



museums

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

ANNUAL REPORT

July 2020 — June 2021



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA MUSEUMS ANNUAL REPORT

*including the report of the University of Alberta Museums
Policy and Planning Committee*

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Executive Summary

This report documents the activities of the University of Alberta Museums during a full year of lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This includes activities of the central unit, the Policy and Planning Committee, and the 30 collections registered under the policy.

Many projects and activities could continue on-campus that focused on care of collections, while observing university protocols, while others were put on hold. A moratorium was put on programs that ranged from providing volunteer opportunities to in-person public access, to acquiring new museum objects and placing public art. In place of those activities came a considerable increase in facilities-related activities—some planned, but more in response to emergencies of varying impact. Other activities continued with staff working remotely, providing virtual access to museum collections and research through the University of Alberta Museums Search Site, virtual exhibitions and programs, and developing virtual training tools and protocols.

The unit continued to be in a holding pattern. The search for a new Director of the University of Alberta Museums unit was delayed until late in 2020 with hopes that a new director would be in place in 2021-22. F. Blondheim continued in the interim Director position and the unit worked through priorities as outlined in the strategic plan *Contributing to the Public Good (2017-21)*. As well, unit staff worked through restructuring activities as defined by SET, and considered the impact of academic restructuring on the administration and operations of the museum collections across campus.



University of Alberta Museums Policy and Planning Committee Overview

The University of Alberta Museums Policy and Planning Committee is a committee of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), reporting to the Vice-Provost (Library and Museums), to advise university administration and governance bodies, as appropriate or required, on matters relating to the University of Alberta Museums.

The Museums and Collections Policy in UAPPOL governs the University of Alberta Museums collections under which there are 30 registered museum collections from 11 departments in five faculties. Each University of Alberta Museums collection is administered by a designated academic curator who is a full-time academic member. University of Alberta Museums is the central unit that is the Office of Administrative Responsibility for the UAPPOL Museums and Collections Policy and is also responsible for the University of Alberta Museums Art Collection and the Mactaggart Art Collection.

The University of Alberta Museums Policy and Planning Committee met virtually on February 19, 2021.

The following issues and items of business were brought forward at the Policy and Planning Committee Meetings during the reporting period.

POLICY COMPLIANCE: DEACCESSION UPDATES

In total, 442 objects were deaccessioned in 2020. Out of these deaccessioned objects, 11 were externally transferred to another public institution, 147 objects were internally transferred to other University of Alberta departments, approximately 200 objects went to auction through SMS as per policy, when no public institutions expressed interest. Total net earnings of \$2800.50 were realized (note: total gross earnings = \$4825.00, auction house retained 42%), and approximately 130 objects will be intentionally destroyed (currently waiting on waiver of moral rights from artists).

POLICY COMPLIANCE: ALBERTA HISTORY MURAL PROJECT

The Committee was informed that a working group has been struck in the Library and Museums Portfolio with the aim of working towards a decision around *Alberta History* by H.G. Glyde, a mural that resides in Rutherford South Reading Room (second floor). The mural is an accessioned work of art in the University of Alberta Museums Art Collection and has been physically deteriorating for decades. In addition, it has been subject to many calls for its removal due to its depiction of Indigenous people.



GOAL 1

Excel

University of Alberta Museums and Collections excel at contributing to a University of Alberta sustainable culture that fosters and champions distinction in teaching, learning, research and service.

1. Strategy – Academic Alignment: Align University of Alberta Museums with established and emerging areas of signature research and teaching to ensure museum programs are prioritized to meet University of Alberta needs.

Progress

- The University of Alberta Museums unit is a member of the Faculty of Arts signature area of research *Future of the Past* which is a research network focused on the materiality of human life-worlds. For Congress 2020, the unit created the online exhibition *Materialities and Meaning of Past, Present, and Future*. The online exhibition featured 13 different researchers from four different faculties, departments, and units and two institutes across the University of Alberta campus to address changing perspectives on the intersections of gender, identity, race and ethnicity, the language of power and the study of under-represented groups. The exhibition included objects and research from the Anne Lambert Clothing and Textiles Collection, the Bryan/Gruhn Archaeology Collection, the Mactaggart Art Collection, the University of Alberta Museums Art Collection and the W.G. Hardy Collection of Ancient Near Eastern and Classical Antiquities.
- The University of Alberta Museums unit also contributed to Congress 2020 which was hosted virtually at the University of Alberta, by featuring several museum exhibitions in an online exhibitor space.



2. Strategy – Facilities Review: Plan and advocate for multi-purpose museum accessible facilities that support strategic research and teaching areas across disciplines and programs.

Progress

- The University of Alberta Museums unit relocated from Ring House 1 to Rutherford South in February 2021. Staff continue to work remotely therefore a full move-in plan was not able to be implemented and is pending.
- University of Alberta Museum registered collections continued to have facility issues throughout all museum collection spaces during this reporting period with continued remote working regulations due to Covid-19. Ongoing building closures, increased facility-upgrade projects, and emergencies contributed to these issues. Ongoing and improved communications with Facility and Operations staff and units helped to alleviate issues, or to enable advanced planning to mitigate some problems.



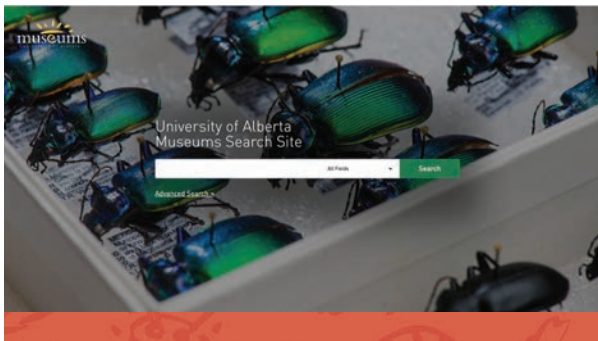
- These incidents had significant impact on University of Alberta Museums staff in terms of the numbers of incidents and action required, and formed a substantial part of the work for the year, therefore it is important to include a sample list of the type of incidents that regularly occurred:
 - » Heavy rainfall (July 2020) caused basement flooding in Human Ecology collections space and ECHA (server room). Facilities and Operations cleaned up the water and there was no damage to museum objects or museums server.
 - » A fire in the Student's Union Building (September 2020) impacted works of art from the University of Alberta Museums Art Collection (UAMAC) that are included in the public art program. UAM unit completed inspection of these works following incident and no damage was noted.
 - » Collections staff noted significant flooding (February 2021) in HM Tory sub-basement during routine collections storage checks. A burst heater pipe on the ground floor flooded the sub-basement outside collections spaces housing the Bryan/Gruhn Ethnographic Collection, UAMAC, and Zooarchaeology Collection. No damage to collections spaces or objects was noted. Facilities and Operations cleaned up water, replaced ceiling tiles, and repaired pipe.
 - » Major construction / renovation projects in Fine Arts Building in Summer 2021 required air handling units to be turned off for extended periods of time. This inadvertently caused the compressor in the condensing unit servicing the Print Study Centre to fail.



This resulted in high heat in the collections space and as the project was ongoing, this issue could not be immediately resolved. Due to the age of the system, a repair was not advised; HVAC contractor recommended a system replacement (estimated cost of \$15,000.00-\$20,000.00). Two temporary air conditioning units were provided by Facilities and Operations to lower temperature in space.

3. Strategy – Innovate Online Catalogue Access:

Innovate online catalogue access to advance priority research and teaching areas (e.g., Biodiversity Interfaces).



Progress

- In September 2020, the University of Alberta Museums unit completed a six-month maintenance contract with Box Clever to continue building features on the Search Site and maintain what has already been built. Since then, there have been three further contracts with Box Clever for work on the University of Alberta Museums Search Site.
- The University of Alberta Museums Search Site was hard-launched in October 2020 and existing individual museum collection search sites were officially retired. The Search Site was launched with features such as, but not limited to: information pages, which contains map and taxonomic hierarchy displays; exporting results; and increased data mapping functionality.
- At the time of reporting, 77% of museum collections that are in the museum collections management system, Mimsy XG are included on the Search Site.

FAST FACT

Since the UAM Search Site launched in October 2020 – the site has seen more than **7,700 visitors** and pages have been viewed more than **54,000 times**.



4. Strategy – Respectful Acquisitions>Returns:

University of Alberta Museum collections are respectfully acquired, managed and returned (if appropriate) within our diverse cultural and scientific obligations, relationships and priorities with our communities.

Progress

- Due to the pandemic, most museum collections across campus had a moratorium on acquisitions.
- However, previous acquisitions in process when the pandemic began were completed and 199 museum objects were recorded in the University of Alberta Museums annual insurance report to Risk Management Services, including:
 - » **Anne Lambert Clothing and Textile Collection** – 83 museum objects (including clothing and textile accessories).
 - » **Bryan / Gruhn Archaeology Collection** – 23 museum objects (including raw material sample, and a basket and projectile point).
 - » **Meteorite Collection** – 6 meteorite specimens (including type specimens from Northwest Africa, and a large sample of the Whitecourt meteorite, which was certified as Cultural Property).
 - » **University of Alberta Museums Art Collection** – 87 museum objects (including Inuit prints and cultural objects, President Turpin's portrait commission, and works by Charles Pachter, which were certified as Cultural Property).

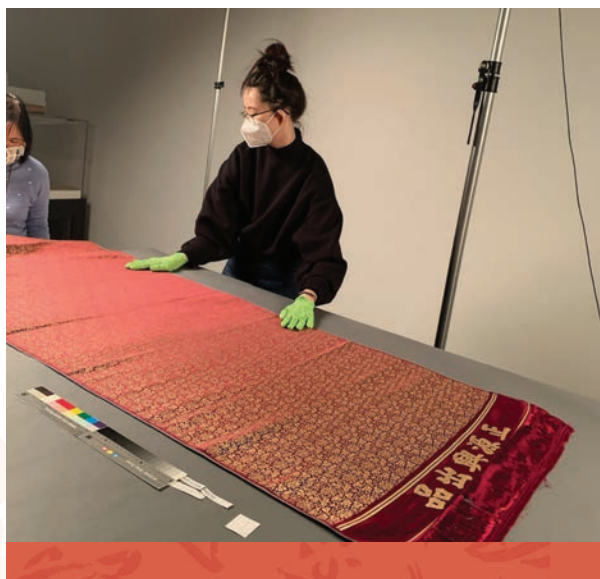
- Following a delay due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the disposition processes for the 443 objects approved for deaccessioning in 2019 by the Board of Governors and are in their final stages.
- The deaccession request for one (1) object from the University of Alberta Bryan/Gruhn Archaeology Collection was approved by the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) on behalf of the Board of Governors. Its disposition process, which was also delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, is ongoing.



GOAL 2

Experience

University of Alberta Museums are integral to the learning experience at all stages of life through the development of inspiring opportunities that nurture talents, expand knowledge and skills, and enable individual success.



1. Strategy - Student Internship Program: University of Alberta Museums Student Internship Program is a meaningful, paid program and aspirational learning experience that is accessible to all students and is sustained as a dynamic complement to the University of Alberta Museums and Collections strategic priorities.

Progress

- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the closure of the University of Alberta to follow of public health guidelines, the internship for Summer of 2020 was suspended. While the infrastructure to host an online internship was not in place at the time, subsequent work by the University of Alberta Museum unit resulted in several online student opportunities in 2021.
 - » In January 2021, the University of Alberta Museums hosted a Human Ecology practicum student (Rhonda Buie) for 14-hours a week for the 2021 Winter Semester. Projects included: exhibition development in the Dentistry Museum Collection and an on-site rehousing project in the University of Alberta Museums Art Collection (on-site work was done in accordance to the University of Alberta's health and safety guidelines). Rhonda has since graduated and has taken her museums experience to British Columbia.
 - » A University of Alberta Museums Summer Intern was recruited and began remotely working with the unit in May 2021. Sung Eun Cho is a fourth-year student in the History of Arts and Visual Culture department in the Faculty of Arts.
 - » In May 2021, the University of Alberta also worked remotely with Miranda Holt, a graduate student of Dr. Christopher Herd (Curator, Meteorite Collection) for two days a week for the remainder of the summer.

GOAL 3

Engage

University of Alberta Museums are fully accessible and engage individuals and communities by creating reciprocal, mutually beneficial learning experiences, research projects and collaborations.

1. Strategy – Focused Communications Tools:

University of Alberta Museums communication tools (e.g., website; social media; print media; presentations) are focused and built to effectively engage our priority communities.

Progress

- The University of Alberta Museums website successfully migrated to Cascade CMS in September 2020 in accordance with the rest of the University of Alberta. Work and upkeep continue on the University of Alberta Museums website in order to remain ahead of upgrades and changes with Cascade CMS.
- The University of Alberta Museums social media plan was revised during the Covid-19 pandemic to take advantage of a more engaged online audience but also to ensure important health information is shared in a timely manner. This resulted in an increase of almost 150,000 impressions over the previous reporting year.

FAST FACT

University of Alberta Museums websites and pages were viewed **118,339 times** during this reporting period. **An increase of over 4,000 views** from the previous reporting year.

FAST FACT

University of Alberta Museums social media pages (Facebook and Twitter) received **727,115 impressions** (how many times our content was viewed) during this reporting period.



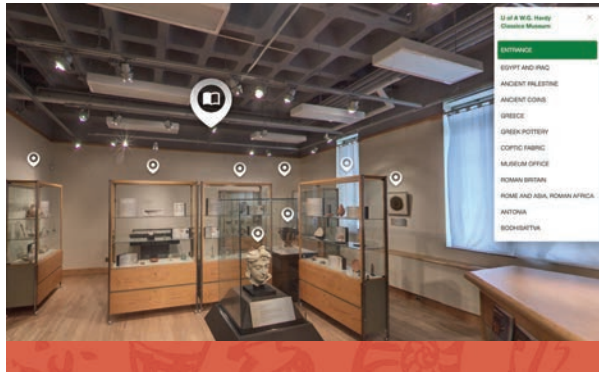
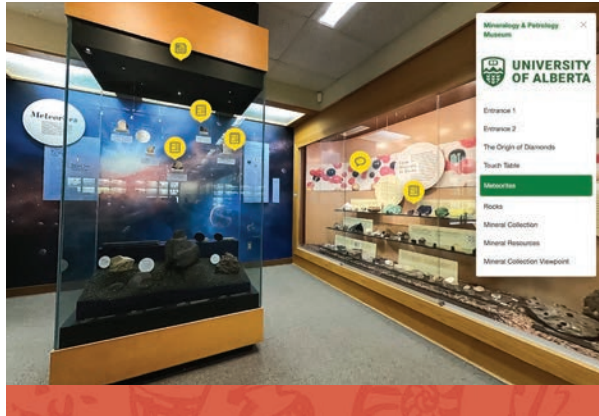


FAST FACT
 Virtual reality tours of museum collections spaces and online exhibitions were viewed over **35,000 times** during this reporting period.

2. Strategy – Public Programs: Facilitate and promote public research and aspirational information experiences through innovative and meaningful access to University of Alberta Museum and Collections on and off campus.

Progress

- Four museum collections launched online exhibitions during this reporting period:
 - » The Mineralogy and Petrology collection launched “Minerals of Alberta” in July 2020.
 - » The Mactaggart Art Collection launched the virtual reality exhibition of Dragons on the Tibetan Plateau: Selected Textiles from the Mactaggart Art Collection in September 2020 (the in-person exhibition was closed earlier in the year due to Covid-19).
 - » The University of Alberta Museums Art Collection and the Mactaggart Art Collection launched the online exhibition *On the Banks of the River: A Gift of Art from the University of Alberta Museums Art Collection* in September 2020.
 - » The Anne Lambert Clothing and Textiles Collection launched Innerwear: *Liminal Dressing 1820-2020* in November 2020.
- Several University of Alberta Museums Collections launched virtual reality tours of museum collection spaces during this reporting period. Those museum collections include:
 - » Anne Lambert Clothing and Textiles Collection
 - » Mineralogy and Petrology Collection – The Mineralogy and Petrology Museum
 - » Museum of Zoology (Mammalogy) – The Rowan Lab
 - » The Paleontology Museum and Dino Lab (includes: Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology, Invertebrate Paleontology Collection, and Trace Fossil Collection)
 - » W.G. Hardy Collection of Ancient Near Eastern and Classical Antiquities



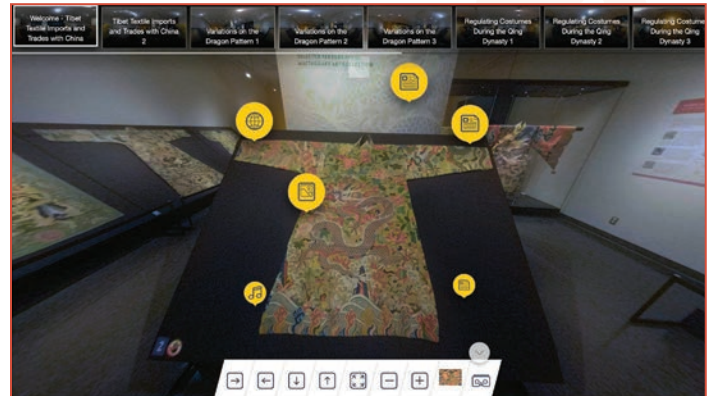
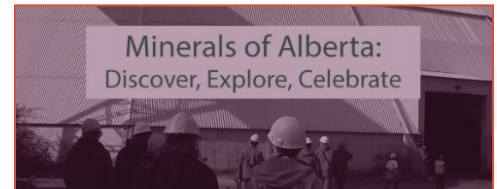


3. Strategy – Relationship Building & Recognition:

Build strategic, meaningful reciprocal relationships and collaborations with our University of Alberta Museums communities.

Progress

- University of Alberta Museums recognition program and awards announcement were made virtually this year due to continued Covid-19 restrictions. This year, the announcement was made during #MuseumWeek – an international social media campaign celebrating museums.
- Volunteer recognition was updated by way of a Volunteer Honour Roll to account for the Covid-19 restrictions.
- A curator, and four volunteers received recognition during the University of Alberta Museums Celebration virtual announcement in June 2021.
 - » **Curator Hall of Fame Inductee: Anne Bissonnette** (Curator of the Anne Lambert Clothing and Textiles Collection)
 - » **Volunteer Honour Roll: Karlene Dunne** (Bryan/ Gruhn Archaeology Collection, University of Alberta Museums Art Collection and Mactaggart Art Collection)
 - » **Volunteer Honour Roll: Lucas Beatch** (University of Alberta Museums Art Collection and Mactaggart Art Collection)
 - » **Volunteer Honour Roll: Tim Grieco** – (University of Alberta Museums Art Collection and Mactaggart Art Collection)
 - » **Volunteer Honour Roll: Sydney Ouderkirk** – (University of Alberta Museums Art Collection and Mactaggart Art Collection).



Exhibitions

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL, LIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Department of Human Ecology

- **Innerwear: Liminal Dressing 1820-2020**
– Anne Lambert Clothing and Textiles Collection – Online Exhibition

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

- **Minerals of Alberta** – Mineralogy and Petrology Collection – Online Exhibition

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA MUSEUMS

University of Alberta Museums Art Collection

- **On the Banks of the River: A Gift of Art from the University of Alberta Museums Art Collection**
– Online Exhibition

Mactaggart Art Collection

- **Dragons on the Tibetan Plateau: Selected Textiles from the Mactaggart Art Collection** – Virtual Reality Exhibition

GOAL 4

Sustain

University of Alberta Museums people and their work are sustained and enhanced by attracting and stewarding the resources we need to deliver excellence to the benefit of all.

1. Strategy – Best Practice/ Policy Compliance:

Implement continuous improvement in University of Alberta Museums practice and adherence to University of Alberta Museums policies campus-wide through training, communication, collaboration and best practice.

Progress

- Year three (2019-20) of data collection for the Annual Benchmark Survey was deferred due to the pandemic, as most designated curators were shifting their teaching to online delivery and requested a postponement of this activity. The Annual Benchmark survey was created to collect data to track policy compliance, tailor services, provide data for reporting requirements and surveys, and fulfill accreditation requirements over a five-year period.
- The University of Alberta Museums unit, on behalf of all 30 museums registered under the UAPPOL Museums and Collections Policy, was designated a Recognized Museum Leader for the period 2021-2029 by the Alberta Museums Association. The University of Alberta Museums submitted evidence in support of meeting or exceeding standards of museum practice, and was the first institution in Alberta to receive the Leader designation.





2. Strategy – External Resource Building: Secure and steward financial and other resources to support the University of Alberta Museums goals and strategies.

Progress

- The University of Alberta Museums received \$100,000 in Covid Relief Funds through the Government of Canada Department of Canadian Heritage. This funding was distributed evenly amongst museum collections and their associated projects.
- University of Alberta Museums received funding to hire a Young Canada Works internship position for six months in order to work on the browse feature for the University of Alberta Museum Search Site. The position begins in September 2021.

APPENDICES

A

POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2020/21

Committee Chair

Dr. Michael Caldwell
*Curator, Lab for Vertebrate
Paleontology*

Ex-Officio – Voting

Frannie Blondheim
*Associate Director / Interim Director
University of Alberta Museums*

Dr. Dale Askey
*Vice-Provost (Library and Museums)
and Chief Librarian*

Dr. Jocelyn Hall
Chair, Curator's Committee

Elected – Voting

General Faculties Council

Dr. James Dempsey
*Associate Professor,
Faculty of Native Studies*

Dr. Robert Smith
*Professor, Faculty of Arts
(History, Classics, and Religion)*

Curators Committee

Dr. Michael Caldwell
*Curator, Lab for
Vertebrate Paleontology*

Dr. Andy Derocher
Curator, Mammalogy/UAMZ

Dr. Murry Gingras
Curator, Trace Fossil Collection

Dr. Chris Herd
Curator, Meteorite Collection

GSA Elected Representative

Rebecca Bourgeois

Undergraduate Student Representative

Vacant

B

DIRECTORY OF REGISTERED COLLECTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA MUSEUMS

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Anthropology

Bryan/Gruhn Archaeology Collection

Curator: Pamela Willoughby

Bryan/Gruhn Ethnographic Collection

Curator: Pamela Mayne Correia

Fossil Hominid Cast Collection

Curator: Pamela Mayne Correia

Osteology Collection

Curator: Pamela Mayne Correia

Zooarchaeology Reference Collection

Curator: Robert Losey

Department of History and Classics

W.G. Hardy Collection of Ancient Near Eastern and Classical Antiquities

Curator: Jeremy Rossiter

Department of Music

Canadian Centre for Ethnomusicology

Curator: Michael Frishkopf

Kule Folklore Centre

Bohdan Medwidsky Ukrainian Folklore Archives

Curator: Maryna Chernyavska

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL, LIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Department of Human Ecology

Anne Lambert Clothing and Textiles Collection

Curator: Anne Bissonnette

Department of Renewable Resources

Renewable Resources

Bryophyte Collection

Curator: René Belland

Renewable Resources

Natural History Collection

Curator: John Acorn

Soil Science Collection

Curator: Scott Chang

FACULTY OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology

Larry Jewell Pathology Gross Teaching Collection

Curator: Roberta Martindale

School of Dentistry

Dentistry Museum Collection

Curator: Loren Kline

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Department of Biological Sciences

Cryptogamic Herbarium

Curator: Catherine La Farge-England

Vascular Plant Herbarium

Curator: Jocelyn Hall

Paleobotanical Collection

Curator: Eva Koppelhus

E.H. Strickland

Entomological Museum

Curator: Felix Sperling

Freshwater Invertebrate Collection

Curator: Heather Proctor

Jim van Es Marine Invertebrate and Malacology Collection

Acting Curator: Michael Caldwell

Museum of Zoology

Acting Curator: Michael Caldwell

(Amphibian and Reptile Collection / Ornithology Collection)

Curator: Alison Murray

(Ichthyology Collection)

Curator: Andrew Derocher

(Mammalogy Collection)

Parasite Collection

Curator: Vacant

Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology

Curator: Michael Caldwell

(Higher Vertebrates)

Curator: Philip Currie

(Dinosaur Collection)

Curator: Alison Murray

(Fossil Fishes Collection)

Curator: Corwin Sullivan

(Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum)

APPENDICES

B

Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

Drill Core Collection

Curator: John-Paul Zonneveld

Invertebrate Paleontology Collection

Curator: Lindsey Leighton

Meteorite Collection

Curator: Christopher Herd

Mineralogy and Petrology Collection

Curator: Tom Chacko

Trace Fossil Collection

Curator: Murray Gingras

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA MUSEUMS UNIT

University of Alberta Museums
Art Collection

Curator: Nadia Kurd

Mactaggart Art Collection

Curator: Isabel (Pi-fen) Chueh

C

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA MUSEUMS UNIT STAFF

Alyssa Becker-Burns
*Assistant Director, Collections
Management*

Emily Beliveau
*Collections Management
Advisor (Humanities)*

Frannie Blondheim
Associate Director / Interim Director

Jennifer Bowser
Moveable Cultural Property Advisor

Isabel (Pi-fen) Chueh
Curator, Mactaggart Art Collection

Jill Horbay
*Communications and
Marketing Manager*

Tom Hunter
*Collections Assistant, University
of Alberta Museums Art Collection*

Nadia Kurd
*Curator, University of Alberta
Museums Art Collection*

Denis La France
Senior Systems Administrator

Katherine Mallalieu
*Collections Management Advisor
(Natural Sciences)*

Christina Marocco
Administrative Team Lead

Sarah Spotowski
*Curatorial Assistant, Mactaggart
Art Collection*

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA MUSEUMS UNIT TEMPORARY STAFF

Shannon Fox
*Community Engagement Assistant
(until March 2021)*

Angela Green
*Collections Database Project Assistant
(until September 2020)*



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