Strathcona County Museum and Archives Functional Planning Process
Promising Practices from Elsewhere

There are many museums and archives that exist across the world. To envision a future Strathcona County Museum and Archives (SCMA), it is important to review examples from elsewhere. This is coupled with local wisdom and experience. This information sheet shares promising practices from elsewhere to understand **trends of Museum and Archives** and **spark potential ideas** moving forward **for a new SCMA**.

About the Promising Practices

- The promising practices were selected based on a **similar population catchment area** as the SCMA of **approximately 1.5 to 3 million** people.
- Examples were mainly drawn from **North America**.
- Information was collected on each institution in the following **categories**:
  - Location
  - Population
  - Vision
  - Mandate/Mission
  - Philosophy
  - Operations
  - Land and Location
  - Transportation and Parking
  - Structural Accessibility
  - Program Accessibility
  - Programs and Services
  - Permanent Displays
  - Outreach Activities
  - Mobile
  - Collection
  - Facility Type
  - Space
  - Allocation of Space
  - Technological Adaptations
  - Operating Environmental Considerations
  - Sustainability
  - Partnerships
  - Governance
  - Board
  - Policies and Planning Documents
  - Staffing
  - Volunteers
  - Funding
  - Budget
  - Visitor Base and Member Numbers
  - Other Amenities
  - Marketing

Aurora Museum and Archives
Aurora, ON

The Aurora Cultural Centre/Aurora Museum and Archives building is **adjacent to the Aurora Public Library**. The **Town Park** area contains **park space, a baseball field, an ice rink the Aurora Farmers Market, and the Aurora Armory**. The area is currently being **redeveloped as a cultural precinct**.

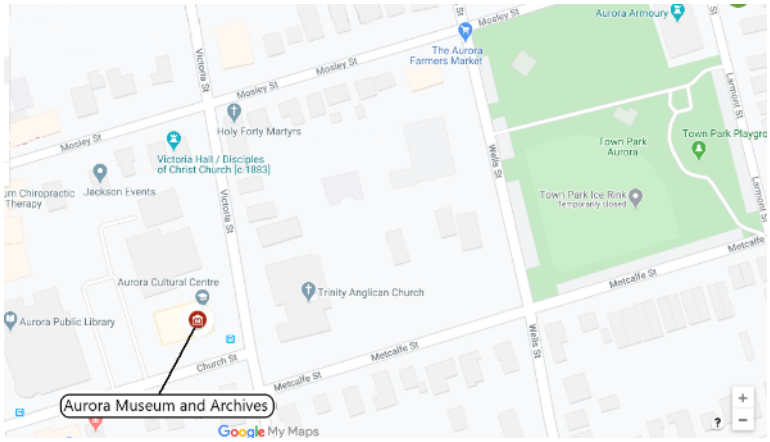
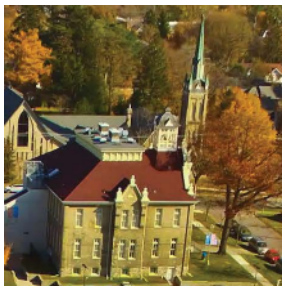


Figure 1. Aurora Museum and Archives Area Map



Figures 2 and 3. Aurora Museum and Archives and "On This Spot: Aurora" App

Distinguishing Features

- **On This Spot:** Aurora is a downloadable smartphone app that displays historical photos so that they can be compared from the same perspective while on a walking tour of Aurora.
- The museum hosts an **online exhibition** (Town Park: A Community Storybook).

Facility

- The **Museum and Archives** is housed in the **Aurora Room** on the second floor of the historic Church Street School. This building also includes the Aurora Cultural Centre.
- Prior to opening in its **new location in June 2015**, the **space was retrofitted with new display cases, modular walls and lighting**.
- The **Cultural Centre building is scheduled to be expanded** as part of the Aurora Cultural Precinct plan. This will add **gallery, studio and showroom space.**

Collection

- The Aurora Historical Society developed a **collection of over 16,000 objects** now known as the Aurora Collection.
- The collection includes **artifacts, photographs, textiles, books** and **documents from 500 BCE to present day**.

Galt Museum and Archives
City of Lethbridge, AB

Figure 4. Galt Museum and Archives

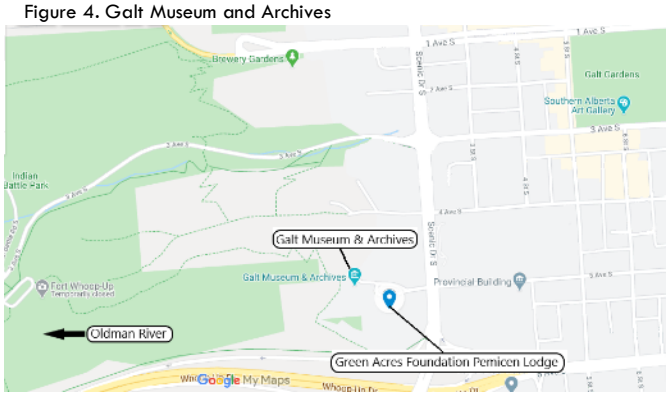


Figure 5. Galt Museum and Archives Area Map

The **Galt** Museum and Archives (Galt) is in **between the Lethbridge downtown** and **the Old Man River.** Hiking trails lead from the Galt into Indian Battle Park, Botterill Bottom Park, and Fort Whoop-Up along the river. The Green Acres Foundation Pemmican Lodge is nearby. The Galt Gardens and the Southern Alberta Art Gallery are about 650 m to the northeast.

Facility

- The museum grounds include **two gardens created in partnership** with **The Lethbridge & District Horticultural Society** and **The Galt School of Nursing Alumnae Association.**
- **Fort Whoop-Up is a replica fur trading fort from the late 1800s** and is run by the Galt as an interpretive historical site.

Collection

- Includes over **17,000 artifacts** and over **1,000,000 documents and photographs.**
- The Collection **focuses on the history of Lethbridge** and **southwestern Alberta.**

Distinguishing Features

- Programming is enhanced through partnerships:
  - **Green Acres Kiwanis Club of Lethbridge sponsors** the Saturdays at 1 and **Summer Family Fun programs.**
  - The **Daytime Galt Workshop** series **with Alberta Health Services** Therapeutic Recreation provides hands-on art projects and history lessons for adults in an accessible environment.
  - **Special events** are held with The New West Theatre, the South Alberta Horse Artillery, the Chinook Woodturning Guild and the Fort Whoop-Up Black Powder Club.
  - The **University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge College Applied Studies program** and **internship program** provided 14 student assistants to the Galt in 2018.

Figure 6. Fort Whoop-Up

Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre
Medicine Hat, AB

Location

The Medicine Hat Public Library, the Medicine Hat Court House, the Court of Queen's Bench and the South Saskatchewan River are immediately to the north of the Esplanade. The Provincial building is adjacent to the south. Several restaurants are nearby in downtown Medicine Hat.

Facility

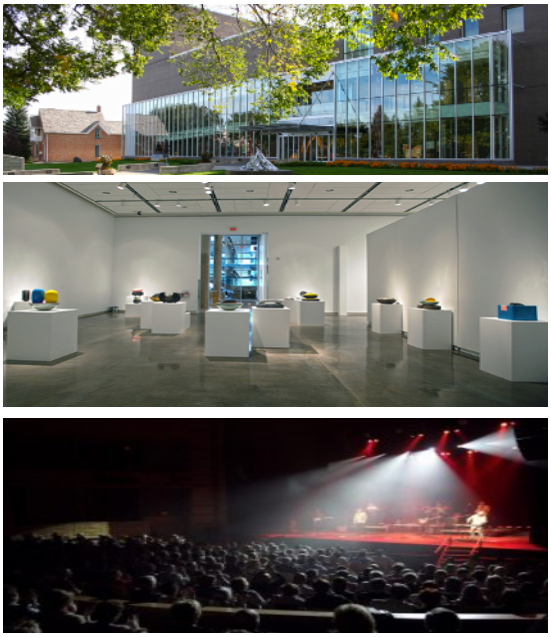
- The Esplanade includes an **art gallery, museum, theatre, and the archives.**
- The site includes the **heritage gardens** and the **restored Ewart Duggan House,** the oldest brick home in Alberta still on its original foundation.
- The **current Esplanade facility was constructed in 2005.** Environmental controls were upgraded in 2019 with funding from Canadian Heritage.

Collection

- The Esplanade holds over **25,000 artifacts** related to local history, including manuscript records, photographs, maps and other technical drawings, audio recordings and film.

Distinguishing Features

- **Combined Arts Facility**
  - The Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre runs a combined education outreach program with the art gallery, museum, theatre, and archives.
- The **Archives maintains an online database** for its collections. The public can access and search through this database from the Esplanade website.
- Participates in the **Travelling Exhibitions (TREX) program.**

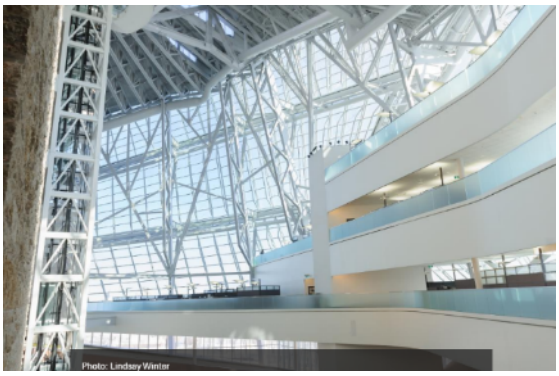


Figures 7,8, and 9. Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre, Esplanade Galleries, and Esplanade Theatre

Canadian Museum for Human Rights
Winnipeg, MB

Nearby landmarks and **attractions** include the **CN Stage and Field, Arctic Glacier Winter Park, Mahatma Gandhi Statue,** the **Forks National Historic Amphitheatre and Historic Site,** the **Children's Museum,** the **North West Company, Upper Fort Garry Heritage Provincial Park,** and **Red River College.**

Figure 10. Canadian Museum for Human Rights Area Map



Figures 11 and 12. CMHR Interior Cloud and Exterior

Facility

- The museum's seven levels are connected by a series of ramps.
- Elevators are available as an alternative to the ramps.
- There is a 100 m Israel Asper Tower of Hope.
- **Total building area**: 34,155 m².
- **Exhibit space**: 4,366 m².
- The museum employs a **universal design** style to minimize the need for special accommodations.
  - Accessible parking.
  - All entrances are wheelchair accessible.
  - There are multiple washrooms on each floor, including at least one barrier free room. All single-room washrooms contain baby change tables.
  - All gallery levels and the Israel Asper Tower are accessible by elevator.
  - All galleries are accessible by ramps with resting spot.

Collection

- The museum's permanent exhibitions include the **Truth and Reconciliation** display and the **Galleries**. The Galleries include **10 core exhibitions**:
  - What are Human Rights?
  - Indigenous Perspectives
  - Canadian Journeys
  - Protecting Rights in Canada
  - Examining the Holocaust

Distinguishing Features

- A self-guided tour is available through the **museum's mobile phone app**. This is available in English, French, American Sign Language, and Langue des signes Québécoise.
- An audio guide describes each gallery and provides exhibit highlights.
- Text-based guides are also available.
- **"Near me" mode**: Connects your device to over 120 universal access points. This feature assists visitors with limited vision. These access points have braille codes to tripper audio.
- **Additional sign language content** is available for several exhibitions
- Interactive maps guide visitors through the museum
- **Universal keypads** at each screen interface allow for tactile and audio navigation.
- The **Exploring Stories Online program** provides online access to articles, and documentary material on human rights issues and history.
- The museum is **LEED Silver certified** from the Canada Green Building Council.

The Johnson County Museum is located at the Johnson County Arts and Heritage Centre at the northern end of the Overland Park commercial strip.

Johnson County Museum (National Museum of Suburbia and Suburban Policy Forum) Johnson County, Kansas, USA

Figure 13. Johnson County Museum Area Map

Figure 14. Johnson County Museum Display

Facility

- The Johnson County Arts and Heritage Center includes the museum along with a theatre and art exhibits. The museum moved to the site in 2017.
- **Large-print** and **braille** versions of exhibit script are offered.
- All facilities are **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant**.

Collection

- Johnson County Museum Collections features: over **20,000 3D objects; over 1 million photographic images; manuscripts; maps;** and **quilts**.
- The museum focuses on items from the **mid-1960s**.

Distinguishing Features

- **Signature Exhibition:** Becoming Johnson County: 12,500 ft^2 dedicated to this exhibition. The centerpiece is the 1950s All-Electric House, a historic house moved inside the gallery.
- **Kidscape:** An interactive historical experience area for kids covering different time periods. The active area occupies 3,500 ft^2.
- **Lanesfield Historic Site** in Edgerton, KS. **is affiliated** with the Johnson County Museum. The site includes the original schoolhouse, four outbuildings, a visitor's centre with the One-Room Schools in Kanas exhibit, a museum store and restrooms.

New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science (NMMNHS) is near the old town centre of Albuquerque and the sawmill district. It is directly adjacent to the Albuquerque Museum, the Explora Museum, the Kiwanis Learning Garden, and Tiguex Park. The Rattlesnake Museum and the Old Town Plaza, and the historic San Felipe de Neri Church are nearby.

Facility

- **Planetarium:** The Planetarium is a full-dome theatre offering presentations on astronomy and space science.
- **Dynatheater:** This high definition theater is optimized for hosting visually stunning nature and space documentary films.
- **Sandia Mountain Natural History Center.**

Collection

- **Paleontology:** Fossil collections
- **Space Science** collections
- **Geoscience:** Mineralogical collections
- **Bioscience:** Biological specimens

Figures 14 and 15. NMMNHS Planetarium and Galleries

Distinguishing Features

- **Emergence:** Covers the origins of life on Earth and its early evolution globally and in New Mexico.
- **The Bisti Beast:** A dinosaur fossil exhibit from finds collected from the San Juan Basin in northwestern New Mexico.
- **The Hall of the Stars:** This exhibit allows visitors to explore the night sky in an organized interactive format.
- **The Naturalist Center:** A hands-on educational room used to teach about the natural world of New Mexico.
- **Fossilworks:** An exhibit on the dinosaur fossil extraction and preservation process.
- **Kiwanis Learning Garden:** Used as a picnic spot by families visiting the museum
- **Timetracks:** A Walk Through Time: Displays showing the progression through billions of years of New Mexican natural history.
- **Garden Programs:** Families groups volunteer to plant and care for the Kiwanis Learning Garden. Workshops and information sessions related to gardening, water management, and soil science are offered on a regular basis.

The Cleveland Museum of Art
Cleveland, Ohio, USA

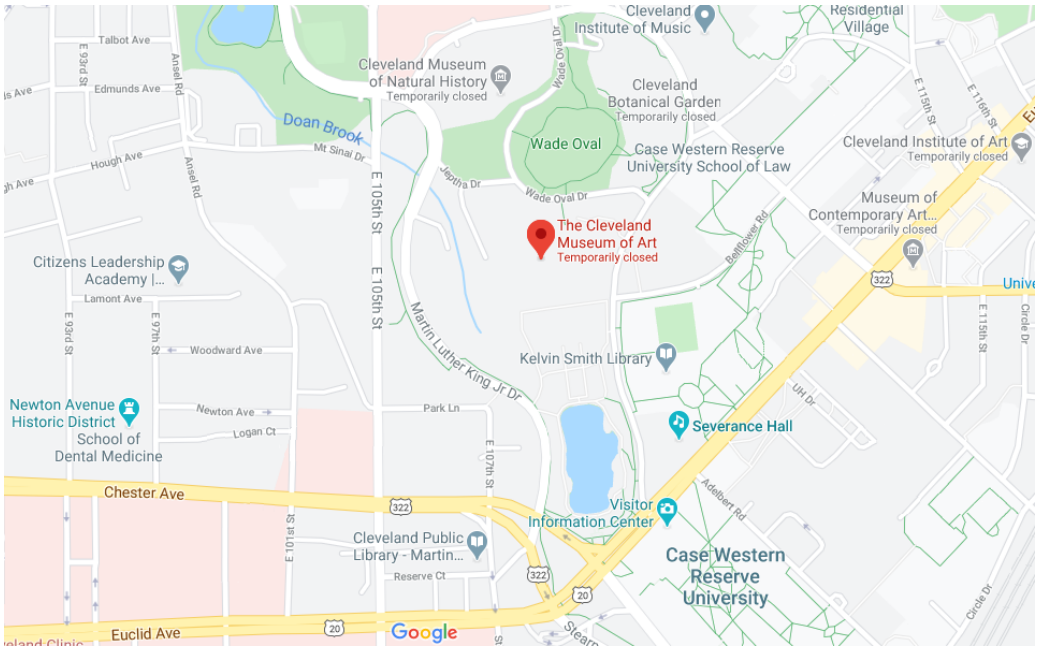
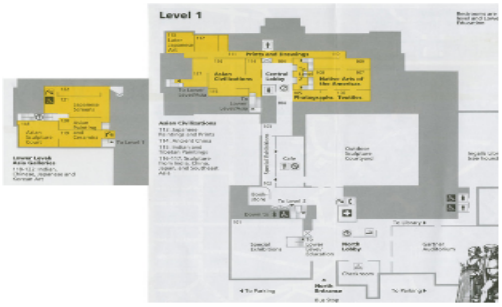


Figure 16. Cleveland Museum of Art Area Map

The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) is north of the main university grounds near the Case Western Reserve University School of Law. It is surrounded by several other cultural facilities including the Cleveland Botanical Garden, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Cleveland Institute of Music, the Cleveland History Centre, the Maltz Performing Arts Center, and the Wade Oval park.

Ground Level / Level 1; and Lower Asian — 1916 and 1958 Building Galleries



Gallery Level / Level 2 - 1958, 1971, and 1983 Building Galleries

Figure 17. Cleveland Museum of Art Floorplan

Facility

- The **CMA shares space** with the **Ingalls Library & Museum Archives**.
- Original building constructed by **architects Benjamin Hubbell and Dominick Benes in 1916**. The original structure had space for 15 galleries, all on the second floor.
  - The **1958 addition** provided **22 new galleries** on the second floor and **added 20 galleries** to the ground floor of the 1916 building.
  - Both the 1916 and 1958 **buildings were renovated in 1972-1976** and again in **1991-1993**.
  - **Two additions were completed in 1971 and 1983**.
  - A **major renovation** and **expansion project** was executed from **2008 to 2009**.
- Most of the **historic 1916 building is accessible** to visitor's living with disabilities. They must enter the museum from the ramps and elevators at the north entrance and continue through the east wing or the atrium to access the 1916 building.
- **Wheelchairs are available at coat check** in the north lobby.
- Elevators and escalators are located throughout the building.
- Wheelchair accessible water fountains and public restrooms.
- The **conservation department employs** an 18,000 ft^2 suite of laboratories with specialized equipment.

Collection

- The collection **contains works of art** and represe**ntations from all available historical periods** and places up to the present. The CMA **maintains a digital archive** of past exhibits online.

Distinguishing Features

- **ArtLens Exhibition**: This program features 20 masterworks at a given time on a 24 month rotation. Each work is paired with interactive programming including related games. Gesture and facial recognition technology captures visitors' responses.
- **ArtLens Studio**: The Create Studio allows visitors to create their own artwork through four stations (pottery wheel, collage maker, portrait maker, and paint play). These stations use gesture recognition technology to produce art.
- **ArtLens App**: This app provides wayfinding information throughout the museum based on over 240 iBeacons. ArtLens App provides additional functionality and personalization for the ArtLens Wall and ArtLens Exhibition displays. This includes interaction through augmented reality. This app can be used onsite, or to experience the museum remotely.
- **ArtLens Wall**: This is a 40-foot interactive display. The display rotates every 40 seconds. It organizes curated items by theme and explains the relationships between them. It is touch interactive. Visitors can touch an item on display to delve into greater detail on that item.

The Western Australian Museum (WAM) is located on the James Street Mall of the Perth Cultural Centre in downtown Perth. Several related cultural institutions surround this location including: The State Library of Western Australia, the Art Gallery of WA, the State Theatre Centre, the Perth Cultural Centre Play Space, the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, the Nostalgia Box Museum, Gallery Central, Showcase Gallery, the Western Australian Naturalists Club, and the North Metropolitan TAFE.

Western Australian Museum
Perth, Australia

Figure 18. The New Western Australian Museum Perth Building

Figure 19. Western Australian Museum Area Map

Facility

- The Western Australian Museum's **main location is at the Perth Cultural Centre**. It also **operates five branch museums**: The WA Maritime Museum; The WA Shipwrecks Museum; The Museum of Geraldton; The Museum of the Goldfields; and The Museum of the Great Southern.
- The WAM Perth location is **undergoing a major remodeling** and is scheduled to reopen in November, 2020.
- The **new installation** will include **eight new galleries**, a **1000 m² special exhibitions gallery, multipurpose program space, learning studios, café, food and beverage space**, and **meeting and event space**.
  - The displays will include multimedia integration.
  - The new building is built by Multiplex and designed by Hassell+OMA.
  - The WAM is consulting disability advocates regarding universal access in the design for the new museum building at the James St. location in Perth.
  - It integrates four heritage-listed buildings: The Old Gaol (1855); The original WA Museum building, the Jubilee Building (1899); The original Art Gallery (1908); and The Hackett Hall, the State Library reading room (1913).

Collection

- **Anthropology and Archaeology**: 10,000 ethnographic objects mainly of Western Australian Aboriginal origin, and 5,000 objects from other world regions.
- **Aquatic Zoology**: Collection of specimens from Western Australian coastal and freshwater marine life.
- **Earth and Planetary Sciences**: Over 1.5 million fossil, mineral, rock, gem, meteorite and tektite specimens.
- **History**: About 100,000 items acquired since the 1890s.
- **Maritime Archaeology**: Primarily research into shipwrecks based out of the WA Shipwrecks Museum branch. Artifacts date from the early 17th century to the late 19th century.
- **Maritime History**: Contains images, and small and large artefacts, including watercraft.
- **Terrestrial Zoology**
- **Molecular Systematics Unit**: In operation since February 2012. This unit contains a range of equipment for molecular analysis including a DNA sequencer. This unit assists in research on other collections.
- In **2018-2019** the **WAM collections acquired 12,253** items **from donations** and **another 36,887** items **through field work**.
- In 2018-2019, **64,904 items were digitized** and **added to the online collection**. This brings the total number of digitized items in the **online collection to 1,517,334**.

Distinguishing Features

- The WAM:
  - **Coordinates programming for class visits** to its branch locations **with the Western Australian school curriculum**. Facilitated class tours can be booked in advance.
  - **Supports smaller local museums** and **archives across Western Australia** with **online resources and support** on specific projects. The WAM also **provides curatorial and conservation training and advice**.
  - **Publishes field guides** on Western Australian wildlife. These can be purchased in print or electronic form.
  - **Maintains digitized tables** of all the **biological specimens** in their collection. These can be searched online.
  - Has **various museum apps** such as Reveal WAM, Dinosaur Discovery and more.