



museums
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA MUSEUMS ANNUAL REPORT

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



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Introduction

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA MUSEUMS STRATEGIC PLAN

In response to the University of Alberta's Institutional Strategic Plan *For the Public Good* which was approved in June 2016, the University of Alberta Museums created a unit strategic plan titled: *University of Alberta Museums and Collections Strategic Plan 2017–2021 Contributing to the Public Good*. This plan will help with tasks for the University of Alberta Museums for the upcoming years (2017–2021).

The plan aligns with the University of Alberta Institutional Strategic Plan's goals — Excel, Experience, Engage, and Sustain.

The 2016/2017 Annual Report of the University of Alberta Museums, and those moving forward, will reflect the goals, strategies, activities, and progress towards achieving the goals of the *University of Alberta Museums and Collections Strategic Plan 2017–2021 Contributing to the Public Good*.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA MUSEUMS POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

The University of Alberta Museums Policy and Planning Committee met on October 6, 2016, February 28, 2017 and April 13, 2017.

The following items were discussed formally at the Policy and Planning Committee meetings during the reporting period.

- The University of Alberta Museums' curator re-designation began in this reporting period as per the *Museums and Collections Policy*. Curator designations are typically a five-year term.
- The Committee voted to approve the deaccession of six meteorite specimens (pieces of the Allende meteorite) in order to use these specimens to trade for other meteorite specimens that were not represented in the Meteorite Collection.
- A Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Alberta from Medicine Hat, the Right Honourable Robert Wanner, brought forward a request from one of his constituents regarding the reburial of remains of three individuals held at the University of Alberta. At this time, preliminary discussions regarding this request are on-going.
- The process of making "friendly edits" regarding the *Museums and Collections Policy* and related UAPPOL procedures is complete.
- The University of Alberta Museums strategic plan, *Contributing to the Public Good*, was reviewed and commented on at two committee meetings and updates were provided on its distribution to other University of Alberta Museums stakeholders.

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.

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

Progress

- The curator review and re-designation process was 70 per cent complete at the end of the reporting period and one new curator was added to the network.

Strategy – Training to Excel: Proactively train Curators, professors, staff and students to excel at integrating UA Museums collections into teaching, learning and research activities.

Progress

- Plans for progress in 2017/18.

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 has worked over the last year to provide action and assistance with facility issues. The following are just some of the facility updates the University of Alberta Museums worked on this reporting period:

- A significant portion of the Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology's collection, including fossil fishes, reptiles, and mammals, moved to a new storage location in the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science. This was done to ensure proper environmental conditions were being met for the long-term conservation of the collection.

- A storage reorganization project for the University of Alberta Art Collection stored at University Terrace began in June 2017 and will continue. The project will involve an inventory of the collection, digitization of works of art, and creation of accessible storage for art placement candidates.
- There was a significant incident in the Vascular Plant Herbarium involving a burst pipe. Although there was minimal short-term damage to the collection, the heat and humidity caused by the burst pipe could have long-term consequences for the collection. As a result, this incident brought awareness to Risk Management and they will strike an ad-hoc committee with the University of Alberta Museums to work on future facility issues that could have an impact on collections.



- A sculpture from the University of Alberta Art Collection on display in the Fine Arts Building was damaged when someone attempted to move it without authorization. Conservation was attempted on the work of art, but the damage was irreparable. As a result, the work of art will be deaccessioned.

FAST FACT

In this reporting period, **4,203 new media records** have been added to the **University of Alberta Art Collection's database** (new media records include images and any miscellaneous documents).

Strategy – Innovate Online Catalogue Access: Innovate online catalogue access to advance priority research and teaching areas (e.g., Biodiversity Interfaces).

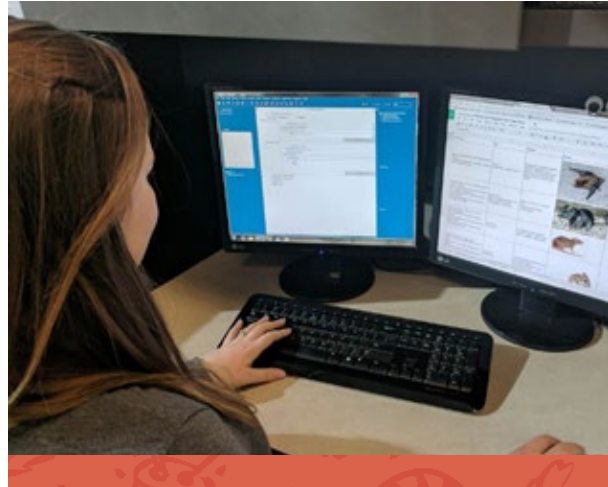
Progress

- Beta website launched for Natural Science collection database search interface in June 2017.
- University of Alberta Museums set-up and trained 10 new account users (for example: students, researchers, etc.) on Mimsy XG – the collections management system used by the University of Alberta Museums.

Strategy – Respectful Acquisitions>Returns: UA Museum collections are respectfully acquired, managed and returned (if appropriate) within our diverse cultural and scientific obligations, relationships and priorities with our communities.

Progress

- The University of Alberta Museums Executive Director presented to the University of Alberta Advancement Officers in order to demonstrate the role the University of Alberta Museums unit plays in respectful acquisition of museum objects. As a result of this presentation, there have been eight follow-up sessions with Advancement Officers to discuss our procedures.
- Two community amateur entomology collectors donated their collections of spiders and moths, respectively, to the E.H. Strickland Entomological Museum. This totalled over 64,000 combined specimens and an appraisal value of over \$295,000. The University of Alberta Museums worked with the Advancement office and the E.H. Strickland Entomological Museum to bring these acquisitions into the collection.
- The Clothing and Textiles Collections had 15 new acquisitions in 2016/2017 which totalled 43 objects added to the collection.
- The University of Alberta Art Collection had 16 new acquisitions in 2016/2017 which totalled approximately 160 objects added to the collection.



GOAL 2

Experience

FAST FACT

A volunteer in the Fossil Hominid Collection completed large portions of species re-designations that has gone undone for a number of years.



University of Alberta Museums and Collections 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.

Strategy - Volunteer Program: UA Museums and Collections Volunteer Program is an integral part of the University of Alberta learning and development experience and the priorities of the UA Museums and Collections.

Progress

- The University of Alberta Museums Volunteer Pilot Program concluded in June 2017. There were 14 volunteers recruited for positions within six University of Alberta Museums collections. The University of Alberta Museums received 63 applications - 42 of which were University of Alberta students (undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral) and 21 were members of the community (retired, alumni, seeking employment, etc.).
- Of the volunteers engaged in the pilot program survey, 100 per cent reported an increase in database skills and would recommend the program to peers.

Strategy – Student Internship Program: UA Museums and Collections 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 UA Museums and Collections strategic priorities.

Progress

- The University of Alberta Museums hired one student intern in summer of 2016 (Taylor Berry, Biological Sciences, Environmental Studies) – she is currently employed with the Royal Alberta Museum.
- The University of Alberta Museums has one intern for the summer of 2017 (Jean Middleton, Archaeology, History) who will be attending the University of Aberdeen in Scotland in Fall 2017 to begin her masters in museum studies.
- A review of the internship program and process will begin and will be reported on in the next annual report.

Strategy – Use of UA Museums collections and exposure to UA Museum and Collections practices is an integral component to student learning at the University of Alberta.

Progress

- Plans for progress in 2017/18.

GOAL 3

Engage

FAST FACT

Over 234,000 views occurred on the University of Alberta Museums webpage from 43,000 users — 33.8 per cent were returning visitor and 66.2 per cent were new.

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

Strategy – Focused Communications Tools: UA Museums and Collections collection tools (e.g., website; social media; print media; presentations) are focused and built to effectively engage our priority communities

Progress

- A first draft of the University of Alberta Museums Digital Strategy has been completed. It will contribute to the communication plan of the unit.
- The University of Alberta Museums launched a new WordPress blog and has collected baseline data.

Strategy – Public Programs: Facilitate and promote public research and aspirational information experiences through innovative and meaningful access to UA Museums and Collections on and off campus.

Progress

- The University of Alberta Museums produced a total of eight exhibitions in the University of Alberta Museums Galleries at Enterprise Square within the last reporting period - five were produced by the University of Alberta Museums and three exhibitions were created through various community partnerships (Dressing Global Bodies Symposium, Government of Alberta Historic Resources Management Branch and the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China).
- During this reporting period the University of Alberta Museums also concluded their time at Enterprise Square. The Office of the Provost approved one-time funding for the 2016/17 budget year to allow the University of Alberta Museums Galleries at Enterprise Square to

wind down its operations and meet existing commitments to artists, exhibits, and programs. That funding ended with the fiscal year on March 31, 2017.

- The University of Alberta Museums is currently without a public exhibition space.
- The University of Alberta Museums completed seven expeditions on the web-based crowdsourcing platform Notes from Nature based out of University of California Berkley. These expeditions saw 6,390 specimens from the E.H. Strickland Entomological Museum with collection information transcribed by citizen scientists from all around the world.
- The E.H. Strickland Entomological Museum and the University of Alberta Museums completed a hallway exhibition outside the collection space in the Biological Sciences building. This exhibition features stories from the collection on bumblebees, ground beetles and a brief history of the microscope.

Strategy – Public Art Program: UA Museums and Collections Public Art Program is an inspiring learning program offered across all campuses for the public good.

Progress

- A recently acquired art donation from a former University of Alberta Chancellor, Ralph Young, to the University of Alberta Art Collection was installed in the newly constructed Peter Lougheed Leadership College in time for the building's opening.
- Thirty-four works of public art were installed in eight strategic areas around the University of Alberta campus some of which include:
 - Quad (1)
 - Faculty of Extension (6)
 - Campus Tower (9)
 - Arts and Convocation Hall (13)



Strategy – Relationship Building & Recognition:

Build strategic, meaningful reciprocal relationships and collaborations with our UA Museums and Collections communities.

Progress

- One curator and one volunteer were honoured at the annual University of Alberta Museums Celebration in March 2017.
Curator: Felix Sperling, E.H. Strickland Entomological Museum
Volunteer: Donald MacFarlane, Volunteer, Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology
- The University of Alberta Museums Hall of Fame is currently housed at Enterprise Square in the former University of Alberta Museums Galleries at Enterprise Square. Discussions to relocate the Hall of Fame to a location on campus are currently on-going.

GOAL 4

Sustain

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

Strategy – Best Practice/ Policy Compliance: Implement continuous improvement in UA Museums and Collections practice and adherence to UA Museums and Collections policies campus-wide through training, communication, collaboration and best practice.

Progress

- Internal operating procedures have been revised and completed for 13 procedures – which support UAPPOL. Some of these procedures include: Appraisals, Export Permits, and Deaccession.
- An Integrated Pest Management program was implemented in 11 at-risk collections (eg. Clothing and Textiles Collection, University of Alberta Museum of Zoology, etc). This project, funded by the Alberta Museum Association and the University of Alberta Museums, incorporated sustainable prevention, monitoring, and response processes for long-term preservation.
- A location tracking pilot program was implemented in two University of Alberta Museums collections (University of Alberta Art Collection and Meteorite Collection). Over 35 per cent of the University of Alberta Art Collection was completed. A combined 4,137 objects in the University of Alberta Art Collection and Meteorite Collection were barcoded.



Strategy – External Resource Building: Secure and steward financial and other resources to support the UA Museums and Collections goals and strategies.

Progress

The University of Alberta Museums was able to secure the following grants for activities that occurred within this reporting period:

- Museum Assistance Program (MAP) Grant (Department of Canadian Heritage) – location tracking project (\$50,000)
- Alberta Museums Association Institutional Grant – pest management project (\$10,499)
- Alberta Museums Association Professional Development Grant – Attendance of two University of Alberta Museums employees at the Museums and the Web conference in Cleveland, Ohio in April 2017 (\$2,000)

APPENDICES

A

POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2016/17

Chair

Jocelyn Hall

*Curator, Vascular Plant Herbarium and
Chair, Curators Committee
Department of Biological Sciences*

Ex Officio (voting)

Janine Andrews

*Executive Director, University
of Alberta Museums*

Ex Officio (non-voting) 2016/2017

Gerald Beasley

Vice-Provost, Learning Services

General Faculties Council (elected)

Roger Epp

Director, UAlberta North

Kisha Supernant

*Associate Professor, Department of
Anthropology*

Curators Committee (elected)

Michael Caldwell

*Curator, Higher Vertebrates
Department of Biological Sciences*

Jim Corrigan

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

Andrew Derocher

*Curator, Mammalogy/UAMZ
Department of Biological Sciences*

Murry Gingras

*Curator, Trace Fossil Collection
Department of Biological Sciences*

Undergraduate Student Representative (voting)

Taylor Wright

Graduate Students' Association Representative (elected)

Scott Wilson

Department of Biological Sciences

Committee Secretariat (non-voting)

Frannie Blondheim

*Associate Director, University of
Alberta Museums (Issues Management)*

Christina Marocco

*Admin Team Lead, University
of Alberta Museums (Meeting
Coordination)*

APPENDICES

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 Frishkof

Kule Folklore Centre

Bohdan Medwidsky Ukrainian Folklore Archives
Curator: Maryna Chernyavska

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL, LIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

University of Alberta Botanic Garden

University of Alberta Botanic Garden Herbarium
Curator: René Belland

Department of Human Ecology

Clothing and Textiles Collection
Curator: Anne Bissonnette

Department of Renewable Resources

Renewable Resources Natural History Collection
Curator: John Acorn

Soil Science Collection
Curator: Scott Chang

FACULTY OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology

Pathology Gross Teaching Collection
Curator: David Rayner

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
Curator: Richard Palmer

Museum of Zoology

Curator: Cindy Paszkowski (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

MUSEUMS AND COLLECTION SERVICES

University of Alberta Art Collection

Curator: Jim Corrigan

Mactaggart Art Collection

Curator: Vacant

C

MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS SERVICES STAFF



Janine Andrews
Executive Director

Emily Beliveau
*Collections Management
Advisor (Humanities)*

Frannie Blondheim
Associate Director

Jennifer Bowser
*Collections Management
Advisor (Registration /
Preventive Conservation)*

Bryan Brunet
*Collections Management
Advisor (Natural Sciences)
(until July 2017)*

APPENDICES

C

MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS SERVICES STAFF

Jim Corrigan

*Curator, University of Alberta
Art Collection (passed away
March 2017)*

Matthew Hills

*Assistant Curator, University
of Alberta Art Collection*

Jill Horbay

*Communications and Marketing
Coordinator*

Tom Hunter

*Collections Assistant, University of
Alberta Art Collection*

Denis La France

Senior Systems Administrator

Christina Marocco

Administrative Team Lead

Julie-Anne Peddle

*Administrative Assistant (started
September 2016)*

Riva Symko

*Gallery Lead, University of Alberta
Museums Galleries at Enterprise (until
January 2017)*

Jim Whittome

*Museums Collections Management
(until September 2016)*

MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS SERVICES TEMPORARY STAFF

Lacey Huculak

*Volunteer Coordinator
(until July 2017)*

Jean Middleton

Intern (Summer 2017)

Alexis Miller

*Social Media and Communication
Assistant (until December 2016)*

Julia Rudko

*Collections Assistant (Location
Tracking Project) (until May 2017)*

Sarah Spotowski

*Curatorial Assistant, University of
Alberta Art Collection*

Jessica Tofflemire

*Collections Assistant (Pest
Management Integration) (until April
2017)*

D

FRIENDS

FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA MUSEUMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016/17

Stephanie Huolt

President

Janet Sperling

Vice President

Jackie Flaata

Treasurer

Tyler Nelson

Secretary

Liz Ingram

Director

Cathy Roy

Director

Brittany Wingert

Director

Janine Andrews

*Executive Director,
University of Alberta Museums
Ex Officio (voting)*

Jocelyn Hall

*Curator, Vascular Plant
Herbarium and Chair, Policy
and Planning Committee
Ex Officio (non-voting)*



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