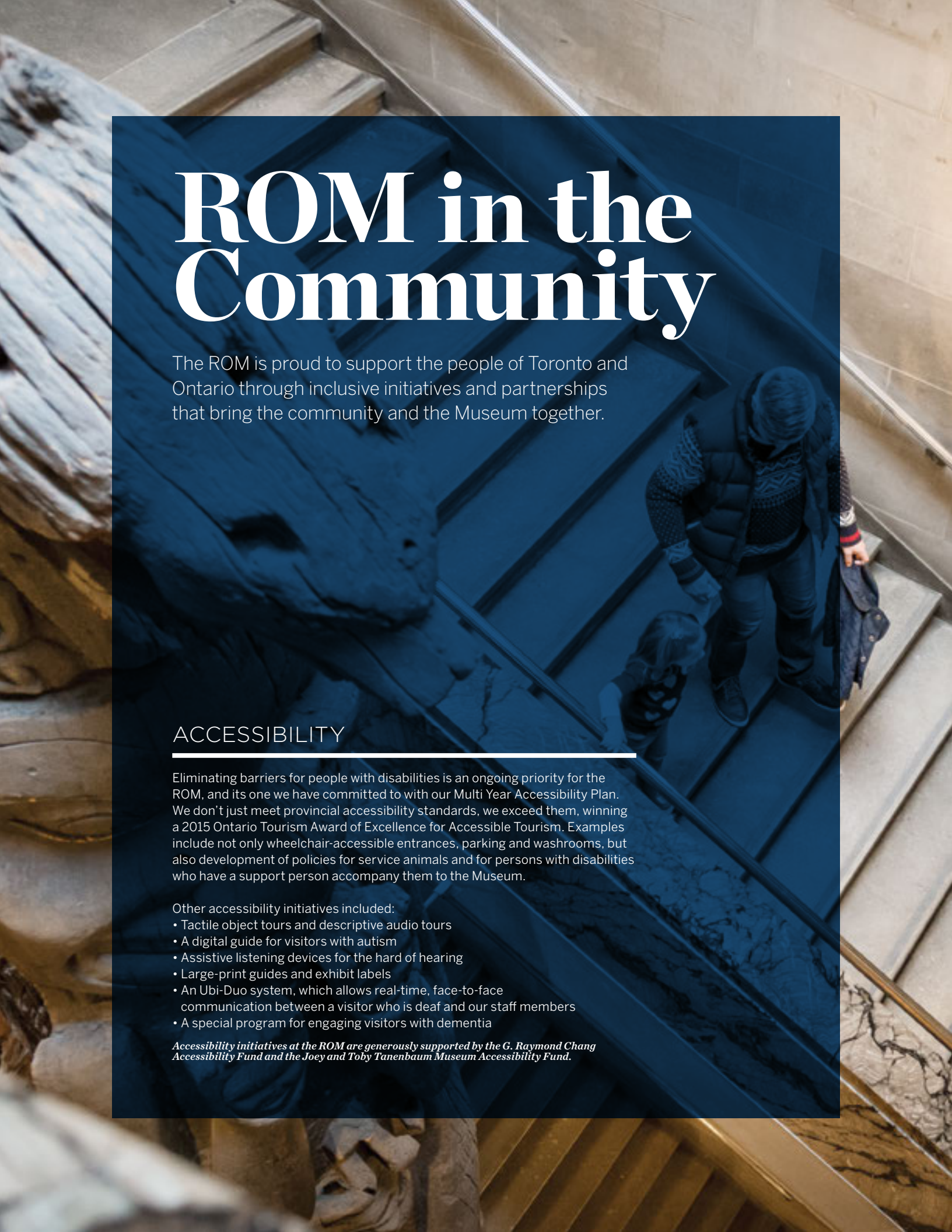
The smaller-scale ROM exhibits that are loaned to museums across Canada allow us to share our collections and research with an even wider audience, one that may not otherwise have the opportunity to visit the Museum in person. These reached 148,890 people this past year in many different venues, including British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec.

HANDS-ON GALLERIES

The Patrick and Barbara Keenan Family Gallery of Hands-on Biodiversity and the CIBC Discovery Gallery are the most visited galleries in the Museum, with a total of 532,177 visitors between them.

These galleries include programming for a wide range of ages, and their success depends on the dedicated staff and volunteers who keep these galleries humming. The mix of play-based activities, and multisensory experiences with objects, specimens, and live animals makes these hands-on visits memorable.





ROM in the Community

The ROM is proud to support the people of Toronto and Ontario through inclusive initiatives and partnerships that bring the community and the Museum together.

ACCESSIBILITY

Eliminating barriers for people with disabilities is an ongoing priority for the ROM, and it's one we have committed to with our Multi Year Accessibility Plan. We don't just meet provincial accessibility standards, we exceed them, winning a 2015 Ontario Tourism Award of Excellence for Accessible Tourism. Examples include not only wheelchair-accessible entrances, parking and washrooms, but also development of policies for service animals and for persons with disabilities who have a support person accompany them to the Museum.

Other accessibility initiatives included:

- Tactile object tours and descriptive audio tours
- A digital guide for visitors with autism
- Assistive listening devices for the hard of hearing
- Large-print guides and exhibit labels
- An Ubi-Duo system, which allows real-time, face-to-face communication between a visitor who is deaf and our staff members
- A special program for engaging visitors with dementia

Accessibility initiatives at the ROM are generously supported by the G. Raymond Chang Accessibility Fund and the Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Museum Accessibility Fund.



ROMCAN

ROMCAN helps eliminate financial, social, and cultural barriers that stand between the community and the Museum. Through our partnerships with 46 non-profit community organizations and agencies in the Greater Toronto Area, the ROM extends its reach to a greater number of people, distributing 75,000 free tickets in 2015-2016.

These ROMCAN initiatives were created in the past year:

- An outreach program for Syrian newcomers
- ROM MagnusCards, two digital card decks for visitors with autism
- Club STEAM, a weekly after-school activity program
- An outreach program focused on Indigenous communities

Club STEAM is generously supported by the Patrick and Barbara Keenan Foundation and The MacMillan Family Foundation.

ROMCAN PARTNERS

THE 519 CHURCH STREET COMMUNITY CENTRE

ACROSS BOUNDARIES

ALBION BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF TORONTO

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BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB WEST SCARBOROUGH

CENTRE FOR ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH

CENTRE FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES ONTARIO

THE CENTRE FOR SPANISH SPEAKING PEOPLE

COMMUNITY MICROSKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

DIXIE BLOOR NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

DOVERCOURT BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

EASTVIEW BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

FAMILY SERVICE TORONTO

GERSTEIN CENTRE

HARRIET TUBMAN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

INNER CITY FAMILY HEALTH TEAM

KAPISANAN PHILIPPINE CENTRE FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

KIDS UP FRONT

NATIVE CANADIAN CENTRE OF TORONTO

NATIVE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES OF TORONTO

NATIVE MEN'S RESIDENCE

NATIVE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE OF TORONTO

NORTH YORK COMMUNITY HOUSE

REGENERATION COMMUNITY SERVICES

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE TORONTO

SICK KIDS HOSPITAL

ST. ALBAN'S BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

THORNCLIFFE NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICE

UNITED WAY BURLINGTON & GREATER HAMILTON

UNITED WAY OF PEEL REGION

UNITED WAY TORONTO

UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT RECREATION CENTRE

VIBE ARTS (ART FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH)

VITA COMMUNITY LIVING SERVICES AND MENS SANA

WARDEN WOODS COMMUNITY CENTRE

WEST NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE (ST. CHRISTOPHER HOUSE)

WOODGREEN COMMUNITY SERVICES

YMCA OF GREATER TORONTO

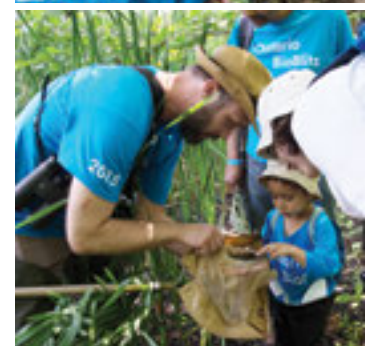
YOUTH TROOPERS FOR GLOBAL AWARENESS

YWCA TORONTO

ONTARIO BIOBLITZ PROGRAM

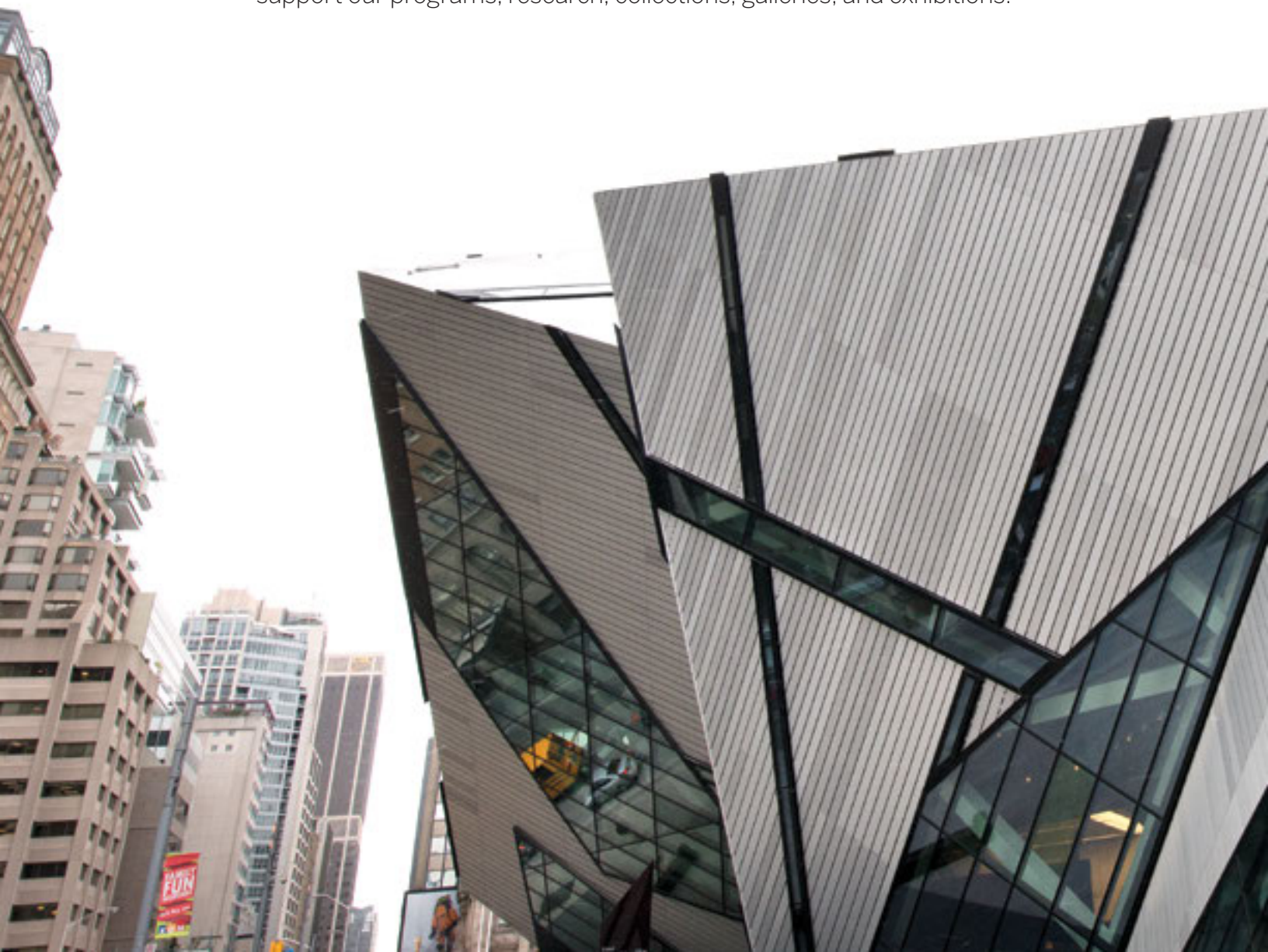
The ROM continues to grow this citizen science project, both in Toronto and throughout Ontario. The flagship event in 2015 was held in June in the Don River Watershed, with base camp at the Ontario Science Centre. More than 700 volunteers registered for the 24-hour event, including 30 ROM staff and students. Volunteers documented more than 1,142 unique species, including several plants and animals listed under the *Endangered Species Act*.

In addition to this flagship event, the program provided support to 20 other BioBlitz events, from Windsor to Ottawa to Orillia.



ROM Governors

Established in 1992, the office of the ROM Governors is responsible for all philanthropic activities in support of the Museum's priorities. It serves and supports the ROM's diverse community, cultivating long-term relationships of value to both the Museum and its many gracious donors. The independent board of the ROM Governors leads the wide range of philanthropic activities that support our programs, research, collections, galleries, and exhibitions.



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Re-named in 2014 after the Honorary Patron of the Royal Ontario Museum, the Lieutenant Governor's Distinguished Service Award is the highest honour the Museum can bestow on a volunteer. This award is reserved for those deserving individuals who have generously provided extraordinary and meritorious service to the ROM.

PAST RECIPIENTS

2015-SALVATORE (SAL) M. BADALI

2015-JENNIFER IVEY BANNOCK

2015-HARRIET WALKER

2013-KENNETH W. HARRIGAN

2013-FLAVIA C. REDELMEIER

2012-JACK COCKWELL

2012-FRANK POTTER

2010-JAMES AND LOUISE TEMERTY

2009-JAMES AND BRENDA
MCCUTCHEON

2008-JACK MCOUAT

2006-PATRICIA HARRIS

2005-JOAN FITZPATRICK

2005-JOAN RANDALL

2005-JOAN THOMPSON

2002-ROM DEPARTMENT
OF MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

2002-ELIZABETH SAMUEL

2001-MONA CAMPBELL

2001-HON. EDWIN A. GOODMAN

2015 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS



**JENNIFER IVEY
BANNOCK**

ROM volunteer and
supporter for more
than 16 years

Involved in some of
the ROM's most
successful fundraisers

ROM Board of
Governors Member



**SALVATORE (SAL)
M. BADALI**

ROM volunteer
and supporter for more
than 30 years

Previous Chairman of the
ROM Board of Trustees

ROM Board of
Governors Member



**HARRIET
WALKER**

ROM volunteer and
supporter for more
than 18 years

Previous Member of
the ROM Governors and
ROM Trustees

Former Chair of the
Royal Patrons Circle
Committee



MAJOR GIFTS

The ROM thanks and acknowledges the generous supporters who have graciously committed \$25,000 or more to the Museum, including gifts to the collections, between April 1, 2015, and March 31, 2016.

LEADERSHIP (\$1,000,000 AND ABOVE)

The Bennett Family Foundation
Richard M. Ivey
Dr. David Gregory
Louise Hawley Stone Charitable
Trust

MILESTONE (\$500,000 –\$999,999)

Nancy and Jon Love
Ada Slaight
The W. Garfield Weston Foundation

MAJOR (\$100,000 –\$499,999)

Government of Canada
The Chisholm Family
Estate of Pamela Dixon
IARTS Textiles of India Fund
Patrick and Barbara Keenan
Foundation
The MacMillan Family Foundation
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McClennan
J.C. Potvin
Andrew and Valerie Pringle
The Toronto Star
Anonymous (2)

SPECIAL (\$25,000 –\$99,999)

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Jennifer Ivey Bannock
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Taylor
Anne Y. Lindsey
Tim and Alexandra MacDonald
Estate of John H. Milnes
Jackalin O'Brien
Mary Jean and Frank Potter
ROM Department of Museum
Volunteers
The Dorothy Strelsin Foundation
Estate of Jane B. Tilden
Anonymous (1)



Guests enjoy a sneak peek at *Pompeii* at a special fundraising dinner.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS' CIRCLE

Launched by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Hon. David C. Onley, O.Ont, on June 4, 2014, the Lieutenant Governors' Circle celebrates the Royal Ontario Museum's tradition of philanthropic support and honours the donors and supporters whose generous cumulative lifetime gifts have had a significant impact on the Museum's growth and success.

(Includes financial contributions and gifts to the collections received since the establishment of the ROM Governors in 1992.)

PLATINUM DONORS

Estate of Mona Campbell
Jack Cockwell and Lynda Hamilton
Thor and Nicole Eaton
Dr. David Gregory
Michael Lee-Chin & Family
Estate of Herman Herzog Levy
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Richard Wernham and Julia West
Red and Brenda Wilson
Alfred G. Wirth
Yamana Gold Inc.
Anonymous (2)





Royal Patrons Circle and Young Patrons Circle Members were the first to see *Pompeii* at an exclusive preview.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS' CIRCLE CONTINUED

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 Estate of May A. Ball in memory of
 Charles Murray Ball
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 Joy Cherry Weinberg
 Anonymous (2)

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Photo: Scott Ramsay.

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Photo: Ryan Walker.

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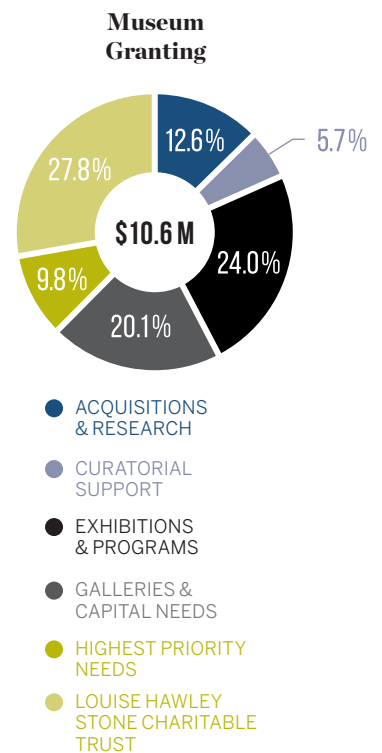
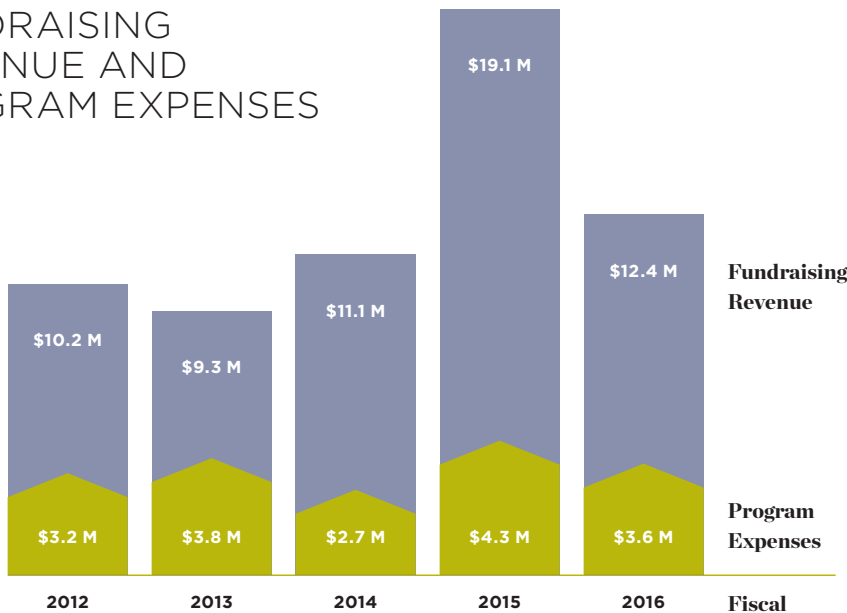
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GROSS FUNDRAISING
REVENUE

+30.0 PER CENT
INCREASE IN DONORS

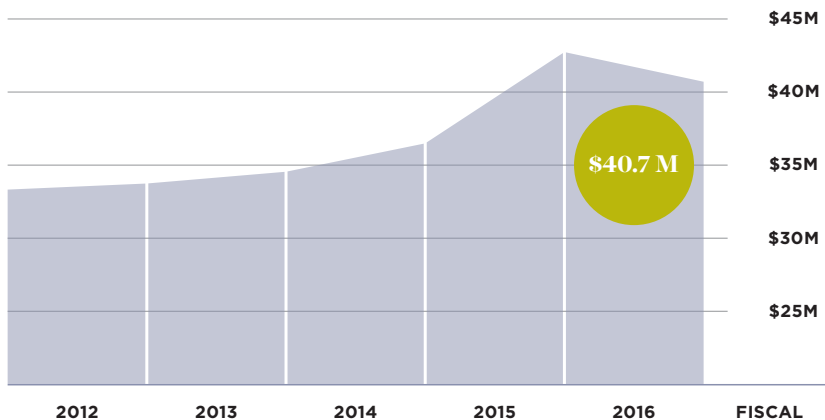
\$40.7 MILLION
ENDOWMENT BALANCE

\$10.6 MILLION
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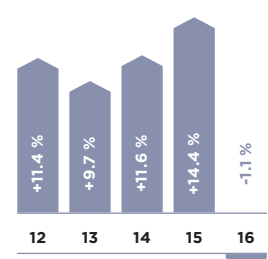


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Investment Returns
+9.4 PER CENT

Five-Year Annualized Return







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