

INTERPRETATIVE PLAN

Tennessee State Museum New Museum Master Plan

January 9, 2014

Lord Cultural Resources is a global professional practice dedicated to creating cultural capital worldwide.

We assist people, communities and organizations to realize and enhance cultural meaning and expression.

We distinguish ourselves through a comprehensive and integrated full-service offering built on a foundation of key competencies: visioning, planning and implementation.

We value and believe in cultural expression as essential for all people. We conduct ourselves with respect for collaboration, local adaptation and cultural diversity, embodying the highest standards of integrity, ethics and professional practice.

We help clients clarify their goals; we provide them with the tools to achieve those goals; and we leave a legacy as a result of training and collaboration.

SCOPE CLARIFICATION - ATTENTION

The following interpretive plan is based on the assumption of a much larger building and larger exhibition spaces. During the course of the master planning process, the overall building was reduced. The new museum will incorporate approximately 49,000 net square feet of exhibition space as opposed to the 83,000 square originally assumed.

A realignment of this plan to 49,000 square feet is in process and will be provided to the selected Exhibition Designer from which to begin detailed interpretive planning. Documentation will be completed prior to contract.

Please reference the Functional Program prepared by Lord Cultural Resources for the *actual* space allocations for exhibitions.

Please read this report for purposes of understanding the content and richness of the stories that can be told in the new museum. It should inspire and excite you.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Tennessee State Museum is to procure, preserve, exhibit, and interpret objects which relate to the social, political, economic, and cultural history of Tennessee and Tennesseans, and to provide exhibitions and programs for the educational and cultural enrichment of the citizens of the state. The TSM has a world-class collection, with many one-of-a-kind items associated with significant historical figures and key events, beautiful works of art and craft, and important historical photographs and documents. Housed in the basement of an office building since 1981 (which was intended to be a temporary solution), the Museum is now poised to begin planning for a new state-of-the-art museum building.

In 2013 Lord Cultural Resources was engaged by a Task Force appointed by the Governor of the State of Tennessee to provide Master Planning services for a new Tennessee State Museum. Integral to this work is collaborating with the Museum staff to come up with a concept for the exhibition program of the new museum. This Interpretative Plan builds on previous work undertaken by TSM staff, meetings between Lord and TSM staff members, our analysis of Tennessee history, our critique of the current TSM exhibitions and more than 30 years of our experience planning exhibitions for history and state museums.

At the heart of any visit to the new Museum will be the experience in the new permanent collection exhibition. This Interpretative Plan for that exhibition provides an overview of how visitors will encounter the collections, stories, and people of Tennessee's history at the new Tennessee State Museum.

An Interpretative Plan is a framework to shape the visitor experience and lead the exhibition development process. It is a living document, intended to guide all the actors in this process, while also remaining flexible enough to respond to detailed research, changing technology, and creative design approaches. While the thematic structure, messaging and exhibition objectives will remain unchanged as research and design go forward, exact means of expression and detailed content may be refined as the work progresses.

With an increase in space and new methods of display, the new galleries will expand interpretation of Tennessee's history up to the present, and will address key issues, art forms and stories that have not been possible in the TSM's current galleries. The new Tennessee State Museum will celebrate the state's unique and inspiring history, making it relevant for both local and visiting audiences. One of the overall messages for the exhibition experience is that "**Tennessee's history is America's history,**" creating a sense of pride in a shared past and encouraging a deeper understanding of some challenging events in the history of the state and the nation. This is a prime opportunity to showcase more of the TSM's outstanding collections; to use the latest in visitor interpretive techniques; to showcase inventive media; and to create opportunities for new and enriching educational and other public programs.

The Interpretative Plan is the first step in conceptualizing the new visitor experience at the new Tennessee State Museum. This document will be the foundation for responsible design in the next phase of the project, as it identifies the goals of the project, how resources will be used, and what visitors will see, hear, learn and do at the Museum. By establishing such clear objectives and a powerful narrative at the beginning of the exhibition planning process, we can plan to meet the needs of our audiences and establish a clear road map for content development and design. **It is very important for the Museum to establish this clear plan at this early stage of planning so that collection development and exhibition planning and design can move forward at the same time as architectural design of the new building.** The typical life expectancy of a permanent collection exhibition is 15 to 20 years; however, there should also be a rolling program of renewal of various exhibits within that time period.

1.1 HOW IS THIS REPORT ORGANIZED?

Each gallery's interpretative plan includes the following:

1. **Recommended Size:** The size of each gallery is recommended in net square feet, which is reflected in the space program for the new TSM building. The determination of size for each gallery is based on a number of factors, including relative importance in the overall story of Tennessee, the historical period to be interpreted in that gallery, and the size and number of artifacts available to tell the story.
2. **Description:** Each gallery is described according to its theme, and the key content requirements are identified. This is to provide a starting point for assigning content to themes, to determine what's missing, or to debate alternative themes.
3. **Key Topics:** For each gallery, a list of key topics that must be communicated to visitors is included. There is no weighting given to the topics at this point, some could be interpreted in great detail while others may be only briefly mentioned. Priorities and the relative importance of each will be reviewed with the Taskforce and Museum staff prior to further detailing.
4. **Potential Means of Expression:** In this section we begin to pinpoint possible experiences for visitors or appropriate means for expressing content (e.g. a video or artifact display). These preliminary expressions illustrate the potential of each theme, how collections might be incorporated, and where we might want to start anchoring the 'wow' experiences. More means of expression are provided for some galleries than may be able to fit the space allocation: that is an advantage at this stage of planning, since editing and pruning the experience will continue through design.

5. **Star Artifacts:** Individual or groups of artifacts that are “stars” in the TSM collection because of their historical value, artistic merit, or association with important people or events are identified for each gallery. These items will likely form centerpieces of important exhibits in the gallery.
6. **Visible Storage Opportunities:** Visible storage has been recommended by Lord Cultural Resources and identified as a priority by TSM staff, enabling the Museum to display a higher proportion of its collections to visitors, and to provide them with the Museum’s information about each item so that they can discover their meaning and value for themselves. Collections best suited to visible storage displays are identified for each gallery.

Reference images are also provided throughout to illustrate potential design approaches to some of the exhibit ideas.

2. TENNESSEE'S STORY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Tennessee has a big story to tell. Its land, people, and cultures have been at the center of many national and international movements. A new, larger museum building will allow the TSM to give these important stories more space, prominence, and to employ new techniques and technologies to bring them to life for visitors.

The story will be an engaging, interactive and thought-provoking experience. It will encourage visitors to reflect on the places, people, and events that were instrumental in Tennessee's history, to create connections between the past and the present, and to contemplate how Tennessee has shaped America and the world. Through a combination of displays of important artifacts and artworks, stories and oral histories, images, multimedia and more, visitors will be encouraged to see Tennessee's history as their history and be asked to share their stories as well.

2.2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles for the interpretation and content of the Tennessee State Museum permanent collection exhibition are as follows:

- This is a state museum: **it must tell the stories of the whole state.**
- **The history of Tennessee must be inclusive of all Tennesseans** -- men, women, children, and people of different races, religions, and socioeconomic status.
- The exhibition will feature the stories of real people placed within their historical context.
- The exhibition encourages reflection on Tennesseans' individual and collective identities, origins and contributions to the continual shaping of Tennessee.
- The exhibition will be informative, interactive and engaging for audiences of all ages and backgrounds, and will integrate child-friendly components and elements that are readily adaptable to the ever-changing story of Tennessee.
- **The exhibits will encourage visitors to learn through discovery and exploration**, rather than exclusively passive, didactic displays.
- **Interpretation will go beyond stereotypes** and help visitors understand that there is not one Tennessee or Tennessean, but many.
- Content must be:
 - respectful of community sensitivities;

- adaptable and responsive to current events;
- a reflection of Tennessee’s diverse cultural and geographic communities;
- based on sound academic scholarship and practices; and
- must acknowledge difficult aspects of the state’s history, helping toward understanding and some healing of past wrongs.

2.3 KEY CHARACTERISTICS

Key characteristics of exhibits in the new museum include:

- **Different Display Techniques** – a mix of traditional and new display techniques to enliven the gallery and create unexpected experiences that cater to a wide audience.
- **‘Wow’ Experiences** – strategic placement of ‘wow’ exhibits to provide a dramatic focus for visitors and a grounding element within key chronological periods.
- **Human Element** – through incorporation of personal stories, as well as interpreters, human interaction will enrich the visitor experience.
- **Relevant** – content should be relevant and changing – the story of Tennessee is continually being written and the exhibits should reflect that fact.
- **Direct Engagement and Participation** – the exhibition experience should include opportunities for direct visitor engagement and personal connections through feedback or co-created content in programming and interpretation.
- **Interactive and Immersive Environments** – offering a variety of interactive techniques that help to create an ‘experience’ rather than just delivery of content; including mechanical, technological, emotional and immersive opportunities.
- **Space for Group Experiences** – exhibits will be designed to allow for groups—particularly school classes—to gather in certain areas for activities and discussion. These will be integrated where appropriate to the subject matter and the type of exhibit.
- **Layered Content** – approaching content as an opportunity for visitor discovery according to varied learning styles, needs, and interests; providing options for accessing content, for example through audioguides or QR codes.
- **Creative and Responsible Use of Technology** – keeping in mind operational realities and visitor comfort levels, as well as the use of technology as a means to explore content – *not* technology for technology’s sake.
- **Collections Used in Context and for Process** – historical collections should primarily be utilized as a means of communicating or enhancing a story, or showing how something works - not as stand-alone ‘objects’ divorced from context.
- **The Fun Factor** – where appropriate, fun, play and games will be used to create connections to the material and to others. Fun helps to create a positive, memorable experience.
- **Access and Transparency** – provide multiple means for visitors to get ‘behind the scenes’ access to collections and TSM staff knowledge and expertise, for example through visible storage or multimedia.

- **Interdisciplinary** –the history galleries will continue the present practice of interpreting art and history together, providing context for each. The art galleries will display art aesthetically.

2.4 CORE MESSAGE

The core message is a concise statement of the central intellectual argument of the exhibition. It has also been called the theme statement by TSM staff, and was created during a previous phase of planning. Some slight rephrasing has been done here:

Tennessee has been the birthplace and crossroads of many significant people, events, art forms and movements in our nation’s history—its story can help us understand this place and ourselves in a deeper, more meaningful way.

2.5 THEMATIC APPROACH

The thematic approach for the Tennessee State Museum permanent collection exhibition is illustrated in the following diagram. A complete description of the themes and potential exhibition experiences are provided in this Interpretative Plan. The visitor experience of the permanent collection exhibition gallery will be primarily chronological, but with the choice to explore in part or in any order if desired, and with recurring linking themes throughout. An orientation hub will include options for visitors to get an overview of the story and to explore based on their interests.

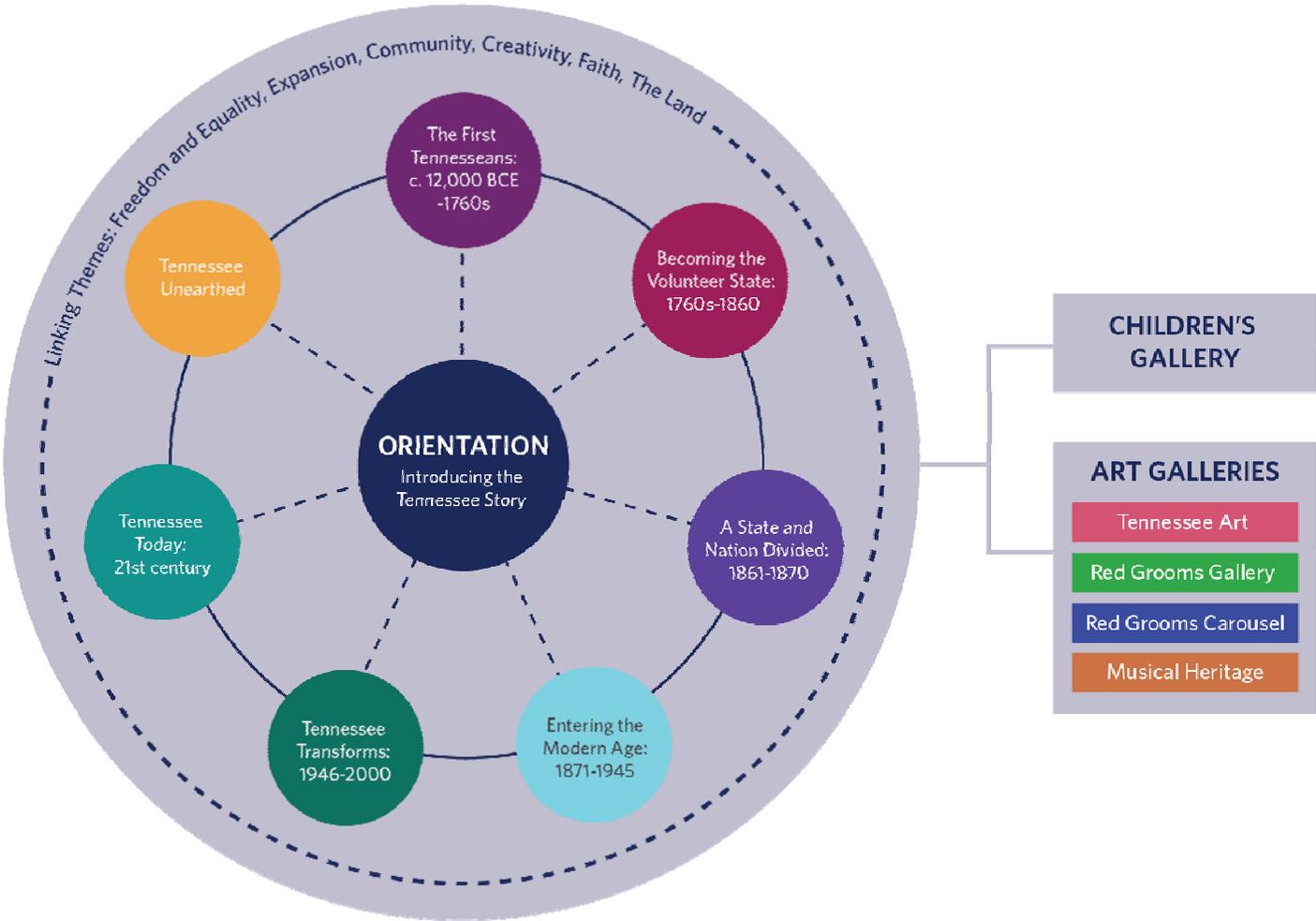
Tennessee’s history is best told chronologically. Themes (such as expansion or the struggle for equality) will be identified, but within a chronological organization of the displays. Linking themes may be signified with colors, icons, or in a different way. An orientation gallery and natural history gallery will provide context for the rest of the chronological story. Visitors will be able to understand the historical events that followed upon one another and also to see the common themes of the Tennessee story. A Children’s Gallery and several Art Galleries will fall outside the chronological narrative, but will also feature the linking themes. The overall visitor experience will be characterized by content-rich artifact displays, personal stories, engaging media, and thought-provoking interactives that ultimately create a deep and layered experience for visitors.

The history galleries are organized as follows:

- Introducing the Tennessee Story
- Tennessee Unearthed
- The First Tennesseans
- Becoming the Volunteer State: 1760s-1860
- A State and Nation Divided: 1861-1870
- Entering the Modern Age: 1871-1945
- Tennessee Transforms: 1946-2000
- Tennessee Today: 21st Century

Additionally, the following themes link the different chronological periods and appear throughout:

- Freedom and Equality
- Expansion
- Community
- Creativity
- Faith
- The Land



2.6 SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Note that these recommendations are based on a larger building. This is not longer relevant.

Tennessee State Museum			
History Galleries			
Exhibit Space	Current Size	Recommended Size	Notes
Introducing the Tennessee Story (Orientation Gallery)	N/A	1,000	Does not currently exist in TSM. This does not need to take up a large footprint, suggest it be on the walls mainly. Needs to be a space where groups can gather. <i>Does not include size of theater, just the orientation exhibits.</i>
Tennessee Unearthed (Natural History)	Minimal	3,000	Very small display currently on Natural History, no size provided by client. Will focus on geology, paleontology, geography, flora and fauna, mineralogy and agronomy.
The First Tennesseans	3,090	6,000	Almost double the current size. Will include Historic Native Americans- Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Shawnee.
Becoming the Volunteer State: 1760s-1860	30,550	16,000	Currently these are three separate galleries (Frontier, Age of Jackson, and Antebellum). Recommendation to combine them as they are somewhat overlapping time periods. New single gallery will address all key topics but in a smaller space, to allow for additional galleries.
A State and Nation Divided: 1861-1870	6,430	10,000	Larger than it is now by 4,000 sq. ft. Content will of course begin prior to 1861, to explore the causes of Secession and the War.
Entering the Modern Age: 1871-1945	5,120	16,000	Triple the size it is now, however current exhibition ends around 1920. This gallery will continue to 1945, and will include interpretation of the two World Wars that is currently in the Military Museum.
Tennessee Transforms: 1946-2000	N/A	10,000	Currently does not exist in the TSM.
Tennessee Today: 21 st century	N/A	2,000	Does not exist in the TSM. Suggest this be a changeable exhibit space that can be updated to keep it current.
Children's Gallery	N/A	3,000	Does not exist at present in the TSM.
Sub Total	45,190	67,000	
Art Galleries			
Tennessee Art Changing Gallery	N/A	2,000	Does not currently exist in the TSM. Changing displays of art from the TSM permanent collection.
Music Heritage Gallery	N/A	2,000	Does not currently exist in the TSM. Emphasis on global impact of Tennessee popular music.
Red Grooms Gallery	N/A	2,000	Does not currently exist in the TSM. Display of definitive prints collection, which must be rotated for reasons of preservation.
Red Grooms Carousel	N/A	4,000	A glazed pavilion connected to the rest of the Museum. Could be illuminated at night.
Temporary Exhibition Gallery	6,000	6,000	Flexible space, supporting 2-3 shows annually, of all time periods and media, including international travelling shows; adjacent to the Tennessee Art Changing Gallery so that they can be combined for larger shows.
Exterior Exhibit Space	N/A	N/A	Outdoor exhibit space and pathways.
Sub Total	6,000	16,000	
Grand Total	51,190	83,000	

3. HISTORY GALLERIES

3.1 ORIENTATION

Recommended Size of Gallery:

- 1,000 square feet for Orientation Gallery
- 4,200 square feet for Orientation Theater

Description

The Orientation Gallery will set the tone for the visitor experience and introduce key concepts that will be explored in greater depth throughout the exhibition. It will be a highly engaging and dynamic area, intended to create relevancy and interest from the outset. Through a variety of experiences, visitors will be provided with the context—chronological, geographical, and thematic—to be able to understand the Tennessee story. The Orientation Gallery also provides spaces for groups to gather at the start of their visit, whether in the theater or around the orientation exhibits.

In this area, visitors will encounter a number of “wow” experiences, beginning with an inspiring, surprising, and technologically impressive orientation film that will introduce the main themes of the permanent collection exhibition and create excitement for the rest of the visit. In the lobby of the orientation theater there will be several other exhibits that will orient visitors and can be viewed either before the film if they are waiting for it to start, or afterwards and before they move on to the rest of the galleries. A layered, content-rich timeline will orient visitors in time so that they can understand the sequence of the major events of Tennessee history. An interactive map will orient them in space so that they can understand where things happened and also how the state’s natural features and geography influenced its origins and development. Some limited artifacts can be incorporated into the Orientation Theatre, such as the Roxy Theater facade sign and art deco theatre lobby panels as well as large scale reproductions of striking images from the Museum collection. Small artifacts and reproductions may be able to be integrated in to the timeline, depending on the design direction. This area will also provide physical orientation so that visitors can understand the layout of the galleries that await them.

Several other orientation experiences are also grouped under this theme, although they will be experienced in other physical locations. Outdoor interpretive signage will mark the path from the Capitol Building to the Tennessee State Museum on the Bicentennial Mall, to provide wayfinding between the two buildings for those who visit both sites in one day—particularly school children. Creatively designed and light on content, these outdoor elements can act as a preview for the visits, make connections between the two sites, and can point out locations on the grounds where important events occurred. Additionally, an audioguide system that visitors can access on their own devices or on borrowed units will allow people to explore the Museum and grounds unguided and to access rich content and stories.

Potential Means of Expression

- **Orientation Theater** – A 200 seat orientation theater will show a 10-12-minute orientation film in which the history of Tennessee is presented with passion, wit and historical accuracy, incorporating images or replicas of some of the Museum’s artifacts in the style of an ‘object theater.’ Such a theater features certain objects which could be original artifacts from the collection but are more likely excellent reproductions, laser images or holograms; the objects are the ‘stars’ of the show, focusing attention on them in anticipation of discovering the originals in the galleries. This should be a technologically impressive production, incorporating stunning projections and 3D or 4D technology that will bring the history to life and be a ‘wow!’ experience for visitors. The theater will offer the orientation experience at no admission charge to all visitors, although consideration could be given to adding a charged admission show that would utilize the same facilities. If an admission fee is charged for a second show, it could be waived for school groups.

The film content would orient visitors to the organization and layout of the exhibition galleries as well as to the chronological sequence and recurring themes of the story. Design of the theater must be flexible to allow for multiple uses with minimal intervention. Opportunities to have live performers be part of the experience could be considered, as well as the ability to do presentations, other film screenings, and special events in the space. A well-done orientation film ensures that visitors experience the rest of the exhibition with the context necessary to understand and appreciate complex historical events. It will also begin their visit with an educational, memorable and entertaining highlight that leaves them smiling and intrigued by Tennessee history.



Gran Museo del Mundo Maya



USS Constitution Center



Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre



Changing Climate Show, Science North

- **Interactive Map** – A large map of the state of Tennessee will allow visitors to get a sense of the geography of the state and its key physical features, which are intimately tied to its human history. This map could be projected on to a large wall that has an outline and slight relief of the state, showing the different elevations of the Blue Ridge, the Appalachian Ridge and Valley Region, the Cumberland Plateau, the Highland Rim, the Nashville Basin, and the Gulf Coastal Plain. It could also potentially be projected onto the floor of the lobby so that visitors can actually “travel” across the state to explore the content themselves. Gesture-based technology can allow visitors to manipulate the map themselves, to call up additional information on certain places. It could also be made into a game, perhaps emulating the TSM’s very popular Travelling Trunk “Tennessee: Its Land and People” that challenges school classes to physically locate major cities, people, and products of Tennessee where they belong on the map. Projection technology can allow for changing maps, for example showing the evolution of settlement in the state, including treaties with Native Americans, major transportation routes, Civil War battles, and more. This exhibit will be designed to ensure that school groups can gather around it for discussion and activities.



Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museumm, “Masks of the World” Map



EU Parliamentarium Visitor Centre

- **Mixed Media Timeline** - A large, multi-layered timeline will provide visitors with the historical context to explore the rest of the permanent collection exhibition. The major time periods that correspond to the chronological exhibition galleries will be marked clearly, and depending on the design of the building could physically be located near the entrances to the different galleries, providing a physical as well as intellectual orientation. Events that correspond to the linking themes of the exhibition can also be indicated using a color scheme or graphic icon. The timeline will not be heavy on text, but will use multiple forms of media to illustrate the key events, such as images, multimedia, and possibly objects or reproductions of relevant items from the collection. This exhibit will be designed to ensure that school groups can gather around it for discussion and activities.



Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum



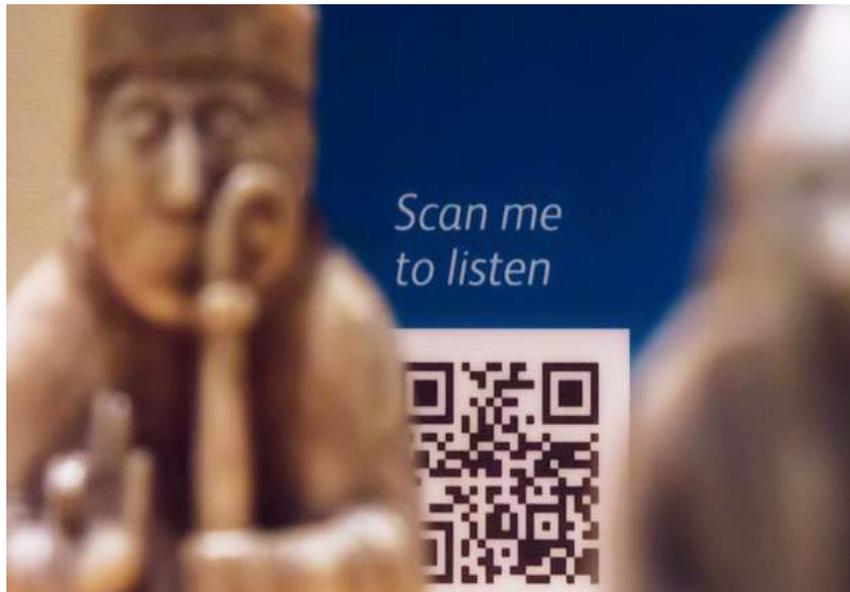
Krapina Neanderthal Museum Timeline



Newseum Timeline



- **Audio Tour:** An audio guide program that visitors can access on their own device through downloading or using QR codes, or that they can listen to on a device rented from the Museum. This will allow visitors who want to explore the Museum self-guided to be able to learn more about the collection and the stories of the Museum without overburdening the exhibits with text. Either triggered by entering numbers or scanning a code, or using GPS or RFID technology, the audio commentary will provide another layer of richness to the experience and can bring in personal voices, atmospheric audio, and importantly for Tennessee’s history—music. Audio stops can be created for sites outside the Museum as well, along the Bicentennial Mall and the pathway up to the Capitol Building. The Museum may want to consider developing an audio tour for the Capitol at the same time. The audio guide system can also incorporate games and challenges for visitors, for example a scavenger hunt. Video and animations could be incorporated as well, depending on the system chosen.



British Museum



American Museum of Natural History

- **Outdoor Interpretive Pathway** — Strategically located signs, works of art, or markers for accessing digital content along the pathway between the new Museum and the Capitol Building will provide important orientation and wayfinding needs for visitors, and also provide them with information about the historically rich grounds on which they are walking. There is also the opportunity to use Augmented Reality, so that visitors can access historical photographs, and audio and video content if it exists, showing important events that occurred right on the spot where they are standing. A low-tech option would be to create semi-transparent viewers that visitors look through and can see a historic image layered on top of the current reality. These experiences not only sustain interest and provide a preview of what visitors will see next, but will impress upon them that history is not just in the Museum building but all around them.



Streetmuseum, London 'App' shows history where it happened on your I-phone.



Culloden Battlefield Guide



3.2 TENNESSEE UNEARTHED

Recommended Size of Gallery: 3,000 square feet

Description

The first exhibition gallery will set the stage for Tennessee's human history by beginning with the foundation for it all—the land. This natural history gallery will include displays on the geology, palaeontology, geography, flora, fauna, agronomy and mineralogy of Tennessee, so that visitors may appreciate the land in which the historic events occurred, and the ways in which Tennesseans have changed the land. Through a series of interactive and object-rich exhibits, visitors will learn about the important natural features of the state that influenced its development, particularly how the geology and geography of East, Middle and West Tennessee caused the three sections of the state to develop in different ways. Visitors will also be introduced to the plants and animals that call Tennessee home and how they continue to thrive—or not—in the state today.

Key Topics

- **The Formation of Tennessee** - How Tennessee came to be located where it is today, after the formation of the continents.
- **Geology** - The geology of Tennessee continues to influence the state today—its minerals, mountains, soil and river valleys had major impact on human settlement and development.
- **Tennessee Under Water** - At one time the only things living in Tennessee were underwater, because of shifting of the earth's crust and the flooding and receding of the world's seas.
- **Earliest Life Forms** - From the rich underwater environment to prehistoric creatures on land and the ancient plant life that sustained them.
- **Tennessee Species Today** - The diversity of Tennessee's landscape means that it is one of the richest inland states in the country, with a huge array of plant and animal species.
- **Geography:** showing how the state comprises three very different geographical regions -- East, Middle and West Tennessee

Potential Means of Expression

- **Geological Film** – A film projected onto a large wall will show visitors how this land changed over millions of years and became what we know today. This will be a dramatic presentation using light, sound, and evocative images to show the forces of plate tectonics, continental drift, and how the seas and land formed and reformed. The film will zoom out and in to show the overall landmasses taking place, but with a specific focus on the state of Tennessee and how it came to be where and what it is today. Content can include animations of related geological events such as mountains, ice ages, volcanoes, earthquakes, oceans opening and closing and more. This exhibit will be designed to ensure that school groups can gather around it for discussion and activities.



American Museum of Natural History

- **Tennessee Cutaway Model** – A large table-top relief map of Tennessee will have the state's important geological and topographical features labeled, along with cutaway sections that let visitors see what is underneath. Real rock samples sourced in Tennessee will be incorporated into the model, for example granite from the Great Smoky Mountains, sandstone from the Cumberland Plateau, and silt from the Mississippi River valley. Some samples visitors will be able to touch, while other more fragile or rare samples will be displayed as natural works of art.



The Great North Museum, Newcastle, England. Permanent Geological Gallery.

- **Ancient Tennessee Fauna** - Large predators and their prey once inhabited what is now Tennessee. Visitors will encounter some of these giants in a series of contextual displays that will include murals or some other visual representation of the animal living in its habitat, mounted skeletons or bone displays, and small touchscreens that let visitors learn more. Content on the touchscreens could include short animations showing that animal moving, hunting, or making its home. Visitors could also examine bones close up by zooming, rotating, and flipping through high resolution images. Species to feature could include the Hadrosaur—the only dinosaur to be found in Tennessee—the Mastadon, already on display at the TSM, and the Smilodon. The Smilodon was a saber-toothed cat whose large canines made it a fierce predator. A partial skeleton of the Smiladon was found during construction in downtown Nashville in 1971, and later inspired the naming of the city's National Hockey League team—the Nashville Predators.



Geology Gallery, North Dakota History Centre (rendering)

- **Fossil Forensics** - Displays of original fossils (plants and animals) found in Tennessee that visitors can examine up close. Microscopes, minds-on questions, “look closely”, compare and contrast, scale, and examples of evolution will be explored. Games can be incorporated using media or flip panels, challenging visitors try to guess the identity of fossils or identify bones.



- **How Do We Know?** – Figuring out what life was like millions of years ago from fossil remains is not a simple task. This exhibit will communicate to visitors some of the ways that paleontologists, geologists, and biologists are able to determine many aspects of ancient life forms. It will engage visitors by asking them questions and having them look at specimens, and will also acknowledge that there are some questions to which we do not yet have definite answers, perhaps drawing on specific questions or mysteries from the Museum's own collection.

Star Artifact

- Mastodon fossils from an animal that roamed Tennessee 10,000 years ago



Darwin Centre, Museum of Natural History- London.



3.3 THE FIRST TENNESSEANS

Recommended Size of Gallery: 6,000 square feet

Description

People first arrived in Tennessee around 15,000 years ago. The very first people were nomadic hunters following large game. As the climate warmed with the end of the last ice ages they began to establish permanent settlements. This exhibit will take visitors through the major periods of Native American culture in what is now Tennessee, beginning with the Paleo-Indians, followed by the Archaic, Woodland and Mississippian. It will also feature the historic Indian tribes of Tennessee, the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Shawnee—focusing on the first two groups, which had a significant presence. Visitors will learn about the rich cultures of these people through display of the Museum’s excellent prehistoric Native American collections, and by using graphics, interactives, and media to bring them to life. Exhibits on the historic Native American peoples will impress upon visitors the continuity of indigenous habitation of Tennessee and of the culture and lifestyle of these people.

Key Topics

- **Arrival of the Paleo-Indians** – Theories of when and how the Paleo-Indians arrived in Tennessee.
- **Environment**– The environment of the First Tennesseans changed dramatically from the arrival of the Paleo-Indians during the last Ice Age through to the Mississippian period. As the climate and species around them changed, people adapted their ways of life to suit their new realities.
- **Prehistoric Lifeways** – Explanations and comparisons of the ways that Native Americans lived and organized their societies in the four prehistoric periods.
- **Prehistoric Technology and Innovations** –Tools and other innovations of each people will be presented -- for example spears, nets, atlatls and the bow and arrow. Farming was an innovation of the Woodland Period that led to major social changes.
- **Prehistoric Crafts and Artforms** – Early Native American peoples often made things beautiful as well as functional. Archaic Indians began weaving intricate baskets and polishing stones. In the Woodland period people developed pottery and decorated their work with artistic designs. Mississippian Indians created jewelry and other ornaments such as gorgets.
- **Prehistoric Burial Customs** – Mississippian burial mounds discovered in Tennessee can provide some information on the spiritual beliefs of these early people.
- **Major Archaeological Finds** – There have been a number of major archaeological finds in Tennessee that have shed light on the lives of its earliest people, including the Anderson Site, Eva/ Icehouse Bottom, Mississippian Towns, and Pinson Mounds.
- **Historic Native American Nations** – At different points in time, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Creek, Choctaw and Shawnee peoples lived in what is now Tennessee. The Cherokee were the dominant and most numerous.

- **Historic Lifeways** – How and where they lived, ate, and worked; it is important to emphasize the role of agriculture and the mix of farming with hunting and gathering.
- **Language, Art and Religion** – Religion and art were closely tied in many cases in Native American culture, with music, dance, and storytelling important to spiritual beliefs. The development of a syllabary for writing the Cherokee language is important.
- **Social Organization and Political Structures** – Historic Indian nations developed complex societies with rich cultures, spiritual beliefs and independent governments.
- **Native Towns and Settlements** – Although some Indians groups continued to live semi-nomadic lives, in this period many established permanent settlements that included farmland and towns which had houses, government structures, ceremonial and recreational sites, and forts.

Potential Means of Expression

- **Arrival in Tennessee** – A short film that presents the theories on how Paleo-Indians arrived in North America and made their way to Tennessee from the perspectives of archaeologists and other scientists today, as well as traditional Native American origin stories. This could be a mini-theater experience in an enclosed, intimate space that can accommodate groups and makes use of evocative imagery, sounds, and atmosphere to tell this dramatic and incredible story of human migration.



Glacier Exploration Immersive Theater,
Baie Comeau, Québec

- **Map of Archaeological Sites** – A contour table map will show the location of pre-historic archaeological sites that have been found in Tennessee, color-coded to distinguish between the different time periods. Information can be provided on each site, including images and artifacts from that site if available.

- **Large Game Hunting** – The Paleo-Indians depended heavily on the large mammals that lived during the Ice Age. A display of the bones from the Museum collection as well as imagery and information known on how they were hunted will be provided along with stone projectile points from the Museum collection. A visual comparison of a Mastadon with a human will give visitors a sense of what it would have been like to charge such a massive animal armed with only a spear.



Field Museum

- **Adaptive Strategies** – As Native people adapted from long-distance travel and hunting large game to travelling shorter distances and hunting smaller game following the Ice Age, they adapted their tools and living situations to match. This exhibit will showcase some of the new tools and implements created by the Archaic peoples, such as containers for cooking and storing food, bone tools and burial items. A hands-on interactive will let visitors try their hand at simple basket weaving techniques by watching a short instructional video of a Native American person today demonstrating the technique.



Mille Lacs Museum, Minnesota

- **Woodland Pottery** – With the invention of agriculture in the Woodland period, people began to need new ways of storing and preparing their food. Clay pots replaced earlier methods such as bags and bowls made of skins and stone. Pottery could store food and be used to cook it over the fire. Eventually, Woodland people began to decorate their pots as well, using different methods. Along with a display of pots and pot shards from the collection, the exhibit should include an explanation of how pottery was made using video or illustrations. Some replicas of particular shards should be mounted so that visitors can touch them and create rubbings.
- **The First Farmers** – Woodland people were the first farmers in North America, and many of the crops they planted continue to be grown here today. Replicas or real samples of plants grown by the Woodland Indians will be displayed along with a matching game where visitors have to guess the different uses of each plant. Additional information on farming techniques and tools will be provided, including display of stone farming tools from the Museum collection.
- **What Did They Eat?** How do archaeologists know what people ate thousands of years ago? This exhibit will present some archaeological evidence and challenge visitors to act as detectives to try and piece together what people would have eaten based on remains of plants and animals found during an archaeological dig. Next to this will be a representation of the remains of a modern Tennessean's diet that might be found in a household garbage bin, e.g. vegetable peels, food wrappers, beverage bottles to help visitors make the connection.

- **Chungke Game Interactive** - Using current gaming/full-body immersion technology, we will create an exhibit where visitors can try to play the popular Mississippian game of Chungke. Visitors will try 'throwing' a 10-15 foot long spear and trying to get as close as possible to a stone that is 'thrown' by another player (in this case the machine.) Didactic panels with artist's impressions of people playing the game, and a diagram of the field of play will further explain the game. Displays of real Chungke gamestones from the Museum will be on display. This would be a popular exhibit and should be designed to accommodate large groups.
- **Burial Customs** - Evidence of burial mounds has been found across Tennessee, dating from the Woodland and Mississippian periods. The location of these sites will be illustrated using a map. This exhibit will explain what is known about their burial practices based on the archaeological evidence, and will include images showing what archaeologists believe these mounds looked like. Grave goods should be displayed along with information regarding status and evidence for social stratification.
- **Historic Indian Tribes Map** - A map of Tennessee showing where Native American tribes lived during the historic period. Towns and trade routes will be marked as well.
- **Life at Home** - A display of objects that represent daily life for Historic Native Americans, for example textiles, bags, tools, pottery, baskets, or cradle boards. The origin of each object will be explained, as well as any commonalities or differences between similar objects from different tribes in different parts of the state. Minds-on questions will challenge visitors to think about what these objects can tell us about how people used to live. Objects that represent specific roles, responsibilities, and beliefs in the community will be featured as well.



Field Museum



Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center, Anchorage Museum

- **Wattle and Daub Home** – Visitors will be able to see and walk into a life-sized replica of a wattle and daub house that would have been typical of Native Americans living in Tennessee during the Mississippian period. It must be large enough to allow for small groups to enter. Inside the house can be some typical objects that would have been found in this type of home, with information for visitors on each. A panel outside the house will explain how these types of houses were constructed, using sticks and branches woven and twisted into a framework, called the “wattle,” and then covered with clay or mud, the “daub.”



National Archaeological Museum Aruba



Lamanai Archaeological Site Visitor Centre, Belize

- **Storytelling** – A dedicated area for storytelling will have comfortable seating and be arranged in a small circle and will be able to accommodate groups, particularly school classes. Audio listening devices and/or video monitors can play recordings of First Nations people today telling traditional stories from their cultures. When individuals are available to tell stories in person, this can also happen in this area.

- **Pictoglyphs** – The Museum’s excellent example of Mississippian pictoglyphs from the Thruston collection will be displayed along with information on what is known about the use and purpose of these objects, and what is still unknown. A touchscreen monitor will allow visitors to look closely at high resolution images of the glyphs and to touch on certain symbols to learn more.



National Archaeological Museum Aruba

- **Traditional Medicine** – Visitors will learn about some of the medicinal techniques used by Native Americans to treat and heal wounds and illnesses. Samples of traditional plants used in native medicines will be on display that visitors can smell and/or touch. They will try to guess what each plant is and how it was used, finding answers by lifting flip panels or moving sliders. Examples of traditional medicines that are still used in whole or in part today will be provided to visitors, so that they understand the continuity and connections between traditional herbal medicines and “modern” medicine.



Cardiff Museum

- **Cultural Exchange and Conflict** – The indigenous people living in Tennessee during the historic period did not live in isolation; they often interacted with each other for the purposes of trade, commerce, social reasons, and sometimes in a state of warfare. A series of vignettes will present different types of interactions that occurred between groups in Tennessee, to further emphasize the complexity of these societies and also set the stage for how these relationships would change with the arrival of Europeans. Displays of related artifacts could include trade goods and weapons.
- **Cherokee Town Model** – A diorama or model showing a representation of a Cherokee town in Tennessee, with buildings and sites labeled with further information. This could be enhanced with the addition of lights and sound to bring it to life.



Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Museum of Archaeology and History



- **Cultural Expressions** – Artifacts from the Museum's collection that represent skilled craftsmanship and artistic expression will be displayed along with information on the techniques, materials, and purpose of the items. Short videos or audio clips could be included that feature traditional dances and music, show games, or arts and crafts techniques.
- **Oral History Nook** – A storytelling kiosk where visitors can listen to first-person accounts of stories about spirits, music, dance, church, sweat lodges, and more. Design will accommodate small to medium sized groups.
- **Spiritual Beliefs** – An informal space that allows small groups or individuals to experience a narrated and highly visual presentation of Native beliefs, symbols and sacred rituals. What are the origins of these beliefs? How do they persist today? An audio-visual experience is the best way to explore the many different topics in this theme in a dynamic way, rather than a more traditional presentation using text and graphics to explain things like the importance of the circle, dream catchers and various spirits and animal totems.
- **Spiritual and Ritualistic Objects** – A display of objects (pipes, rattles, medicine bags, clothing, etc.) of ritual and spiritual significance that *can* be displayed in a Museum. These objects will need to be selected in consultation with experts from the Native community. These objects can allow for further exploration of rituals, dance, stories, symbols, and spirits. Magnifying glasses can be added to cases so that visitors can see fine details.



- **New Discoveries** – A display case that can accommodate changing artifacts and graphics will feature new archaeological discoveries from across the state. Information can be included on artifacts discovered, who made the discoveries, and where visitors can see more if desired.

Star Artifact

- **Mississippian pictographs** donated to TSM from Gates P. Thruston Collection

Visible Storage Opportunities

Visible storage has been identified as a priority for the new TSM, to allow it to dramatically increase the proportion of artifacts on display to the public and to be able to provide visitors with deeper knowledge of these artifacts in a limited space. TSM curators and collection staff have identified groups of objects in the TSM permanent collection that could be made available for visible storage display.

Visible storage galleries can appear in each of the chronological history galleries as well as the art galleries. Images of the collections to be featured must be digitized, meaning high resolution photographs and descriptions in a digital database. A single database will be created for all of the visible storage displays, to ensure consistency and efficiency for the visitor and the museum. These databases can be updated and added to over time as new information or artifacts are added to the collection.

Visible storage displays will vary in design based on the types of artifacts or artworks on display. This could include drawers, rolling racks, shelves, and more. Each visible storage unit will have a multimedia kiosk that is linked to the database and provides visitors with detailed information on the objects that are on display. Each object on display will have an ID# that the visitor enters into the kiosk to bring up information on that item. This will include photographs from different angles, textual descriptions, and where possible short video or audio clips.

- **Prehistoric American Indian archaeological collections such as projectile points** – Visible storage display of items from the Museum’s archaeological collection that illustrate a variety of types of objects, materials, time periods, and geographic locations. Visitors will be able to access information using a multimedia kiosk to learn when they were made, how they were made, what they were made of, and the evolution of certain technologies. Drawings or animations of the items in use can be included as available.



Left: National Museum of the American Indian; Middle and Right: Museum of Archaeology, University of British Columbia. Visible Storage displays and database.

3.4 BECOMING THE VOLUNTEER STATE: 1760-1860

Recommended Size: 16,000 square feet

Description

The arrival of people of European origin in significant numbers beginning in the mid-18th century changed Tennessee forever. In addition to explorers, hunters, traders and settlers moving west from Virginia, Pennsylvania or the Carolinas, African Americans also began to arrive in Tennessee at this time, many as slaves but some as free men and women. Immigration increased exponentially during the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and Tennessee's native peoples were eventually removed almost completely from the state, forced to take 'the Trail of Tears' to Oklahoma. After several early attempts, Tennessee joined the union in 1796 as the 16th state. The new state produced leaders who took the national and international stage, most particularly the 7th President of the United States, Andrew Jackson. Under Jackson and later the 11th President, Tennessean James Polk, America extended democracy and its own borders dramatically, fulfilling the widely held belief in Manifest Destiny. During this time towns and cities emerged in Tennessee, the economy and industries developed, culture began to flourish, and the state generally prospered.

Key Topics

- **Early European Exploration** - The first Europeans to explore and establish their presence in Tennessee, beginning with the Spanish, and then French and British throughout the 16th and 17th centuries.
- **Initial Contact between Europeans and Native Americans** - Trade relationships established between Europeans and Indian tribes, and how this impacted their internal relationships and those with other tribes.
- **Shifting Alliances** - The arrival of Europeans in Tennessee resulted in new alliances and also conflict among Native peoples who were now caught up in struggles between European colonial powers for control of North America. As victors of the French and Indian War (1756-63), the British gained control over most of North America, including Tennessee.
- **The First Settlers** - Farmers began arriving in East Tennessee around 1768, despite a 1763 proclamation by Britain prohibiting settlement west of the Appalachians. Many people joined expeditions to cross the mountains and established permanent settlements in Tennessee.
- **Life on the Frontier** - Everyday life was difficult for these early settlers, they had to rely only on themselves and faced great hardships, including the elements, lack of resources, conflict with Native Americans, illness, and more. They persevered and established settlements that would grow into the towns and cities of Tennessee today.
- **Treaties and Land Disputes**- Beginning in 1770, white individuals and groups began signing treaties with Tennessee's Native Americans to secure land for their settlement and to attempt to avoid conflict. Over the next 60 years, more than 12 significant treaties would be signed and Indian lands reduced to almost nothing.

- **Native Adaptation, Assimilation and Resistance** – When the scale of white immigration and settlement became clear to Native Americans, many found ways to adapt and assimilate to white American culture in the hopes of preserving their land and culture. The Cherokee in particular sought ways to live with these newcomers while protecting their independence, drafting their own Constitution, creating their own written language, learning English and sending their children to mission schools. Not all Native people agreed with this approach, and some resisted strongly and with force. In the end, neither approach would succeed and they would all be removed from the state.
- **American Revolution** – Tennesseans played important roles in the Revolutionary War, most notably at the Battle of King’s Mountain in 1780.
- **Statehood** – Tennessee achieved statehood in 1796 after years of lobbying and an initial attempt in 1784 with the formation of the State of Franklin.
- **War of 1812-14** – This was a defining event for Tennessee, and the first time its citizens demonstrated their willingness to fight for the nation, earning it the nickname “The Volunteer State.”
- **National Leaders** – The rise of Tennesseans to national political prominence -- in particular Andrew Jackson. How his rise to power and that of his associates changed democracy in America.
- **Jacksonian Democracy** – Tennesseans led the nation towards a new and more democratic kind of politics as President Andrew Jackson placed great importance on the role of ‘the common man.’
- **Tennessee and American Expansionism** – The achievements of Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, Sam Houston, David Crockett, and William Walker in expanding the nation’s borders.
- **The Trail of Tears** – This was the final effort by the U.S. government to remove all Indians west to the Oklahoma territory. Thousands faced extreme hardship and many died along the way.
- **Antebellum Society** – The social structure of Antebellum Tennessee and the cultural and social opportunities available to men, women and children of different backgrounds and races at this time.
- **The Economy of Early Tennessee** – Industries and businesses that emerged and flourished during this time, including agriculture, iron production, transportation, and other smaller industries.
- **Frontier Religion** – Religious leaders accompanied the first white settlers to Tennessee and soon there were a number of established religious organizations in the state. The Great Revival around 1800 attracted many people to religion through organized ‘camp meetings.’
- **Politics** – Political parties gained prominence during this time in Tennessee’s history and would have major influence on the lives of everyday people, particularly as the state and nation edged closer to civil war by 1860.
- **Role of Women in Society** – Women played an active role in Tennessee society at this time, although within the firmly held ideology of ‘separate spheres’ for men and women. Even among women experiences varied drastically, between rich and poor, rural and urban, and particularly black and white.

- **Childhood in Early Tennessee** – Childhood was very different in the 18th and 19th centuries from what it is today. Most children had very little access to education, toys, and leisure time. African American children for the most part were slaves and were prohibited from learning to read. Despite these hardships, children still found ways to learn, play, and have fun.
- **Slavery** – Slavery had an enormous economic, social, and cultural effect on life in Tennessee. The institution changed over time from its beginnings in the late 18th and early 19th century to the mid 1800s as it gained in size to a point where 25% of all Tennesseans were enslaved.
- **Free African Americans** – Although most African Americans in Tennessee were enslaved, thousands lived free and became leaders in business, religion, politics and the arts in their communities. These were remarkable achievements in the face of widespread discrimination and the threat of violence.

Potential Means of Expression

- **First Impressions** – Visitors will be asked minds-on questions to try and put themselves in the place of either the first European explorers to Tennessee or the Native American peoples they encountered and imagine what they would have thought of each other. Quotations from actual first impressions can be displayed as large text along with evocative imagery representing contact. These could be historic paintings or contemporary works of art.
- **Conestoga Wagon** – The Conestoga Wagon in the Museum collection is a popular exhibit and should continue to be on displayed in the new museum. It could be enlivened with some additional media, for example sounds that would have been heard along the trail, projections of people riding in the wagon, and even the smells of the wagon—horses, leather, and food.
- **What Would You Bring?** – An interactive exhibit that challenges visitors to make choices about what they would bring if they had to pack up all of their personal belongings into a wagon to travel across the mountains and start a new life in Tennessee in the 18th century. This could be a physical interactive using replica items and a wagon on a small scale, or more like a large puzzle with pieces of different sizes for each item. Visitors will realize they could not bring everything that they would have wanted to, and will have to make hard choices. An electronic version would use touchscreen technology where visitors could drag items into their wagon and receive feedback on their choices.
- **Letters Home** – In the early period of settlement in Tennessee, people who came to make their new home here would likely never again see any family or friends they had left behind. Samples of letters from early Tennessee pioneers to loved ones far away can be reproduced for visitors to read on large graphics or in a digital display. Visitors could be asked to write their own letters to far away loved ones for display or to take home with them. If possible, a postbox could be included in the exhibit and visitors could purchase a stamp and mail it right from the museum!
- **Who Was Here?** – Brief profiles of the different groups of people who began coming to Tennessee in the 1700s—explorers, long hunters, settlers, slaves, and free African Americans. Textual profiles will be enriched by historic images, artifacts and reproductions of relevant archival materials.

- **The State of Franklin** – This exhibit will tell the story of the formation of the State of Franklin, the first attempt by settlers living in what is now Tennessee to form an independent state. A copy of the Constitution of the State of Franklin will be available digitally on a touchscreen that visitors can flip through, along with additional information on those involved and what they were trying to achieve.
- **Everyday Life** – Artifact displays of items related to everyday life in early Tennessee that express something about people's homes, their clothing, what they ate, how they enjoyed themselves, and their religious practices.
- **Living History Outdoor Exhibits** – If the design of the new museum permits, having some living history outdoor exhibits adjacent to this gallery would be an excellent way to let visitors try out some skills related to the frontier era. This outdoor exhibit area could function as an extension of the permanent collection exhibition and also a programming area for school classes and other groups. A small garden could be planted using plants that early settlers in Tennessee would have had, along with accompanying information on how they were used. Plants grown by Native Americans can also be included, to show how white farmers borrowed some techniques and practices from the area's original inhabitants while also importing those of their own. Topics such as farming, food production, health and medicine can be addressed. Supervised programs could take place outside, such as building a fire, cooking over an open fire, chopping and stacking wood, carving, weaving, building small structures, and more.



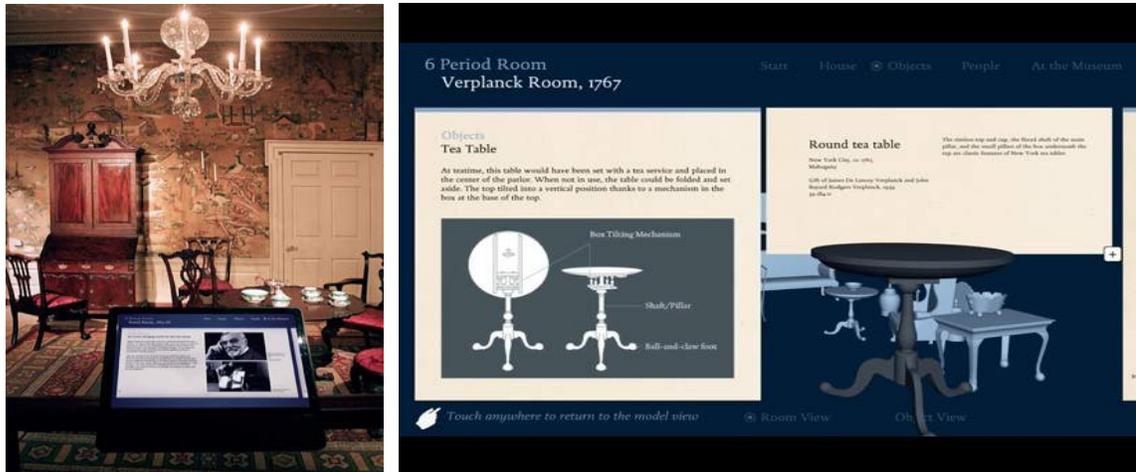
Evergreen Brickworks "Chimney Court" outdoor education area, Toronto

- **Professions** – A series of small replicated environments that represent the different professions that people held in 18th and early 19th century Tennessee, for example teaching, medicine, blacksmithing, carpentry, and printing. Visitors could walk into these spaces and see the tools of the trade, touch some things and complete a simple and safe activity. In some cases volunteers could be used for demonstrations where possible, for example someone could be stationed in the late 1700s Knoxville print shop and allow visitors to set type and print a small souvenir to take home with them.

- Integrated Period Rooms** – The Museum already has a number of period rooms and buildings related to this time period that can be reincorporated in the new permanent exhibition: the Common Man cabin, Tobacco barn, Painted Room, and Parlour. These structures can be enhanced in the new museum to bring them to life and increase access. Mannequins wearing period costumes appropriate to the setting can be displayed in the rooms to show how they were used and by whom. Special effects such as lighting, sound, and smells can be added to create a multisensory experience. Ideally visitors will be able to enter the rooms and look around themselves. If this is not possible, additional interpretation can be available on touchscreens mounted just outside the room, which visitors can use to get closer looks at artifacts, and learn more about the spaces.

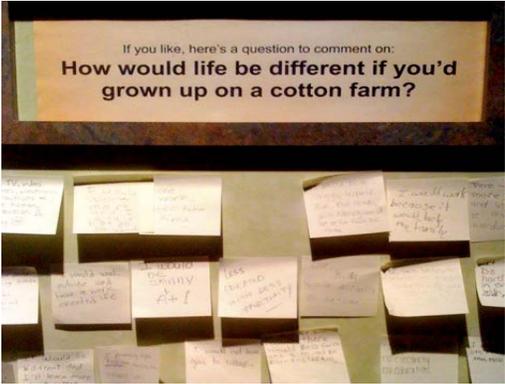


Upper Canada Village Discovery Centre



Metropolitan Museum of Art period rooms

- Antebellum Fashion** – A display of textiles from the Museum collection representing different fashions during the antebellum period, along with information on what these items can tell us about fashion, gender and the practicalities of life at this time. Visitors, especially children, will have the opportunity to try on costumes similar to those on display and to take a photograph of themselves in front of a period backdrop.

- **Life on the Farm** – During this period the majority of Tennesseans lived in rural areas, from small farms to large plantations. This exhibit will profile three rural families from each of the regions of Tennessee at this time. One family will be from a very small farm worked entirely by family members, the second a mid-sized farm with a few slaves, and the third a large plantation owned by a wealthy family that had many slaves. For each family, visitors will be able to see a 'day in the life' of individuals and learn more about their responsibilities, daily chores and interactions with others. This could be a didactic display using text, images or artifacts, or it could be a multimedia experience where visitors actually make selections on a monitor and then follow their selected person through their day and tasks. A range of people will be featured, including men, women, children and slaves.
- **Life in the City**– Mirroring the above exhibit, this exhibit will trace the daily experiences of three families living in three different cities or towns in Tennessee at this time, perhaps Knoxville, Nashville, and Memphis. People featured should be real historic individuals if possible, and again should include a range of types of people. Content can feature professions at the time, schooling for children, and social and professional opportunities available to women and free African Americans.
- **Arts and Culture** – A display of artifacts representing the wide range of art forms that were practiced by Tennesseans and in Tennessee at this time, for example painting, photography, music, dance, architecture, literature, and crafts. Augmented reality or another form of multimedia viewer can provide additional interpretation on these works of art, letting visitors read more, zoom in, and access video or audio clips of how these types of works were created and used.

New York Historical Society
- **American Expansion Interactive Map** – The map showing American expansion in the Age of Jackson is a favorite among teachers who bring classes to the current Museum, as it is a great tool in fulfilling history curriculum requirements. Making this map interactive in the new Museum can be a real 'wow!' experience. A large map of the United States with Tennessee prominently highlighted will be projected on to a wall, and can show increasing expansion of the United States through the 18th and 19th centuries. The projection can either cycle through the sequence of maps automatically, or can be controlled by a tablet device so that visitors can choose what they see. Content that can be accessed could relate to: the Louisiana Purchase, the War of 1812-14, the Oregon boundary dispute, the annexation of Texas, the Mexican-American War and the policies of 'Indian Removal.' Space will be provided around this exhibit to accommodate large groups for the purposes of programming.

- **Andrew Jackson: A Complex Character**– A biographical exhibit on Andrew Jackson focusing on his public career as an officer in the War of 1812-14 and as 7th President of the United States. Some brief personal information will be provided, but visitors will be encouraged to visit The Hermitage to learn more about his life there. Artifacts belonging to or related to Jackson from the Museum collection will be displayed, along with portraits and reproductions of personal correspondence and historical documents. His major achievements as President and his legacy for American democracy will be presented, along with his policies and actions that led to the Indian Removal in the 1830s. Questions can be posed to visitors and they can contribute responses, for example, “Andrew Jackson’s legacy for America and Tennessee—positive or negative?” Visitors can submit responses in writing or electronically and these can be displayed temporarily for others to read, prompting dialogue and discussion. The point is not to celebrate or condemn Jackson, but to show that he was a complex character who made a series of decisions in a specific time and place that we may or may not agree with today, but that he was not wholly bad or good, the same as people today.
- **Famous Tennesseans** – Other Tennesseans who had a great influence on the development of the state and the nation from this time include David Crockett, Sam Houston, and James Polk. Displays on each of these figures will include artifacts from the Museum collection, images and quotations that illustrate their contributions to Tennessee and American history and that show a personal side to them, underscoring the fact that these were regular people who did extraordinary things.
- **Fighting to Preserve the Cherokee Nation** – Examples of how the Cherokee people fought in different ways to preserve their independence and lands in the face of white settlement in the late 18th and early 19th century will be shared with visitors through the display of artifacts, reproductions of archival documents such as newspapers, maps, and letters, images of key figures, and first person accounts. Individuals such as Attakullakulla, Elias Boudinot, John Ross, Dragging Canoe, Sequoyah, Major Ridge and Nancy Ward will be featured, along with their responses to the threats to their way of life.
- **Cherokee Syllabary** – An interactive station in which visitors can try to spell their names or other words using the Cherokee syllabary invented by Sequoyah in 1821. Prior to this, the Cherokee language was purely spoken but after seeing the value of having a written language to the new white settlers, Sequoyah decided to invent one for his people. This exhibit will include a graphic showing the syllabary along with examples of Cherokee printed works, for example newspapers, bibles, and other materials.
- **The Trail of Tears** – An immersive mini-theater experience that communicates to visitors the events of the Trail of Tears and the devastation it had on the native peoples of Tennessee. A multimedia presentation will draw on historical documents, first person perspectives and imagery to tell the story of the forced removal of the Cherokee and other native people from their homes in Tennessee, west to the Oklahoma territory. Evocative sounds, lighting, and perhaps even the feeling of cold air will help portray the hardships and tragedy of this forced exile.



Lithograph of Sequoyah, who invented the Cherokee syllabary in 1821, allowing Cherokee to develop into a written language.

- **The Slave Trade**- A map showing where slaves in Tennessee came from, as well as the distribution of the slave population across the state. Information on the economic benefits white Americans derived from slavery will be communicated as well.
- **Freedoms Denied**- A graphic outlining all of the freedoms denied slaves by law and by practice in large and bold letters to really emphasize to visitors the harsh conditions and the freedoms they might take for granted today. Reproductions of advertisements and escaped slave notices from newspapers will emphasize the reality that slaves at this time were considered property, and not human beings.
- **Abuse and Punishment**- A display of some of the implements used to punish slaves for perceived infractions or attempts to escape, paired with photographs or images as available.
- **Life as a Slave**- Slaves were able to have personal lives, relationships, time for religion and recreation, and in some cases were able to make a small income. Through research and oral histories collected by a former slave descendent, profiles of enslaved peoples at Wessyngton Plantation in Robertson County will be shared along with photographs of some of the slaves and display of artifacts. Wessyngton was one of the largest plantations in Tennessee and in 1860, the family had 274 enslaved people living and working there.
- **Free African Americans**- Stories of free black men, women, and children living in Tennessee prior to Emancipation, including the hardships they faced despite their legal freedom.

Star Artifacts

- Dugout canoe
- Daniel Boone's musket
- Moccasins presented to James Robertson during treaty ceremonies with the Chickasaw Indians
- Sword of British commander Abraham DePeyster presented to American forces when British surrendered at the Battle of King's Mountain
- Original die of the seal of Davidson County used at Nashborough in 1783
- Charles Willson Peale's 1791 portrait of John Sevier (Tennessee's first elected governor)
- Rebecah Foster's 1808 quilt
- War of 1812 military collection, including uniforms
- Ralph E. W. Earl's portrait of Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans
- Timepiece given to John Sevier from William Blount
- Andrew Jackson's hat, worn at his first Presidential inauguration
- Cherokee jacket associated with the Trail of Tears
- Cherokee *Phoenix* newspapers
- Painting depicting James K. Polk campaigning
- Check sent by the Republic of Texas to David Crockett's family following his death at the Alamo

- Slave-made quilt
- Slave-made trousers
- Pistols and rifles made by Tennessee gunsmith Baxter Bean

Visible Storage Opportunities

- **Tennessee-made silver**- Visible storage display of items from the Museum's large collection of silver items made in Tennessee. The display can show the array of types of things made of silver, as well as different techniques and decoration. Using the digital kiosks, visitors can search by type of object, where it was made, the individual or shop that made it, and more.
- **Dulcimers**- The Museum has a large collection of historic dulcimers that can be displayed using visible storage. Visitors can see the items on display, and then enter their identification number into the kiosk to learn more about each instrument and to hear an audio clip of it (or a similar instrument) being played. Videos of people today playing dulcimers can also be included.



Visible Storage of Silver, Luce Center,
New York Historical Society

3.5 A STATE AND NATION DIVIDED: 1861-1870

Recommended Size: 10,000 square feet

Description:

The Civil War divided not only the country but the state of Tennessee as well. Unlike most Southern states, Tennessee was split sharply between Union and Confederacy, although officially the state seceded in June 1861. These divisions shaped the politics of the state, in particular in East Tennessee where Union support was highest, for over a century. War brought death, destruction and deprivation to the people of Tennessee as the state witnessed a number of battles and was occupied in different times and places by both armies. For black Tennesseans the war brought freedom from slavery. Thousands of now free African Americans left their former 'owners' and set up independent communities, while others emigrated north and some joined the Union army. Tennessean soldiers on both sides fought in bloody battles at home and away, and many did not return. Those left at home—women, children, and those men who could not fight—had to live daily with the absence of loved ones, the threat of violence and starvation, and in some cases battles in their backyards. As a key border state and transportation hub, more battles were fought in Tennessee than in any other state except for Virginia. With the surrender of the Confederacy on April 9, 1865, the fighting stopped but times remained difficult for Tennesseans under Reconstruction. Tennessee, like much of the South, had to move on in the face of defeat and near economic and social collapse. Although legally free, black Tennesseans continued to face great difficulties as discriminatory laws were implemented and they continued to be targets of violence and racism. In one decade, Tennessee experienced massive changes that would follow it into the modern age.

Key Topics:

- **Causes of the Civil War**- The issue of slavery was the major cause of the Civil War, with states divided over whether it should be allowed in existing and potential new states. For many in the South who supported secession, the war was also in defence of what they saw as states' rights.
- **Debates over Secession**- Not all Tennesseans supported secession and early votes favored remaining in the Union; however, after the attack on Fort Sumter public sentiment turned and the state seceded in June 1861.
- **Continued Divisions** - Even after secession, Tennessee remained divided between those who supported the Confederacy and those who supported the Union.
- **Major Battles** - A number of major battles were fought in Tennessee, including Ft. Henry/Donelson, Shiloh, Stones River, Chickamauga/Chattanooga, Knoxville/East Tennessee, Franklin/ Nashville and others.
- **Key Figures** - Several Tennesseans rose to prominence during the war, including Nathan Bedford Forrest, a lieutenant general in the Confederate Army.
- **Life of a Soldier** - Tennesseans who joined up during the war on both sides were from a range of backgrounds—young and older, rich and poor, white and black, and even a few women. For many, life in the army meant long periods of waiting, training, and doing chores interspersed with fighting during battles. For both sides, but especially for the

Confederates, clothing, food, and medical care became scarce as the conflict continued, making their lives increasingly difficult.

- **Spies**- During the war men and women served as spies and passed information to the opposing side. Sam Davis, Daniel Ellis, Sarah Thompson, and Belle Edmondson are some of the Tennesseans who acted as spies during the war.
- **Life on the Homefront**- The lives of women, children, and the elderly under occupation and in the face of economic hardship. Although faced with difficulties many people still found time for social activities, religious practice, and music and the arts, although with less freedom than in peacetime.
- **African Americans during the War**- At the outbreak of war in 1861, there were 275,000 enslaved African Americans living in Tennessee. Their experiences during the war varied: while some chose to stay where they were, most left. Many moved to cities where 'contraband camps' were being established. Others joined the Union Army as combatants. Many took on jobs to support both armies, working in hospitals, railroads, boats, laundries, shops, and at other trades.
- **Defeat**- On April 9, 1865 General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant, bringing an end to the Civil War and defeat to the Confederacy.
- **Constitutional Amendments**- During and after the war, a series of amendments to the U.S. Constitution granted rights to African Americans that they had previously not possessed. The 13th amendment abolished slavery; the 14th gave them citizenship; and the 15th amendment gave black men the right to vote.
- **Reconstruction**- Tennessee had a somewhat unique experience of Reconstruction, being the first state to rejoin the Union and avoiding some of the conditions of martial law imposed on other Southern states.
- **Andrew Johnson** - Andrew Johnson, Tennessean and Lincoln's Vice President, became the 17th President of the United States after Lincoln's assassination on April 15, 1865. Johnson was faced with the challenge of Reconstruction, which led to conflict and eventually his impeachment on February 24, 1868.
- **Reconstruction Politics** - Politics became increasingly charged during Reconstruction as Tennesseans—and all Americans—struggled to find their way in a brand new world.
- **Race Relations**- Although freed from slavery, African Americans continued to face prejudice and violence across the southern United States and in Tennessee.
- **Moving Forward** - After defeat, many Tennesseans simply wanted to rebuild their lives and move forward. Adults returned to work, children returned to school, and cultural and social activities slowly began again. While some people had difficulties letting go of the past, many people began to look eagerly towards the future.

Potential Means of Expression

- **Map Showing Divisions**- A map of Tennessee will show where people in the state supported secession and the Confederacy vs. the Union. Labels can explain why certain parts of the state tended to feel differently, based primarily on the degree to which the area's economy depended on slavery.
- **Why Did Tennesseans Fight?** - The Museum has a collection of first person accounts providing different reasons that Tennesseans enlisted. These can be made into an exhibit that presents different perspectives on the war from personal view points. Where possible, images and artifacts associated with each person will be displayed along with large text explaining their reasons for fighting.
- **Divided Families**- War divided not only the state and the nation, but individual families as well. In Tennessee some families had members who supported one army and others in favor of the other. This led to bitter disputes and heartache. Portrayals of a few of these families will be included -- for example the Driver, Nelson, and Cooper families in which fathers, sons, and brothers found themselves on opposite sides. Artifacts and images associated with each will be included.
- **Civil War Spies** - This exhibit will provide examples of individuals who were spies for both sides during the war. Tools and techniques used by spies will be displayed and explained to visitors, and they will get to try themselves to decode secret messages using a reproduction of a Civil War era decoder. The story of Sam Davis will be featured, along with a display of his coat and explanation of how research has proved that his coat had been dyed to resemble a Confederate uniform.
- **Women in the War** - Women in Tennessee served a variety of roles during the Civil War. Many remained at home to tend or supervise the farm, the home or businesses. Others volunteered as nurses and in other support roles for the armies. A very few women joined the army in disguise as men. This exhibit will feature some of these women, including images, artifacts and quotations from letters or journals they wrote describing their experience of the war.
- **Everyday Tennesseans**- The Museum has exhibits already that look at the lives of everyday Tennesseans during the War, content which can be reused in the new exhibition. The existing touchscreen interactive can be complemented with large physical displays on these individuals, including life-sized images, associated artifacts, artworks, and reproductions of letters or other archival documents associated with them. Visitors will learn about actual Tennesseans who lived through the war, and what it was like for them as women, children, African Americans, and other "regular" people.



Fort Henry Visitor Centre

- **Role Play**- Tennesseans had to make a number of choices during the Civil War—which side to support, what to do once freed from slavery, how to care for a family in the face of deprivation, and more. This interactive exhibit will let visitors take on the role of a person in Tennessee during the war, based on an actual historical person, and to make decisions when faced with a series of difficult choices. Feedback will be provided to them based on their choices, as well as the actual decisions made by the historical individuals. This exhibit could be high tech using multimedia, or a simple physical game. Space will be provided to allow for school groups to gather in this area, so that it could be used for educational programming as well.



Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre



USS Constitution Center

- **Civil War Photography** - The Civil War was one of the earliest wars to be captured by photographers, and a number of these images still exist. This exhibit will include displays of the cameras and other technologies used to take photographs of the war, as well as large scale reproductions of stunning photographs that have relevance to the Tennessee experience of war. A computer touchscreen could allow visitors to search through additional images, for example in the Library of Congress database. These images will really impress upon visitors the human side of the war, and the awful death and destruction it wreaked across the country.
- **Battle Panorama** - A semi-enclosed room will feature a large scale panoramic map of the state of Tennessee that is marked with the sites of major battles and other skirmishes. Near each battle site on the map will be a panel explaining the events, any images available, and a display of artifacts from that battle. A screen can serve as a mini-theatre, dramatizing each of the battles in turn. The Museum has a number of artifacts (weapons, uniforms, etc.) related to the battles of Shiloh, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Franklin among others. This space will be able to accommodate large groups for the purposes of talks, activities, and discussions.

- **Weapons Interactive** - An interactive where visitors can get a recreated experience of “firing” a rifle or Gatling gun used during the Civil War. The interactive can have a physical hands-on component and a digital monitor on which the visitor is supposed to hit something.



Fort Henry Visitor Center

- **Surrender and Defeat** - A dramatic and somber exhibit that details the surrender of the Confederates under Lee and the terms of the surrender. Scrolling projected text will provide brief facts and statistics on the casualties suffered by the nation and Tennessee in particular. These facts can be interspersed with quotations from individuals from the time providing their perspective on the end of war and the losses suffered.
- **Emancipation and the Constitutional Amendments** - The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, and the 13th, 14th, and 15th Constitutional Amendments brought freedom, hope, and some equality to African Americans in Tennessee and the rest of the nation. Visitors will be able to read digital reproductions of these important documents using a touchscreen that allows them to flip pages, zoom, and search for certain content. Also included will be newspaper articles from Tennessee and elsewhere covering these events and acts, so that visitors can read about how the events were received by people across the country.
- **Reconstruction in Tennessee** - A timeline of key events in the period of Reconstruction in Tennessee, highlighting some of the unique experiences here compared to the rest of the South.

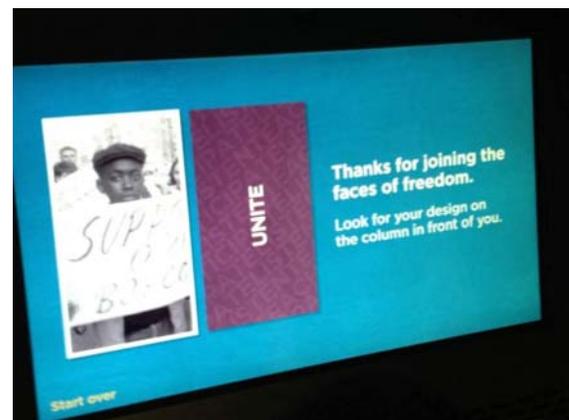


Irish College- Louvain Institute

- **Rebuilding Families** – The period after the Civil War was a time when many Tennessean families struggled to come back together. White Tennesseans waited for family members who had enlisted to return home, but some never did. Many African Americans tried to find family members that had previously been sold under slavery and with whom they had lost touch. Several of these stories will be portrayed, along with reproductions of letters and advertisements written by people seeking lost loved ones.
- **Andrew Johnson** – An exhibit on Tennessee President Andrew Johnson, including his early career, presidency, and impeachment. Artifacts related to Johnson will be displayed including the ticket to his own impeachment trial, as well as images and first person accounts.
- **Origins of the Ku Klux Klan** – This exhibit will explain the origins of the Ku Klux Klan in Tennessee, and the motivations behind its formation. The terror that this organization unleashed on the African American population and those who supported it will be detailed. Images, newspapers, and artifacts associated with the Klan in this period in Tennessee will be displayed as well as artifacts such as the 1866 Ku Klux Klan uniform from Pulaski.
- **Fisk University and the Jubilee Singers** – Fisk University was founded in 1866 in Nashville to educate former African American slaves, who had previously been denied access to education. The student choir began touring as part of fundraising efforts and gained international acclaim as the Fisk Jubilee Singers, known for singing “spirituals” a form of religious music created by enslaved African Americans. In this exhibit visitors will learn about the foundation of the university and the Jubilee Singers, view images and artifacts associated with them, and also listen to recordings of songs by the choir.
- **An Uneasy Freedom** – Reconstruction brought new freedoms to black Tennesseans, but it also brought challenges and new threats. Visitors will be asked to respond to a series of questions by voting or writing in responses, for example: What would you do for your freedom? Would you exercise your right to vote if it meant you could get killed? Would you stay and fight or leave?



Chicago History Center



Star Artifacts

- Civil War flag collection
- Confederate cannon tubes manufactured by Brennan ironworks in Nashville
- Pottery jar made by Unionist C.A. Haun, who was executed by Confederates for his role in the East Tennessee bridge burning uprising on November 8, 1861
- Confederate uniform coat of Col. Christopher “Kit” Williams, 27th Tennessee Infantry, killed in the Battle of Shiloh
- Confederate General Patrick Cleburne’s kepi (hat) and artifacts related to additional Confederate generals who died in the Battle of Franklin, such as the uniform coat of General Otho Strahl and saddle, with battle damage, of General John Adams
- Tintype photograph of African American Union soldier Adam Watkins (from Clarksville, Tennessee) and his wife Hannah Watkins
- Portrait of Tennessean Union General and Admiral Samuel Carter by Samuel Shaver, painted during the Civil War
- Original 1866 Ku Klux Klan uniform from Pulaski, on loan to TSM from Giles County Historical Society, the county where the Klan was founded
- Andrew Johnson’s tickets to his own impeachment trial (which he did not attend)
- John Brown’s Pike

Visible Storage Opportunities

- **Civil War Weapons-** Fire arms, swords, bayonets, and others. Visitors can see the wide range of weapons in the Museum’s collection that were made in Tennessee, or used here, during the Civil War. Using the kiosks, visitors can search by type of weapon, where it was used, and where it was made. They can also access information on how they were used, and what kind of damage they could inflict, through textual descriptions, photographs, diagrams, and audio clips of the sounds the weapons made.
- **Civil War Flags** – The Museum has a large collection of Civil War flags that can be displayed in visible storage, allowing for these fragile items to be partially hidden from light and rotated to storage as needed. Visitors can access information on the symbolism of the flags, the materials used, who they belonged to and where they were flown. Additional images that show the flags or similar flags in situ can be included, and visitors can select to scroll through multiple entries to make comparisons across time and place.



National Museum of the American Indian Visible Storage of Rifles

3.6 ENTERING THE MODERN AGE: 1871-1945

Recommended Size: 16,000 square feet

Description

The years 1871-1945 saw great change as Tennessee slowly recovered from the devastation of the Civil War and cautiously entered the modern age in the shadow of major international events—World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II. Industrialization came to Tennessee in the years between 1871 and 1929, bringing increased prosperity to some. Modernization rapidly changed many aspects of society and sparked a number of reform movements that sought to improve the lives of children, women, urban workers, and farmers. Black Tennesseans saw their rights curtailed in this period, with the passage of Jim Crow laws and segregation across the South. In 1917 and again in 1941 America was drawn into an international war, and Tennesseans enlisted and supported from the homefront. The Great Depression brought great suffering but also modernization to the nation and Tennessee, through programs such as the creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority. In this period of rapid changes, many Tennesseans tried to hold on to the old ways and expressed them through art, music and in some cases conflict with those who pushed for change.

Key Topics:

- **Tennessee Centennial** - In 1896 Tennessee celebrated its 100th anniversary and held a major celebration the following year in Nashville. Exhibitions celebrated the art, culture, and traditions of the state and looked optimistically to the future as well as fondly back on the past.
- **Religion** - Modernization drove many people to the comforts of religion, and both white and black churches experienced several revivals during this time.
- **Arts and Culture** - During this time many Tennesseans sought to reflect and celebrate their traditions and heritage through painting, literature, and other art forms.
- **Spread of Tennessee Music** - Tennessee already had a rich culture of music by this time, but with the new technologies of phonographs and radios, this music could be broadcast and shared with others and it became popular nation-wide. Blues and country in particular put Tennessee on the map.
- **Spanish American War** - Tennesseans took up arms again in 1898 to fight in the Spanish American War in Cuba and the Philippines. Both white and black Tennesseans served.
- **Farming** - The agricultural industry underwent major changes after the end of the Civil War. Farms were smaller, and sharecropping became common for poor white and black farmers who could not afford their own land.
- **Farmers' Rights**- Difficult working conditions and a lack of political support drove many Tennessee farmers to join the Populist movement, political parties and lobby groups that worked to improve conditions for farmers. In a few cases conflict erupted, such as the Black Patch Tobacco War in 1905.
- **The Environment and Land Use** - Conflicts over development, land use, and environmental protection arose in Tennessee during this period, and in some cases led to violence, for example the Reelfoot Lake Night Riders.

- **Industrialization** – Heavy industry and manufacturing increased rapidly with an influx of northern investment. Major industries included lumber and timber, iron and steel, textiles, leather, railroad car construction, foundries and machine shops, and flour and grist mills.
- **Child Labor** – Although children had always worked on their family farms, in this period they began to work in factories, mines, and other services in Tennessee’s towns and cities. Reformers began working to impose restrictions on child labor, and by the 1930s child labor had been significantly reduced. .
- **Workers’ Rights** – The rights of adult workers also became a major issue during this time, and people formed labor unions to combat the abuses of employers. A number of strikes occurred across the state until the beginning of the Great Depression.
- **Urbanization** – While some people returned to farming after the Civil War, more and more people began moving to towns and cities to seek new opportunities for work and play. Urbanization intensified throughout this period.
- **Racial Segregation** – Tennessee and a number of other states passed ‘Jim Crow’ laws enforcing segregation of white and black people in trains, buses, cars, parks, restaurants, public schools, restrooms, and other public spaces. Most white Tennesseans continued to believe black people were inferior, and enforced a social code to keep them ‘in their place,’ sometimes with violence.
- **Social Control** – A number of methods were employed by white society to ensure that Black people followed the “social code,” for example discriminatory laws such as poll taxes and also violence through assault and lynching.
- **Fighting Back** – Not everyone accepted this state of things; white and black Tennesseans wrote and spoke out against the injustices. Ida B. Wells, Richard Boyd and others protested and encouraged others to do so as well.
- **The Great Migration** – Over a million African Americans left the rural southern United States between 1910 and 1930 to move to the industrial north where there were more job opportunities and less racism.
- **World War I** – In December 1917 the United States entered World War I and in 1918 Tennesseans joined the fighting in Europe. In total over 80,000 Tennesseans served in the armed forces. With increased responsibilities on the homefront, women began to push more strongly for the right to vote.
- **Tennessee and the Progressive Movement** – Many Tennesseans at this time were committed to making life better for those less fortunate. Called “Progressives,” these people worked and formed organizations to improve access to education, health, and the vote, as well as to ban alcohol, child labor and other abuses.
- **Tennessee and Women’s Suffrage** – The long fight for women’s suffrage came to a head in the United States in Nashville, in August 1920, when the Tennessee Legislature met to vote on ratifying the 19th amendment to the constitution giving women the right to vote. Tennessee passed the amendment and as the 36th state needed to make it law, women throughout the United States finally could vote.
- **Debate Over Evolution** – The event popularly known as the ‘Scopes Monkey Trial’ took place in Dayton, Tennessee in 1925 in a court battle between traditionalists and progressives over the topic of evolution and whether it should be taught in Tennessee schools.

- **The Great Depression** - The Stock Market Crash of 1929 and the subsequent Depression deeply affected Tennesseans across the state. People lost their jobs, their farms, and their houses. Children had to quit school to help support their families. Many people left their homes and became migratory.
- **The New Deal** - President Franklin Delano Roosevelt introduced a number of programs that became known as the 'New Deal' that aimed to help the country recover. Things started to get better for Tennessee farmers, workers and young people. Programs were initiated to preserve the state's natural resources as well, and a number of national and state parks were established in Tennessee including the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
- **The Tennessee Valley Authority** - Support for the TVA as part of the New Deal brought thousands of jobs to Tennessee, and affordable power to those living in rural areas. While the TVA brought many improvements to the state, it also faced some controversy over some of its practices.
- **Expansion of State and Federal Parks** - In this period Tennesseans began to recognize the importance of preserving their state's natural features by creating state and federal parks, such as
- **World War II** - Tennesseans again volunteered to fight in a world war in 1941 after the Japanese bombed Pearl harbour and the U.S. entered World War II. White and black Tennesseans served in all branches of the armed forces. Women volunteered to serve overseas as nurses, pilots and in other non-combat roles.
- **On the Homefront** - Men, women, and children in Tennessee did their part to support the war effort through sacrifices and hard work. Wartime industry boosted the state out of the Depression as Tennessee companies received large contracts for military supplies from as early as 1940. Women had many new opportunities for work, while African American men and women continued to be barred from good jobs.
- **Oak Ridge and the Manhattan Project** - One major and secret wartime project in Tennessee took place at Oak Ridge, where scientists processed uranium ore that was used in the atomic bomb "Little Boy" dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945.
- **Cordell Hull and the United Nations** - Cordell Hull was born on a farm in Tennessee in 1871 and rose in the political ranks to become U.S. Secretary of State, a position he held longer than any other person—eleven years. Hull was instrumental in creating the United Nations after WWII as a means of maintaining world peace, and was recognized for this work with a Nobel Peace Prize in 1945.

Potential Means of Expression

- **Centennial Exposition** - Visitors will enter the gallery through an immersive walkway with displays related to the Centennial Exposition of 1897. Selected artifacts, artworks, images, and reproductions will give visitors a taste of the fanfare of this event and its major exhibitions. Text panels will draw connections for visitors between these exhibits at the Expo and the major social issues of the time. Reproduction period stereoscopes will be positioned at multiple spots that visitors can look through to see additional photographs of the events. Atmospheric music of the late 'nineties will play softly in the background.

- **Spanish-American War** – A small exhibit will explain to visitors the circumstances of the Spanish-American War and the involvement of Tennesseans. Artifacts and images from the Museum collection will be displayed, including the gun that fired the first shot in the war.
- **Tough Choices** – Farmers in Tennessee faced difficult choices in the period between Reconstruction and WWII. In this exhibit visitors will imagine themselves in the role of a farmer in rural Tennessee and will have to respond to a series of crises by making selections from three different responses. This exhibit could be low-tech using sliders or a voting mechanism, or it could be electronic. Questions and responses will communicate some of the options facing farmers at this time, including migration to the city, joining political parties, taking up night riding, sharecropping, and more.
- **Appalachian Cabin** – Life was not all difficult for people in rural Tennessee, they still found time to enjoy themselves by playing and listening to music, dancing, making arts and crafts, and playing games. Visitors will be able to walk into a recreation of a late 1920s/30s Appalachian cabin and see real examples of arts and crafts made by rural people during this time, e.g. furniture, wood carvings, samplers, quilts and other textiles. Children’s toys and games would be available for people to try out. Reproductions of historic musical instruments such as banjos, fiddles, dulcimers and guitars will be available for visitors to play themselves. A historic radio will be playing country music from this time, Jimmie Rodgers, the Carter Family, and the Grand Ole Opry radio program. This exhibit will be designed to allow for groups to gather in this space for the purposes of programming and discussion.
- **Industrial Tennessee** – An exhibit providing information on the different industries that emerged or grew in Tennessee during this period. Individuals will be selected to represent up to five of the key industries of the time -- for example a miner, a lumberjack, a factory worker and a construction worker. Biographical information will be provided on each person, along with information on what their daily lives were like, challenges they faced, and what they did during any spare time for fun. Photographs of individuals and working conditions, as well as artifacts related to that job, and first person accounts will bring these industries to life through personal perspectives.
- **New Ways and Things to Buy** – New jobs and new technologies in the late 19th and early 20th centuries meant that Tennesseans had more opportunities to buy goods than ever before. This exhibit will recreate some of these experiences for visitors, for example a small section of a Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store where they can browse goods that would have been available at this time and see what they would have cost. Reproductions of mail order catalogues can be available as flip books or digital copies that visitors can explore. These experiences could be made into a challenge, where visitors get a certain amount of money for the month and can see what they could buy for their family with that amount.
- **Tennesseans for Reform** – Visitors enter a semi-enclosed space that is covered with backlit reproductions of historic photographs, newspaper articles and protest signs representing various reform movements that existed in Tennessee during this time, including temperance and prohibition movements, labor unions, those working for children’s rights, women’s suffrage, and those protesting Jim Crow laws and lynching. Small artifacts can be embedded in cases in the walls as well. Looping audio will play clips of people chanting and calling for reforms on these different topics, based on historical accounts from real events. Printed or digital ‘pledge sheets’ throughout the space will urge visitors to sign their names to support the different causes, and provide explanations of why they should do so.

- **Life Under Jim Crow** – This exhibit will detail the Jim Crow laws passed in Tennessee and elsewhere that enforced segregation and discriminated against African Americans. Visitors will be confronted with a large and bold list of key Jim Crow laws that applied in Tennessee, along with stories of individuals who violated these laws, either unintentionally or on purpose in protest, and what happened to them.



The Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia at Ferris State University

- **African Americans at Home** – Although faced with challenging circumstances, African American Tennesseans in this period were free to hold paying jobs, have families and live mostly where they wanted to. This exhibit will feature a few examples of black Tennesseans from different backgrounds and locations around the state and provide a glimpse into some of the challenges and achievements of their lives through text, quotations, and reproductions of archival documents, artifacts, and art.
- **African American Leaders** – Profiles of individuals within the black community who bravely fought for their rights in the face of racist laws and brutal social control, including Ida B. Wells, John W. Boyd, Samuel Allen McElwee, Robert Church, James Napier, Mary Church Terrell and others. W.E.B. DuBois, although not a native Tennessean, attended Fisk University in Nashville, where he first encountered Jim Crow laws and institutionalized racism that strengthened his resolve to fight for equal rights. Individuals featured will be selected to represent a range of efforts in the areas of politics, education, the arts, and civil rights.
- **Birthplace of the Blues** – A replication of a small blues club on Beale Street in Memphis will let visitors listen to music from early blues icons such as Bessie Smith, Memphis Minnie, Alberta Hunter and others. Photographs, artifacts, artworks and text will communicate to visitors the origins of the blues in gospels, African songs, and spirituals.



Chicago History Museum

- **Tennesseans in World War I** – Several displays will provide a brief overview to visitors of the events of World War I and how America, and by extension Tennessee, became involved. Information will be provided on the numbers of Tennesseans who served, and how and where they served. Displays of artifacts from the excellent Museum collection will include the WWI poster collection, photographs and reproductions of historic documents, and examples of technology of the war, such as guns, gas warfare equipment and the remnants from an observation balloon. Gilbert Gaul's paintings and photographs of the war will be displayed to add context and show a human perspective. The involvement of African Americans in the war will also be highlighted.
- **Trench Diorama** – The trench diorama currently in the Museum collection that was made by a WWI veteran can be enhanced with lighting, sounds and possibly smells along with an inforail to point out key elements of the diorama and how soldiers would have experienced trench warfare.



- **Alvin C. York** – An exhibit dedicated to Tennessean Alvin C. York, who served overseas with distinction and was awarded the Medal of Honor. York's portrait, uniform, and weapons will be displayed along some biographical text that includes quotations from York himself.
- **The Fight for Women's Suffrage** – This exhibit will provide an overview of the women's suffrage movement and include the display of related artifacts such as banners, sashes and other ephemera. Reproductions of archival documents such as political cartoons, newspapers, and letters will illustrate the two sides to the debate- those in favor of women voting and those opposed.
- **The Final Vote** – A mini-theater experience that lets visitors experience the dramatic events surrounding the vote to ratify the 19th amendment in the Tennessee Legislature in Nashville, August 1920. A new film will re-enact some of the key events of the story— supporters from each side passing out red and yellow roses at the train station, the crowds at the Hermitage Hotel, and voting in the Legislature and Senate. The film will focus on the events as experienced by two key figures, suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt and state legislator Harry T. Burn. The letter from Burn's mother urging him to change his mind and vote for suffrage will appear on screen, read by the voice of his mother. The scene of the final vote will result in the sound of cheering from above and a shower of projected yellow rose petals, which the suffragists threw onto the floor of the legislature after the final count was read. This space will be designed to allow for groups to gather, for discussion and programming.
- **Scopes Monkey Trial** - A representation of part of the Rhea County Courthouse is the stage for telling the story of the 'Scopes Monkey Trial', which took place in Dayton, Tennessee in 1925. Visitors will have the chance to sit in different seats, belonging to the defendant John Thomas Scopes, lawyers William Jennings Bryan or Clarence Darrow,

Judge John T. Raulston or a member of the jury. At each seat will be a tablet that visitors can use to call up text, photographs, audio or video representing that person's perspective on the event, arguments, outcomes and personal information. This exhibit can be used for programming activities as well, arranging a group of visitors or a school class in a debate-style format.

- **Hard Times** – A dramatic display of Depression-era photography taken in Tennessee showing people suffering and making-do in cities, on farms, and across the state. Textual information will communicate to visitors the causes of the Depression and how it affected everyday Tennesseans. Audio listening stations can be built into the display that visitors can use to hear firsthand accounts of what life was like in Tennessee during the Depression, drawn from personal stories that already exist in the Museum collection.



Audio displays at Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Museum of Archaeology and History, and at the Chicago History Museum

- **Culture and Recreation during the Depression** – Artifact and image displays showing examples of how people continued to find ways to enjoy and express themselves during the Depression, through organized sports, music, art, crafts, dancing and literature.
- **Organized Sports in Tennessee** – During the Depression, organized sports became much more popular among Tennesseans, both to watch and to play. This exhibit will include displays of artifacts related to sports from this time period, drawn from the Museum's collection currently housed at the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. Photographs and uniforms will show what people looked like while playing these sports and personal stories will be featured where possible.
- **New Deal Programs** – A map of Tennessee pinpointing locations where New Deal programs were initiated to provide jobs and that improved the lives of people in the state in other ways, for example the creation of national and state parks, public works projects, rural resettlement programs, schools, and especially the projects of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Photographs, artifacts, and reproductions of artifacts associated with these programs will be displayed as well.

- **Creation of Great Smoky Mountain National Park** – This exhibit will tell the story of how this National Park was created during the 1920s and 1930s and has since been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The role of everyday Tennesseans in preserving this precious resource, including the school children who raised funds, will be highlighted. Information can be provided to visitors on how they can get involved in helping to preserve this and other Tennessee parks today, for example through donations, volunteering, and more.
- **World War II Overseas** – Contextual displays of artifacts, images, artworks, audio, and video on the involvement of Tennesseans in World War II. Individuals will be selected to highlight the different experiences of men, women, and African Americans from Tennessee who volunteered or were drafted to serve overseas. World War II posters, uniforms, weapons, and models will be displayed to illustrate the events.
- **The Homefront during WWII** – The experiences of Tennesseans on the homefront during WWII will be communicated through personal stories, reminiscences, photographs, and artifacts. Visitors will get a sense of what everyday life was like for women, children, and men who were not enlisted and how even though there was no war on American soil, the war permeated almost every aspect of daily life. A hands-on interactive will ask visitors to guess which everyday items were rationed during the war, and why, using flip panels or sliders. Examples could include tea, coffee, sugar, meat, butter, shoes, rubber products, and gasoline.
- **A Secret City** – A large diorama showing a section of a lab or control room at Oak Ridge, where uranium was being processed for use in the atomic bomb. This diorama should be life-sized and incorporate artifacts or reproductions along with photographs, mannequins in period costume, and dramatic audio and lighting. Video showing people working can be projected onto a scrim in front of the diorama. Additional textual information will tell visitors more about this “secret city” that employed nearly 100,000 people in Tennessee during the final years of the war.
- **Victory!** – A final display in this exhibit area will show large scale images of Tennesseans celebrating the end of World War II along with large quotations from people at the time. Several questions can be posed to visitors as well, for example, “How would African Americans have felt returning to a place they had very little rights, after risking their lives for democracy overseas?” “Would women be content to return to their homes after having independence and good-paying jobs while men were serving overseas?” These questions will set up the experience in the next exhibition gallery -- Tennessee Transforms.



Chicago Museum of Science and Industry

Star Artifacts

- Bed and dresser made by former slave Lewis Buckner
- Ornithopter- an example of an early flying machine
- Chief Rozetta fire engine
- *In the Tennessee Mountains* painting by George Chambers
- Paintings by Knoxville artist Catherine Wiley (three in the Museum collection)
- Alvin C. York's Medal of Honor for his World War I service
- Woman suffrage movement banners
- Sculpture by William Edmondson
- World War II army jeep

Visible Storage Opportunities

- **Pottery** - Visible storage display of the large collection of Tennessee-made pottery in the Museum collection from this period. Visitors can access information on specific pots using the digital kiosk, as well as search for different types of objects, materials, methods, and locations where the pottery was created. Information on how the items were made will be included, through text, images, diagrams, audio and video.
- **Glass** - Tennessee-made glass could also be displayed in visible storage, for example glass art, decorative glass and functional glass such as the bottles produced in Chattanooga for the Coca Cola Company.



V&A Ceramics Gallery



3.7 TENNESSEE TRANSFORMS: 1946-2000

Recommended Size: 10,000 square feet

Description:

In the last half of the 20th century Tennessee, and the entire nation, underwent major economic, social, and political transformation. America emerged from WWII prosperous and a major world power, while on the home front people expected change and rewards themselves. Tennesseans witnessed and participated in movements to improve access to education and increased equality for women and African Americans. A number of key events and activities of the Civil Rights Movement happened in Tennessee. Increased prosperity brought increased leisure time, and Tennesseans of all ages could enjoy new technologies, travel opportunities, and the internationally acclaimed popular culture and music coming out of their own state. Although not on the scale as in the recent world wars, Tennesseans have again fought overseas in conflicts in Asia. Tennessee at its Bicentennial looked very different from it did in its centennial year, but people continued to value and celebrate the culture heritage of their state. By the end of the 20th century, the people of Tennessee lived in a modern, prosperous, culturally rich and relatively equal society of which they could be proud.

Key Topics:

- **Cold War** – The “Cold War” between the United States and the Soviet Union lasted from the end of WWII until around 1991, and impacted a number of aspects of life in Tennessee. Soldiers enlisted or were drafted to fight in the Korean and Vietnam Wars in the 1950s-1970s as part of this conflict. At home, people felt that they were living in the shadow of potential nuclear war until the dissolution of the USSR in 1991.
- **Civil Rights Movement** – African Americans in Tennessee and much of the rest of the country continued to face discrimination and racism, nearly 100 years after the end of slavery. Resistance and protest rose to new heights in this era with the Civil Rights Movement, which succeeded in making significant changes to the lives of black people in America.
- **Tennessee’s Participation** – Many black and white Tennesseans were deeply involved in the Civil Rights Movement, as they had been in earlier forms of resistance to racial segregation and discrimination. Sit-ins, non-violence training, silent marches and other protests took place across the state.
- **Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.** – The Civil Rights leader visited Tennessee several times and tragically was assassinated in Memphis on April 4, 1968 after delivering what would be his final speech at Mason Temple Church.
- **Urbanization** – Tennessee’s towns and cities grew rapidly in the last half of the 20th century as more and more people left rural areas. Schools, housing, recreation facilities, public works, and cultural institutions were built to serve the growing communities.
- **Work Experiences** – Returned soldiers, women, and African Americans had different experiences finding work in Tennessee in the last half of the 20th century. Women and African Americans had more opportunities than before, but still faced discrimination and restrictions.

- **Planned Communities** – There are a number of examples in Tennessee of communities that were planned and purpose-built to meet with some guiding principle or utopian ideal. Some succeeded while others failed to live up to expectations.
- **Growth of the Music Industry**– The music industry in Tennessee exploded during the twentieth century, with country and the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, soul music, Sun Records, and the King of Rock n’ Roll in Memphis. Radio and the new technology of television helped spread this music to the world.
- **Leisure Time** – Tennesseans had much more leisure time and disposable income in the last half of 20th century than ever before. New recreational opportunities, cultural offerings, and consumer goods were available in vast quantities. A youth culture emerged as young people no longer had to work, and the media, fashion, and cultural industries began marketing directly to teenagers.
- **Quality of Life** – Innovations and advancements in technology, medicine, nutrition, and other areas dramatically improved the lives of Tennesseans in this period.
- **Politics** – Some black Tennesseans and women began entering the political arena, mainly at the local level, while the state remained moderately conservative.
- **Legislation** – Important legal decisions were made in Tennessee that had major impact on the state and its citizens, for example Baker v. Carr in 1962, and the ratification of the Twenty-Sixth Amendment in 1971.
- **Arts and Culture** – Tennessee produced important artists during this time, including writers, artists, and photographers such as James Agee, Beauford Delaney, Red Grooms, Robert Ryman, the “Knoxville Seven,” and Ernest Withers. These artists represented a wide range of styles, subject matter and perspectives.
- **Lives of Women**– After the end of WWII many women who had held paying jobs returned home to be full-time homemakers and mothers. Others remained in the workforce and struggled to gain equal treatment and pay. African American women for the most part worked outside the home but were restricted to low paying jobs such as domestic service, although some were also active as school teachers. Women of all colors eventually banded together to begin demanding equal rights and access to pay, education, sports, and other things as part of the Second-Wave Feminist Movement.
- **Religion** – Religion continued to be important to Tennesseans at this time, particularly to those who felt that the moral fabric of society was fraying in the modern age. Debates on the role of the church and religion in people’s lives continue today. Tennessee is home to a number of significant religious institutions, including the Southern Baptist Convention and the religious literature and music publishing industry. With increased immigration from other countries, other religious are now at home in Tennessee including Islam and several eastern religions.
- **New Tennesseans** – The last half century has seen an increase in the immigration of people from other countries to Tennessee, and today new communities of Kurds, Egyptians, Somalis, Hispanics and others are to be found in the state. In the last ten years of the 20th century, the Hispanic population of the state increased seven times.
- **Tennesseans in Popular Culture** – A number of people born in Tennessee or who moved here have become major popular culture icons in the last few decades—musicians, actors, television personalities, and more.

- **Leisure and Recreation** – Tennesseans today have many options for leisure activities, and among the most popular are participating in or watching sports, going to parks and amusement parks, attending concerts, and throwing barbeques and tailgate parties.
- **Technological Change** – The ‘Information Revolution’ that started in the late 20th century brought major changes to the ways Tennesseans did business, communicated, enjoyed themselves, and travelled, as it did across the nation.
- **Sunbelt Industries** – The growth of new industries in the “Sunbelt” of the United States (the south and southwest) has brought more prosperity to a region that was suffering from a decline in industry. The automobile industry, the TVA, Jack Daniels whisky, and Standard Candy are just a few of the companies that have brought jobs and income to Tennessee.
- **Election of 2000** – Tennessee almost sent another of its politicians to the White House in 2000 when Al Gore narrowly lost to George W. Bush in the U.S. Presidential Election, despite winning the popular vote. Since that time Gore has gone on to achieve great things as an environmental activist, and has been awarded both an Academy Award and a Nobel Peace Prize for his work.

Potential Means of Expression

- **Optimism and Fear in Cold War America** – Contrasting displays opposite each other will portray the hope and optimism Americans felt after the end of WWII contrasted with the fear and paranoia felt because of the Cold War and nuclear threats. Through artifacts, photographs, propaganda posters and other popular culture items visitors will get a sense of the tensions of the post-war era.
- **Finding Work** – An interactive exhibit that helps visitors understand the experiences of Tennesseans in finding work following WWII. Visitors will choose to take on the role of either a white or black returned male soldier, or a white or black woman looking for work. The interactive will simulate a job interview and ask the visitor questions about their experiences and qualifications, what kind of job they’re looking for, and then will let them know what opportunities are available to them. Content will highlight the difficulties of looking for work for many, and the discrimination still faced by African Americans and women even after their contributions in the war. The opportunities available to ex-soldiers through initiatives such as the GI Bill will also be highlighted. This exhibit will also provide a snapshot of the different types of jobs that Tennesseans did in the late 1940s/1950s. At the conclusion of the experience, visitors will learn about real Tennesseans who experienced similar situations.



Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre, Character Station

- **Korean War** – Contextual displays of photographs, uniforms, weapons and other artifacts in the Museum collection related to the Korean War in which 10,500 Tennesseans served. Photographs or other items will show that the armed forces were at last desegregated—white and black soldiers fought in the same units. A few personal stories of Tennesseans who experienced the war will be conveyed through quotations or audio stations.
- **Vietnam War** – Objects from the Vietnam War in the Museum collection will be displayed along with photographs, reproductions of archival documents, and personal accounts. Protests against the war and the draft will also be featured, to underscore the fact that many Americans opposed their country’s involvement in this war and felt the government was not acting in their best interests.
- **Beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement** – A series of vignettes of key events in the early days of the modern Civil Rights Movement (c. 1955-1968) in Tennessee, including the Columbia Race Riots, the desegregation of Clinton High School, and the bombing of the Hattie Cotton Elementary School.
- **School Desegregation Immersive Walk** – Visitors can choose to walk through an immersive experience simulating the terrifying walk some African American parents and their children had to take when walking into a newly desegregated school for the first time. Photographs of protests that accompanied black students as they tried to attend previously all-white schools will flash as projections or back-lit images all around the visitor, and they will hear the taunts, yells, and anger of protesters who do not want them there. Visitors will be able to reflect on the bravery of these parents and students who braved verbal and physical abuse to be able to break down race divisions and access better education.
- **Civil Rights Artifact Display** – A display of other items from the Museum collection that relate to the events of the Civil Rights Movement in Tennessee, such as the Nashville sit-ins, non-violence training, boycotts, and other protests. Artifacts, photographs, works of art, ephemera, and reproductions of archival documents will be displayed. If the burned Freedom Rider’s bus in the collection is suitable for display, this would be a poignant display.
- **Oral History Station** – An oral history listening area will allow visitors to hear from the people who experienced the Civil Rights Movement in Tennessee, from a range of perspectives. Stories should be selected that cover a variety of events and also that discuss the personal and political importance of the movement, its challenges and achievements, and its legacy today. Equipment could be provided that lets visitors record their own reminiscences of the movement as well, right in the exhibit, which would be a great asset to the Museum in collecting oral histories of events that are receding from living memory. An alternative would be to provide a way for visitors to write their stories and submit them to the Museum in the space. Comfortable seating will be provided for visitors and enough room for small to medium sized groups to gather for programming and discussion.
- **Barber Shop** – The Museum has in its collection a historic African American barbershop. This shop will be installed in the new permanent exhibition in its entirety and will be enhanced with other artifacts, mannequins in period dress, and music playing from a period radio.

- **1960s Teenager's Bedroom** – A walk-in recreated environment of a Tennessean teenager's bedroom from the 1960s. Artifacts and reproductions of period fashions, posters, toys, books, and devices will transport visitors back in time. A replica historic record player will play a looping or motion-triggered selection of music that was popular with teens in Tennessee at this time. A monitor will be disguised as a full-length mirror, and will show a teenager doing popular dance moves from this time, for example the mashed potato or watusi, along with the music. The music can start slowly, and then speed up gradually as the visitor gets practice. Space will be provided for visitors to try out the moves themselves, along with the video. Didactic panels outside of the room will provide information on the youth culture that emerged in the 1960s and the impact it had on society.



1960s walk-in environment, Museum of Craft and Folk Art, San Francisco

- **Elvis Presley** – Artifacts related to Elvis from the Museum's collection will be displayed, including his travel guitar, concert ticket stubs, a signed photograph, movie poster and any other artifacts, photographs, or archival documents related to him. The guitar will be prominently displayed against a backdrop showing Elvis playing that guitar (if available) and an audio track of him singing and playing an acoustic guitar.
- **1960s Living Room** – A recreation of a 1960s living room complete with period furniture and a television set will let visitors select clips to watch from popular TV shows, movies, and music performances. News broadcasts can also be included that feature important events from the time in Tennessee and those from outside the state that had an important impact. Some didactic information can be provided that explains the importance that network television had for journalism and popular culture. This space will allow for groups to gather for programming and other activities.



WWII-era living room, National Czech and Slovak Museum



David Bowie Is exhibition, Victoria & Albert Museum

- **A Changing Population** – A map will show the origins of newcomers to Tennessee, both domestic and international. Although the numbers of foreign-born residents in Tennessee is low—much lower than the national average—those who have come have made an important impact. The Hispanic population of Tennessee in particular has grown rapidly in recent years. Photographs and stories of these individuals will be featured, along with their reasons for coming to Tennessee and their experiences. Examples of the ways in which these newest Tennesseans have changed the state will also be provided, from sharing cultures to influencing politics, bringing new skills and perspectives, and more.
- **New Wars** – Exhibits on the more recent wars in which Tennesseans have served, in Iraq and Afghanistan. Personal stories from Tennesseans who have fought in these wars and their families will be included. The Museum has artifacts related to these wars, for example a selection of camouflage uniforms that will be displayed along with personal items, new technologies, and more.
- **Technological Revolution** – A display of new technologies introduced in the last quarter of the 20th century will be amusing for visitors, who will see how far technology has come in a relatively recent time. A timeline will accompany the display. This could be made into a guessing game, where visitors have to guess either what the item is and/or when it was introduced. This will be particularly challenging for younger visitors, for whom many of these artifacts will be unknown.
- **Innovative Industries** – Industry in Tennessee is constantly changing and growing. A graphic display will highlight some of the emerging industries in Tennessee. A small display case imbedded in the panel will feature changing artifacts related to these industries.
- **Cultural Icons** – Visitors will encounter some of the native or adopted Tennesseans who have had a significant impact on national and international culture in the last half of the 20th century. Artifacts, photographs, and quotations from each that related to their experiences growing up or living in Tennessee will be featured. Individuals could include: Johnny Cash, Bettie Page, Dolly Parton, Minnie Pearl, Elvis Presley, Tex Ritter, Roy Acuff, Dinah Shore, Alex Haley, Aretha Franklin, Tina Turner, Oprah Winfrey, B.B. King and Al Gore.

Star Artifacts

- Secretary and chest of drawers made by John E. Rose in Knoxville
- Neon guitar-shaped Ernest Tubb Record Shop sign, 1949
- Costumes and instruments related to musicians such as Dolly Parton, Johnny Cash and Bill Monroe
- Elvis Presley’s travel acoustic guitar.
- Alex Haley’s Pulitzer Prize for *Roots*

Visible Storage Opportunities

- **Political campaign buttons** could be exhibited in visible storage, with digitized campaign slogans and music presented by audio as well as visually.

3.8 TENNESSEE TODAY: 21ST CENTURY

Recommended Size: 2,000 square feet

Description:

This small exhibition gallery will be a changeable space that allows the Museum to interpret recent history and current events, as well as to look to the future. The gallery will be themed, with each thematic area to have exhibits with changeable graphics, display cases, and multimedia kiosks. Themes will be the same as the linking themes of the entire permanent collection exhibition:

- Freedom and Equality
- Expansion
- Community
- Creativity
- Faith
- The Land

For opening, exhibits will be created that reflect on these themes in Tennessee in the years since 2000. In the future, the museum can update these exhibits themselves, or may want to invite individuals or communities to collaborate with them on new exhibits that reflect the changing reality in Tennessee. In this way, the story of Tennessee does not end abruptly once the Museum opens, it can evolve and change as the state itself continues to do so. It will also allow the Museum to engage with current events and topics and become a forum for discussion.

Key Topics:

Potential topics to explore through the initial exhibits and in subsequent exhibits could include:

- Human Rights
- Personal Freedom
- New Technologies
- New Industries
- Artistic Expression
- Environmental Issues
- Native Peoples Today
- Multiculturalism
- Identity
- Popular Culture
- Leadership
- Political Events
- Education
- Youth

- Family and Relationships
- Ethics
- Employment
- The Economy
- Public Safety
- Medical Advances
- Energy
- Immigration
- International Affairs
- Religion in Modern Society

Potential Means of Expression

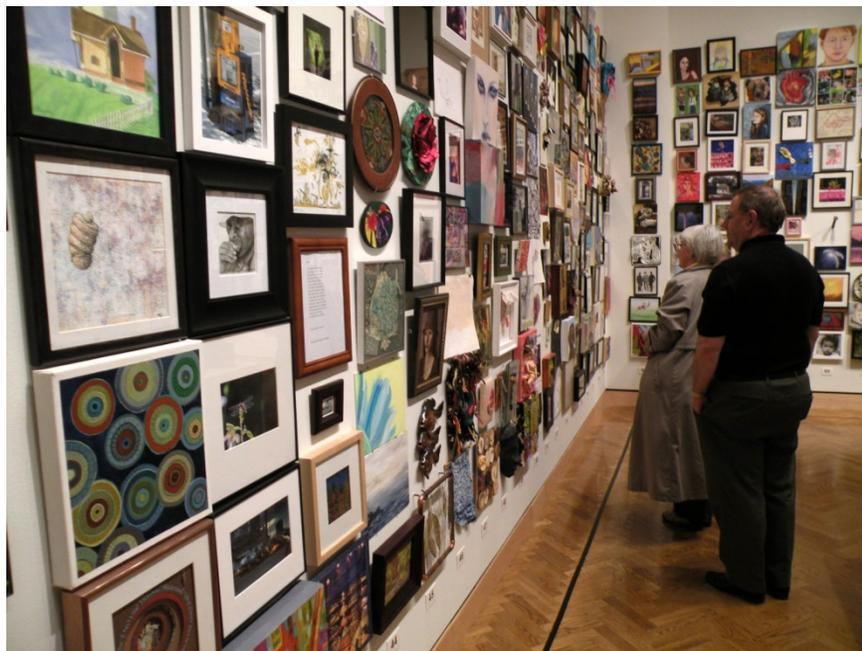
Potential means of expression for the initial exhibits could include:

- **Commissioned Work of Art** – A large-scale work of art by a Tennessee artist that represents Tennessee and Tennesseans today. Space will be provided around this work of art to serve as an orientation to this gallery and for groups to assemble.
- **Explorations** – Examples of how Tennesseans continue to push for expansion into unknown territories—underwater, in space, in the past, the future, and within our own bodies. Profiles of these modern day explorers will include explanation of the work they are doing, along with displays and samples of their work.
- **Innovation Display** – A display of local innovations that have been made recently in the fields of medicine, energy, the environment, business or communications technology. Companies or individuals can be invited to lend objects, photographs, and media for visitors to explore.
- **Community Leaders** – Profiles of leaders from communities across Tennessee, of all backgrounds, ages, and interests that will inspire visitors with the passion and leadership of the people of this state. Visitors will be able to send messages to those people that inspire them, or with whom they disagree. Participation in this exhibit will be arranged in advance with individuals who are willing to receive messages from visitors.



Portland Art Museum

- **Today's Tennessee Stars** – Displays of current and upcoming Tennessee stars in the cultural field: contemporary examples could include Miley Cyrus or Justin Timberlake. Examples of their work (music, videos, etc.) to be displayed along with photographs and quotations.
- **Tennessee Sports** – Tennessee currently has teams in the National Football League, National Hockey League, and the National Basketball Association, as well as college sports, such as the Southeastern Conference (SEC) and two annual football bowls. This exhibit will feature these teams and some of their star athletes, especially those from Tennessee, along with artifacts from the Museum's collection that are currently held by the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame.
- **Major Projects** – An interactive map of the state where visitors can touch on hotspots to learn about major projects and initiatives going on today, which could include architectural projects, new cultural institutions, historical, archaeological, or scientific research, and more.
- **Protecting Our Natural Resources** – Examples of what Tennessee is doing to protect and preserve its land, and the plant and animal species that inhabit it. A multimedia kiosk can let visitors browse through the many different ways and places across the state where they can experience the state's natural wonders. The interactive can let them compile a list of locations they are interested in, and initiatives in which they would like to be involved, and email it themselves for future reference.
- **My Tennessee** – A creative space where visitors can access supplies to create letters, works of art, or other means of expressing what Tennessee means to them today, for display in the museum or to take home with them. These can also be collected online through the Museum website and digital contributions displayed on a series of screens. This final experience will have visitors leaving feeling inspired and also a part of the story of this incredible place. This space will also allow for groups to gather for any concluding discussion or activities.



Minneapolis Institute of Art

4. CHILDREN'S GALLERY

Recommended Size: 3,000 square feet

Description:

All of the foregoing galleries should appeal to children and adolescents as well as adult visitors; school groups from Grades 4, 5 and 8 will enjoy and learn from these galleries. However, a separate Children's Gallery geared towards younger children aged 3-8 years will be a major draw for families and can also provide an opportunity for school trips by Grade 1 classes, where the curriculum includes a focus on Tennessee. Exhibits in this gallery will be hands-on interactives and graphics with age-appropriate and minimal text. Very few, if any, artifacts will be on display. The space will be designed for groups to gather in various locations. Experiences will tie to the main themes and topics of the other permanent collection galleries, but will be appropriate for young children. Design of the space should be fun, colorful, and comfortable and should encourage children to explore, make noise, touch things, and have fun.

Key Topics:

- Tennessee's Environment
- Life in the Past
- Tennessee's People
- The Art of Tennessee
- The Music of Tennessee

Potential Means of Expression:

- **The Land Around Us** – Three zones that each represent the natural environment of one of the three regions of Tennessee—East, Middle, and West. A large mural will set the scene for each, for example a Blue Ridge mountain environment, fertile farmland of the Nashville Basin, and the swampy lowlands of the Mississippi Delta. In each zone children will get to see and touch specimens and reproductions of plants and animals that live in that region. Hands-on matching games, puzzles and dress-up opportunities will help them learn more. Other activities will provide suggestions of ways that children can help to preserve these beautiful environments, for example conserving water, recycling and using compost, and never feeding wildlife.

- **Tennessee Children through History** – Interactive experiences in which children get to role play as children from different backgrounds and time periods in Tennessee’s history. Each exhibit will be set up as a mini-recreated environment that will act as the “stage” for their role play: for example, a Cherokee home, a settler’s cabin, an antebellum farm, a factory, a school, or others. Children will try on replica costumes and use tools, implements, and accessories to help them get into the role. Activities can be set up that they have to complete, such as weaving a (simple) basket, stacking firewood, picking crops, shining shoes, writing letters on a slate or playing a variety of historic games. Content will be light and fun, but will also communicate that life as a child in Tennessee in the past was very different from today, and while they had fun sometimes, they also often had to do hard work.
- **Uncovering the Past** – Young visitors will dig for fossils or archaeological materials in a recreated excavation, using simple tools that scientists use in their work. A matching game will encourage them to try to pair objects they find with pictures of what these items were (e.g. an extinct animal, part of a bowl, etc.), getting them to look closely at the objects and making connections to the real things.
- **Egyptian Mummy** – The Egyptian mummy in the Museum collection is popular with young visitors, and can be displayed here in the Children’s Gallery. Information on Ancient Egypt, burial customs, and how the mummy came to be in the Museum collection will be provided through simple text and graphics. Some of the forensic work done on the mummy can also be explained, along with questions for visitors and challenges for them to solve related to interpreting the mummy.
- **Reading Nook** – A comfortable area with multiple seating options for parents and children will have a selection of age-appropriate books and toys related to topics explored in the Museum, building on the success of the Story Baskets that are currently in the Museum. This space can be used by individual families to read, and can also be used for larger groups such as school classes, day cares, or camps who want a larger group experience.
- **Young Artists** – An ‘artist’s studio’ will provide children with art and craft supplies so that they can make works of art inspired by their visit.
- **Recording Studio** – A ‘recording studio’ will let young visitors try to play simplified musical instruments that have been used to make music in Tennessee in the past and today. Costumes will be available for them to wear, representing a range of musical genres, to help get in the role. They will be able to play instruments and sing, with their performance video-recorded and played back to them. There could also be the option for videos to be emailed to parents.





Some Children's Gallery experiences.

5. ART GALLERIES

5.1 TENNESSEE ART CHANGING GALLERY

Recommended Size: 2,000 square feet

Description:

Works of art from the Museum collection will be shown throughout the permanent collection history galleries in contextual mode, drawing connections between political, social, and economic events and movements and artistic expression. The art gallery by contrast will show works of art for their aesthetic value, constituting the art history of Tennessee and/or contemporary Tennessee art. This changing gallery of Tennessee art is a way to show more of the TSM art collection in a way that focuses specifically on works of art in aesthetic displays. This is intended to be a changing gallery, so that items from the collection can be rotated in and out to preserve the works of art and to be able to bring more items on display. This gallery must be designed to be flexible and adjacent to the other art galleries and the temporary exhibition gallery so that all spaces could be used for a single large show if required. Collections to be featured in this gallery include:

- Fine Art: Painting, Drawing, Sculpture, Photography, Prints
- Decorative Art: Furniture, Textiles, Costume, Metalwork, Ceramics, Glassware. Jewellery, Carvings
- Craft: ceramics, glass, leather, precious metals, weaving, wood
- Design: Architecture, Industrial Design, Graphic Design, Fashion, Interior Design
- Contemporary Art
- Musical Instruments

Potential Means of Expression:

Themed exhibitions could be created around a wide range of topics and genres. Here are just a few:

- Chronological Art History of Tennessee, or of periods in that art history (this may be appropriate for the opening)
- Outsider Art
- Religious Art
- Monograph or solo exhibitions of the work of individual artists
- Social Commentary

- Cultural Influences
- Contemporary Art
- Performance Art



Contemporary Decorative Art Exhibition, Museum of Anthropology,
University of British Columbia



Brooklyn Museum



Visible storage of art history, Luce Center, New York

5.2 MUSICAL HERITAGE GALLERY

Recommended Size: 2,000 square feet

Description:

As with Tennessee art, the musical heritage of Tennessee will be explored throughout the permanent collection history galleries within its historical context, but also merits a separate gallery so that visitors can fully appreciate this rich heritage. The global impact of Tennessee's music industry will be featured, emphasizing that in this area in particular Tennessee culture is world culture. Visitors will be able to see musical instruments, photographs of performers and costumes they wore, and most importantly they will be able to hear the music composed and performed by Tennesseans. Displays in this gallery will be long-term but with elements that can be updated to reflect new artists and music.

Key Topics:

This gallery will showcase all of the major forms of music that have roots in Tennessee, including but not limited to:

- English and Scottish traditional songs of the early settlers
- Songs and instruments played by enslaved African Americans
- Religious ballads, hymns, and revival songs
- Military music, Civil War songs
- Gospel
- Spirituals
- Blues
- Bluegrass
- Folk
- 'Mountain Music'
- Country
- Rhythm & Blues
- Rock 'n' Roll

Potential Means of Expression:

- **Tennessee Music Interactive Timeline** – A multimedia, layered, interactive timeline will be the dominant exhibit in this gallery and will be a ‘wow!’ experience for visitors. A long multi-touchtable will trace the musical heritage of Tennessee through time. Visitors will be able to explore chronologically and by genre, artist, and location to access rich multimedia content on Tennessee singers, songwriters, musicians, producers, recording studios, music clubs, radio stations and programs, and live shows. For each entry they will be able to drill down and access text, photographs, audio clips, and video. They can even compare artists and genres to call up information on how each has influenced the others. As a multitouch table they will be able to share with other visitors things of interest that they find, by simple “flicking” an interesting entry, photo, or clip to another person. They could even vote on what they think the best Tennessee music genre, song or artist is and the tallies of the most popular ones that month or year can be displayed for visitors.



Grammy Museum



- **Key Figures** – Displays surrounding the timeline will feature key figures in the evolution of music in Tennessee, including performers, composers, and producers who ‘changed the game’ in the music industry. Artifacts, photographs, personal stories, and multimedia of each person will be displayed.
- **The Fashion of the Music Industry** – Music in Tennessee has not just been about the songs, but also the personalities of the performers and their sense of style. The music industry has had a major impact on fashion, and vice versa. This exhibit will showcase clothing and costumes (real or reproduction) worn by Tennessee artists that were integral to their art.



David Bowie Is, at the V&A Museum

- **Global Impact** - Examples of the global impact that Tennessee's musical heritage has had will be expressed through videos, audio, photographs and displays of fashion, and other pop culture items. Examples could include international awards, musical influence, awards, tours, tourism and more.



Country Music fans in Japan

Visible Storage Opportunity:

- **Musical Instruments-** A visible storage display would allow the Museum to showcase musical instruments from its collection in a space-saving way. It will also impress visitors with the breadth of instruments that have been played in Tennessee, and they will be able to use a multimedia kiosk or tablet to access information on each instrument and to hear music that it would have played. Instruments that could be displayed include: Native American and African drums, fiddles, dulcimers, banjos, guitars, and more.



Experience Music Project, Seattle



5.3 RED GROOMS GALLERY

Recommended Size: 2,000 square feet

Description:

Charles Rogers 'Red' Grooms was born in Nashville in 1937 and went on to become a major and original contemporary artist who has received international recognition. As a young man he moved to New York City to pursue his artistic career, and much of his work deals with that city rather than his home state of Tennessee. For this reason, his works of art in the Museum collection warrant their own art gallery as they are significant works by an important Tennessee artist although they do not fit within the chronological story of the main history galleries. The TSM has received the donation of a definitive collection of his graphic work, including a complete collection of his unique three-dimensional prints.

This will be a small, intimate gallery space that presents works on paper by Red Grooms in an aesthetic mode. Visitors will be encouraged to enter the next space to see one of his most famous pieces, and one that does have Tennessee as a subject matter, the Tennessee Fox Trot Carousel.

Key Topics:

- Biography of Red Grooms
- Influences and those he influenced
- Key themes and subject matter addressed by his work
- Different media in which he worked
- Collections of his work and where visitors can see more

Potential Means of Expression:

- Aesthetic displays of works on paper, including drawings and 3D prints, with didactic panels providing interpretation and/or multimedia tablets with access to interpretation, additional works, photographs of the artist, and video-taped interviews with him.



Red Grooms and his work "Joseph's Bridge"

5.4 RED GROOMS CAROUSEL PAVILION

Recommended Size: 4,000 sq. ft.

Description:

A specially designed glass pavilion housing the Red Grooms Tennessee Fox Trot Carousel will be adjacent to and ideally accessible from the main museum building via the Red Grooms Gallery. Restored to working order, visitors will be able to ride the carousel for a small fee. Grooms' fun and fantastical carousel features figures from Tennessee's history instead of the usual horses and animals. Figures include President Andrew Jackson, William Strickland, Chet Atkins, Uncle Dave Macon, and others that represent important people, events, and social and cultural icons in Tennessee's history. A well-loved icon when it was exhibited at the foot of Broadway, it has become a part of Tennessee art history.

Key Topics:

- Identification of the figures in the carousel and their significance in Tennessee's history/culture



Tennessee Foxtrot Carousel

Means of Expression:

- **Carousel** – Visitors will be able to ride on the carousel for a small fee.
- **Character Panels** – Small didactic panels mounted around the carousel will identify each of the 36 figures for visitors and provide some brief information on each of them.
- **Documentary** – If appropriate, the documentary “Carousel of Time” on this work of art can be played to visitors who are waiting in line for their turn on the carousel.

6. TEMPORARY EXHIBITION GALLERY

Recommended Size: 6,000 square feet

A flexible temporary gallery space will allow the Museum to have a program of changing exhibitions. These may be new exhibitions that Museum curators create in-house, or they could be travelling shows from other institutions, artists, or the community that are of interest to its audience. The gallery should be adjacent to the Changing Art Gallery so that they can be combined when needed for larger exhibitions.

The recommendation is for the Museum to use this temporary gallery to mount four exhibitions per year, each showing for three months. Most exhibitions will be free of charge like the rest of the Museum, but each year there should be one major exhibition that could be charged if it requires additional expenditure. The subject matter of the exhibitions may be related to Tennessee history or culture, but the gallery should also function as a 'window on the world', bringing to Tennessee major exhibitions of other cultures and civilizations past and present. As the state museum, the TSM has a mandate to provide Tennesseans with access to culture and this could be culture from any source—French Impressionists, Japanese anime or Latin American musical instruments. Many Tennesseans, particularly school children, have limited opportunities to travel and to visit other museums and so the Tennessee State Museum must be their 'window to world culture'. It is recommended that in any two year period, the Museum would have one internationally-focused exhibition, two from elsewhere in the United States, and the rest from within Tennessee.

7. CONCLUSION

This concludes the Interpretative Plan for the new Tennessee State Museum. It should be read in the context of related reports that are also part of the planning process, such as the Public Programming Plan and the Facility Plan. As the recommendations in all of these reports are approved or adjusted, the Interpretative Plan may also require adjustment. Many of the means of expression provide more possibilities than may be possible in the allocated space; if so, choices will have to be made. This plan will be finalized as part of the final Operations Plan to be completed in the second phase of the present study. Once finalized and approved, this Interpretative Plan constitutes the basis for proceeding to exhibition design, which should be initiated along with architectural design of the new building.