MANITOBA MUSEUM

BRINGING OUR STORIES FORWARD
Grasslands Gallery





The prairies seem eternal, and yet the GRASSLANDS GALLERY suggest that immense changes have occurred in just 200 years – largely the result of increased human occupation. We experience this distinct ecosystem and consider its long-term stewardship.

The challenges of the past and the possibilities of the future will be framed by the ecological capacity of the Prairie to support our communities and livelihoods. We will present diverse stories of immigrants and Indigenous Peoples to better understand the many motivations and effects of the successive waves of immigration that have shaped this biome.

THEME

Natural, political and technological forces have driven successive communities on the grasslands to migrate, adapt and change.

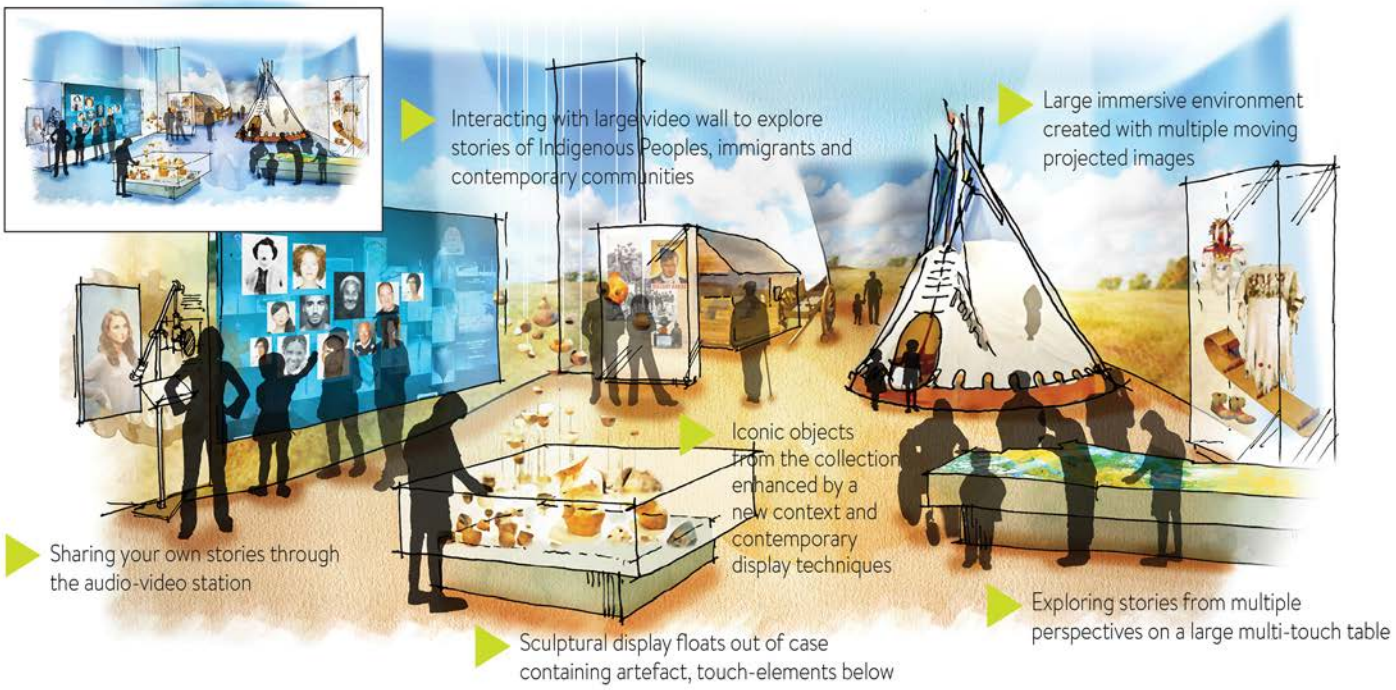
MESSAGES

- Origins after glaciations and characteristics of natural prairie ecosystem;
- Manitoba as a centre of continental trade networks;
- A storied landscape of Indigenous peoples presence and culture;
- A shared legacy and blended society of Manitoba's Indigenous peoples and new arrivals of Scottish, Swiss and other European settlers and the evolution of the Métis;
- Impacts of mass migration on society and ecology.

MANITOBA MUSEUM

BRINGING OUR STORIES FORWARD
Grasslands Gallery

Grasslands – Winter



NARRATIVE

Entering the Grasslands Gallery, visitors feel immediately transported into the wide-open expanse of the prairies. Film projections onto the contoured surfaces of the walls create a sense of being in the grasslands, as it slowly sways and changes with the seasons.

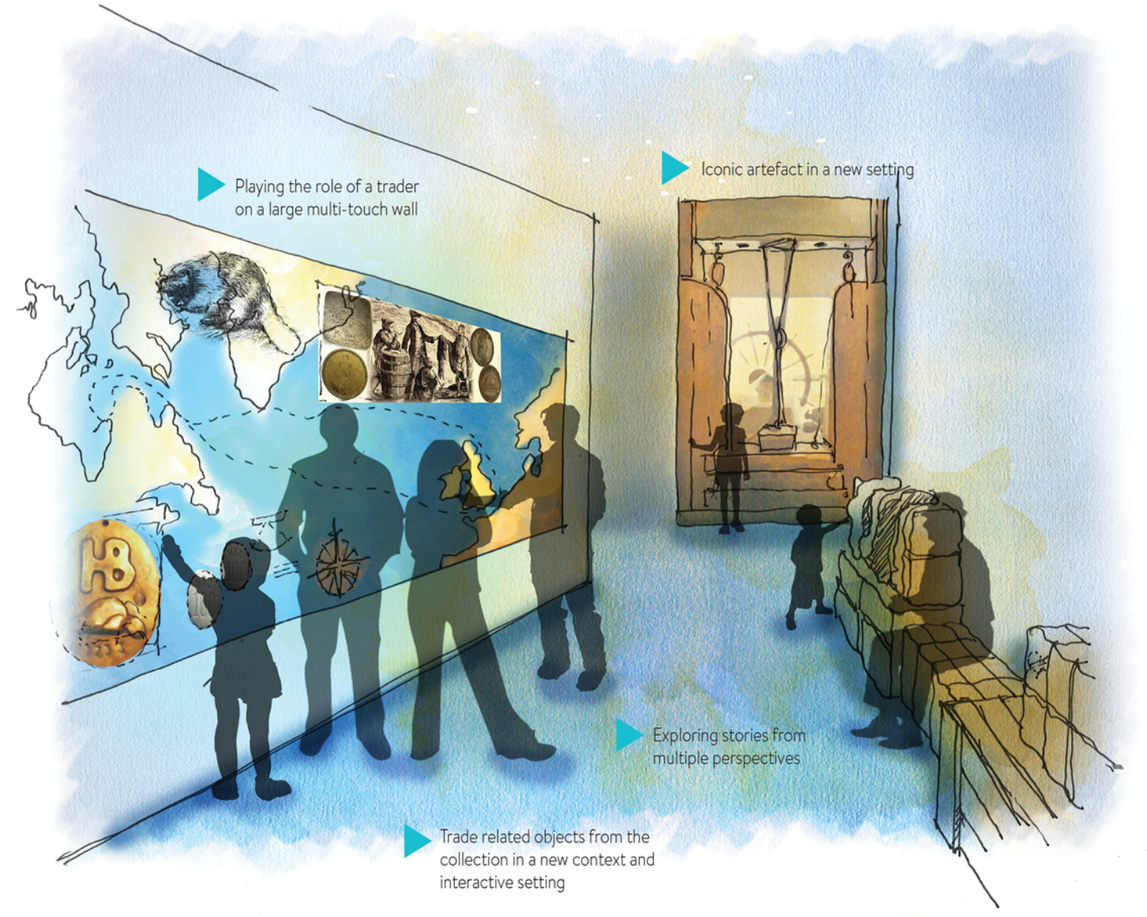
After taking a moment to soak up the atmosphere, visitors begin to scan the gallery, taking note of the many diverse experiences awaiting them. They walk toward a large table that displays an interactive map of Manitoba. They touch icons and drag sliders to investigate the migration patterns of all living things on the grasslands, plant and animal. They quickly realize that there are a multitude of overlapping patterns and begin to make their own connections about the impact of settlement, migration and change throughout history to the present day.

Moving further into the gallery, visitors are happy to see the Red River log house and Tipi they remember. Across from the Tipi, as if across an old bow river, sits a new exhibit situated on a mass of bison bones. Sounds and smells help them to feel that they've stepped back to a time when thousands of bison thundered across the prairies. As they move through the exhibit they discover objects and artifacts and can imagine what life was like for Indigenous people and European settlers who relied on the bison for daily life.

Beyond the Tipi, visitors can explore the Red River cart many other artifacts — some known to them from previous visits and others that are newly acquired or brought out of storage. Visitors will discover the stories of the people of the prairies - of what drew them to this region and how they shaped this biome through their movement and settlement, their agriculture, transportation, education, business and politics.

MANITOBA MUSEUM

BRINGING OUR STORIES FORWARD
Nonsuch Gallery



THE TRADE EXHIBIT

The Trade Exhibit is located just outside the Nonsuch Gallery. Here visitors explore a wall-sized interactive map that displays the spread of HBC trading posts across Manitoba and discover how this helped shape the nation. Across from the map, visitors investigate objects related to the fur trade. Some play with the interactive program that challenges them to become a trader, agent, trapper or tanner to make a successful trade. Others enter a replica of a fur-trading post, touching authentic pelts to feel the differences between them, and running their hands over the grain of the ancient wood and metal that comprise the giant fur press traders used to pack the pelts before they set sail to Europe. To absorb all they've experienced, visitors sit for a moment on one of shipping crates and marvel at this integral part of Manitoban and Canadian history.

MANITOBA MUSEUM

BRINGING OUR STORIES FORWARD
Nonsuch Gallery



The Hudson Bay lowlands were the site of first commerce between Europeans and Indigenous peoples. The NONSUCH GALLERY instantly transports visitors back through history, to a time when the Hudson's Bay Company was exploring trade routes and forging new trading partnerships.

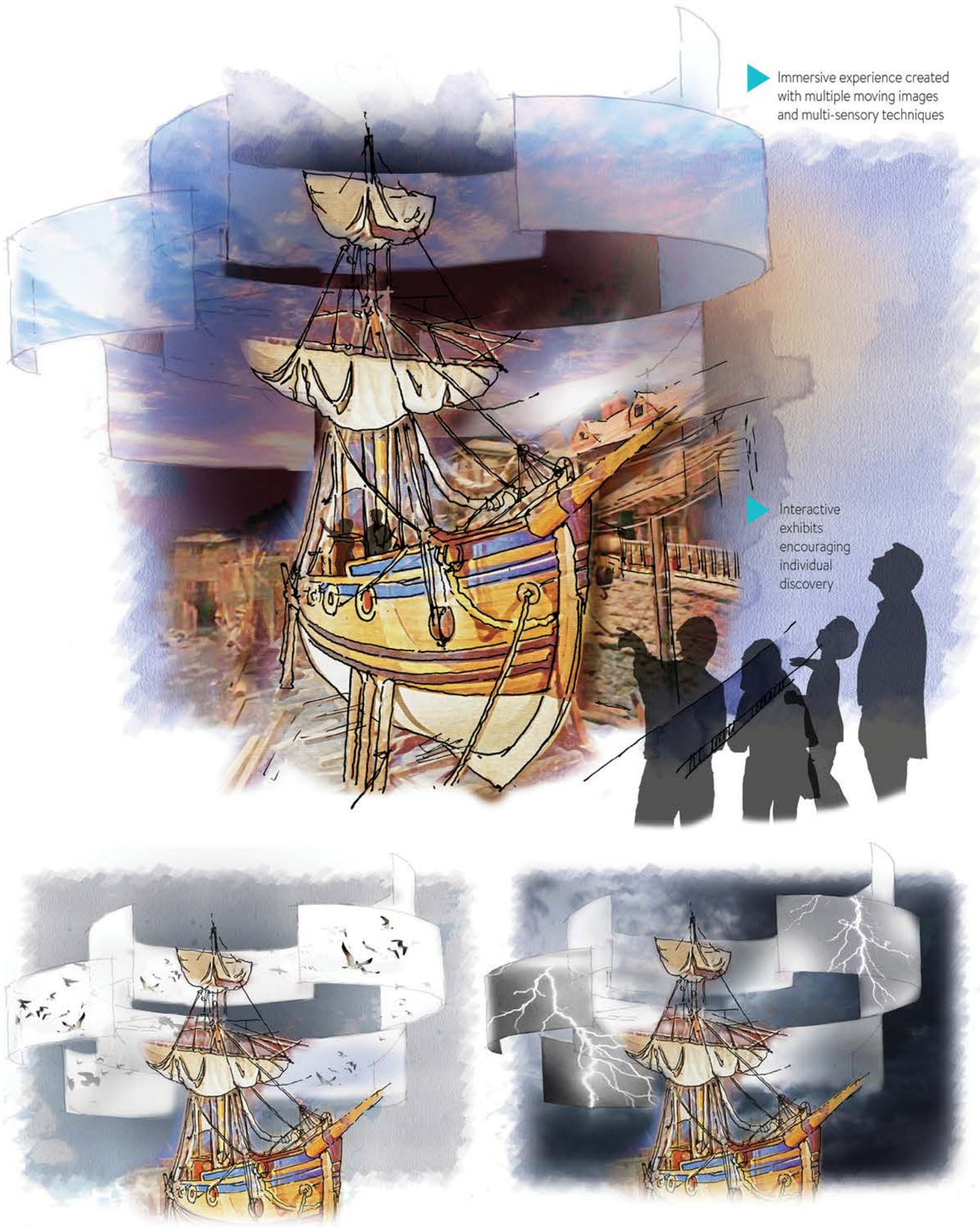
The *Nonsuch* is the Museum's most iconic and sensory artifact and as such, is prominently displayed in an atmosphere wholly conducive to immersion. Originally set in Deptford, England, on the eve of its maiden voyage to Canada, the narrative is being revised to its successful return – laden with furs, plant and animal specimens. To sustain this immersion, interactive exhibits about the fur trade and its importance will stimulate discussions about early trade relationships.

THEME

Trade relationships between Indigenous peoples and Europeans in Manitoba helped shape the Canada of today.

MESSAGES

- The trade in furs and goods involved Indigenous peoples and Europeans;
- The *Nonsuch* provides a tangible link to the 350-year history of the HBC;
- The story of HBC scientists and Indigenous peoples sharing of knowledge;
- Indigenous peoples perspectives of trade and traders;
- The sailors' and traders' perspectives of overwintering and local resources.



MANITOBA MUSEUM

BRINGING OUR STORIES FORWARD
Nonsuch Gallery

NARRATIVE

Entering the renewed Nonsuch Gallery, visitors are excited to see what's different. Standing gallantly in front of them is their beloved ship, but now dramatic lighting emphasizes its awe inspiring form. They pause to admire the sails and upper riggings and the texture of the hull. The interplay of light and shadow in the gallery adds drama, making the ship glow.

Visitors climb on board, where they notice the textures and smells of the ship. Once on deck, they see that clouds are lazily drifting on the scrims above them, which make them feel as if they're on a moving ship. A flock of seagulls flies across the projection screens, their haunting cries fading as they — and land — fall behind.

Minutes later, thunder claps and flashes of light appear overhead. It's a storm at sea! A guide runs aboard and calls out instructions: "storm's brewing… you there, batten down the hatches... and you, mind the ropes." The thrill of the storm and performance makes visitors feel as if they're a member of the original crew who encountered severe storms and heavy seas before making it to James Bay. Visitors could swear that they feel the ship move and heave under their feet.

As they disembark, visitors wonder: why is the *Nonsuch* in the Museum? What's its story? They move to the Gallery's Lower Mezzanine to learn the 54-foot replica of a 17th century ketch was built in time to celebrate the Hudson's Bay Company's 300th anniversary in 1970. In this purpose-built gallery, they watch videos, touch replicas of artifacts, and engage with other hands-on displays to explore the story of the original ship and its sailable replica.

MODEL SHIP GALLERY

Visitors interested in shipbuilding and the ships that served the HBC take the elevator to the Upper Mezzanine in the Nonsuch Gallery. Here, they encounter a quiet, reflective environment with display cases containing model ships. There's also knot tying and boat building activities for younger visitors and the young at heart. Visitors take pause up here to rest and enjoy bird's-eye views of the *Nonsuch* in port.





190 Rupert Avenue | Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada | R3B 0N2 | T 204-956-2830 | manitobamuseum.ca

MANITOBA MUSEUM

BRINGING OUR STORIES FORWARD
Orientation Gallery





The ORIENTATION GALLERY welcomes you to Manitoba and the Manitoba Museum. It offers a taste of what will come, touching on themes woven throughout the galleries.

The renewal of this introductory space creates an environment that is open and welcoming. It expresses inclusive and balanced messages about Manitoba's natural and social history; most importantly, the stories of Indigenous peoples and the immigration of so many newcomers. It effectively orients visitors to their experience in the Museum and helps them plan their visit.

THEME

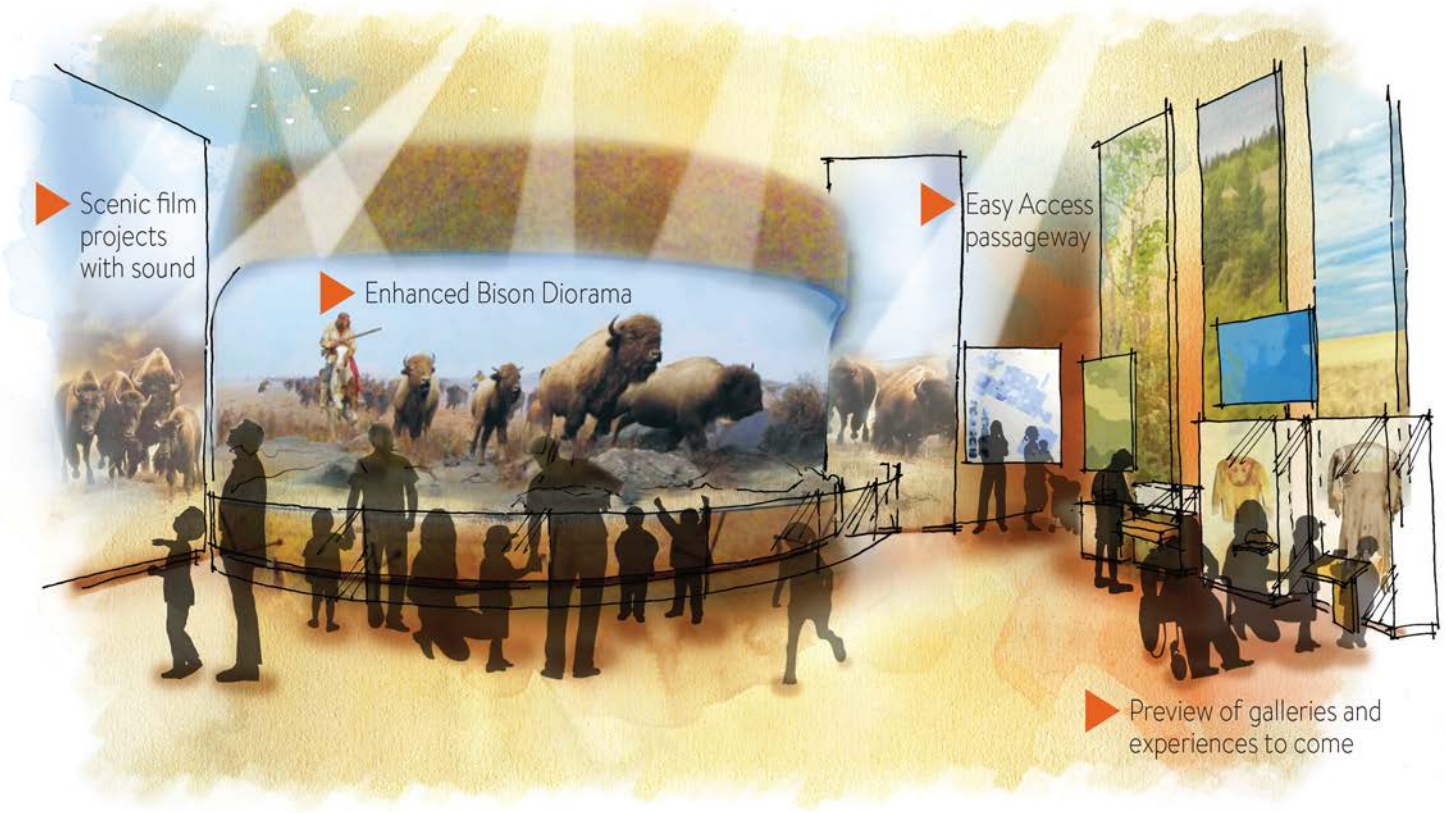
The Manitoba Museum has many stories to discover, revealing interconnections between people and nature, past and future.

MESSAGES

- Welcome to our province and the Museum;
- You are on Treaty One territory and the traditional homeland of the Métis nation;
- Manitoba is a name derived from the Cree "where the spirit lives";
- Manitoba's unique ecosystems are represented through its biomes;
- The Museum tells stories through authentic objects.

MANITOBA MUSEUM

BRINGING OUR STORIES FORWARD
Orientation Gallery



NARRATIVE

Having paid their admission, visitors are now ready to discover what's in store in the renewed galleries. They stream into the Orientation Gallery, and immediately notice that things have changed.

They are thrilled to find their beloved Bison Diorama still there, but observe that it seems grander, more alive.

The scenic film projections that flank the diorama make it seem more expansive, like the prairie itself. Excitement mounts as visitors notice grasses swaying in the wind and birds sporadically flying across the sky around the diorama. Visitors feel as if they're in the diorama with the riders on horseback. They hear the thunder of hooves on ground and imagine a time when the leaders of these bison brigades rode across the prairies.

Visitors move from the Bison Diorama to find a floor-to-ceiling map and photos of Manitoba's different landscapes, or biomes, each represented within a gallery in the Museum. Underneath, they open drawers or lift a hatch to discover a touchable exhibit of a hide stretched on a frame or a tanned hide shirt. They realize that in this museum, they will get hands-on with Manitoba's tangible history through authentic objects.

Having learned more about the themes and the galleries, visitors are now ready to delve into the experiences awaiting them in the galleries. Our temporary exhibit space - the Discovery Room - entrance is now reoriented to face the Bison Diorama so visitors can clearly see is always something new to discover at the Museum.

Visitors are pleased to discover a new navigational passageway that allows them to more easily access the galleries they want to focus on for this visit, and they head to the gallery of their choice.

MANITOBA MUSEUM

BRINGING OUR STORIES FORWARD
Winnipeg Gallery



At the confluence of two rivers, Winnipeg has been a meeting place for thousands of years. As a magnet that has attracted waves of immigrants, along with their colourful stories and traditions. In the WINNIPEG GALLERY we see that Winnipeg is a multifaceted urban centre.

Through archaeology, artifacts and oral histories, interpretation in the Winnipeg Gallery brings to light the fact that Winnipeg has always been an important social and political gathering place for Manitoba's diverse peoples. It reminds visitors that Winnipeg is ecologically rich and culturally significant, and has experienced extreme social and environmental change over time.

THEME

We are a dynamic community, influenced by the legacies of change-makers, everyday people and natural events, all of which continue to evolve our culture.

MESSAGES

- Winnipeg is part of the grasslands biome and a continuation of that story;
- Winnipeg has been a meeting place for more than 6,000 years;
- Winnipeg provides a political and economic focus for the greater story of Manitoba;
- Winnipeg is a diverse centre of contemporary global immigration;
- Winnipeg is home to many change-makers and dynamic communities.

MANITOBA MUSEUM

BRINGING OUR STORIES FORWARD
Winnipeg Gallery



NARRATIVE

After exiting the Grasslands Gallery visitors continue their grasslands journey by entering the Winnipeg Gallery. They are immediately struck by the change in atmosphere. They are now in an urban setting: street maps, cityscapes, newspapers, urban artifacts, and street sounds fill the room.

Some visitors look down and notice that a map of the city is displayed on the floor. They wander around the map, crouching down to locate their house. When they do, they notice there's a historical map overlaid on the contemporary city map. Hey, their street was once a creek! They also notice how the layout of the city was determined by the agricultural plots of the past. Many things have changed but history is still present.

Visitors glance up at the count-down clock on the wall — the Winnipeg Moments show is about to start. Visitors perch on seating rails as the gallery lights dim and a large screen curving across two walls lights up. A dynamic timeline emerges as images from Winnipeg's history and present day begin to move and flow across the screen, complemented by audio. In one story, a photo of the Winnipeg General Strike appears and newspaper headlines, such as "General Strikes in the City at 11 A.M. Today", appear around it. A spotlight now highlights one of the many artifacts displayed in the cases below the screen: an original police club used during the 1919 Strike for riot control. The images and words on the screen interact with the artifact, making it part of the show. As those images slowly recede and the light dims off the police club, new images and artifacts appear, showcasing other dynamic moments in history.

Some visitors want to know more about the Strike in Manitoba. They reach out to one of the many small touch screens in front of the seating rails and investigate this historic moment in more depth through images and text.

During the time between Winnipeg Moments shows, visitors explore the artifact displays, which are thematically grouped and evocatively displayed to provide diverse perspectives on moments in Winnipeg history. Discovering a particular artifact that fascinates them, visitors look it up on the small touch screens in front of the seating rails to find out more about the Winnipeg General Strike, or Winnie the Pooh, or Nellie McClung, or Louis Riel, or many more notable stories.

Rich in information and stories, and told using contemporary technologies, this new gallery makes visitors excited to come back again and discover new things and share their experience in this gallery with their friends and family.