

Discover: GRPM Building Tour (Grades 4-12+)

Program Description:

This guided tour will introduce learners to the broad range of topics covered in the Museum’s permanent exhibits. The instructor will emphasize that the Public Museum shares local stories of Grand Rapids and West Michigan to inspire curiosity and pride in our own place. This program is a perfect option for a class that wants to make the most of the museum in a short amount of time and have a knowledgeable guide on hand who can answer student questions.

What content standards align with this program?

Michigan K-12 Social Studies Standards (*each Grade Level Content Expectation is addressed briefly but not comprehensively*): H1 The World in Temporal Terms: Historical Habits of Mind, H2 Living and Working Together in Families and Communities, Now and Long Ago, H3 The History of Michigan and the Great Lakes Region, H4 The History of the United States, H5 The History of Peoples from Many Cultures Around the World, U6 The Development of an Industrial, Urban, and Global United States, U9 America in a New Global Age, G1 The World in Spatial Terms: Geographical Habits of Mind, G2 Places and Regions, G3 Physical Systems, G4 Human Systems, G5 Environment and Society, G6 Global Issues Past and Present, P1 Reading and Communication, P2 Inquiry and Research Analysis

Museum Program Strand:

- *Cultivate a community of empathetic contributors who value diversity*
- *Help learners tell, interpret, create, and share compelling stories so no history is ignored or untold*

This program is aligned with the following Museum Learner Outcomes:

Holders of Foundational Knowledge	Masters of Fundamental Literacies	Creative Thinkers and Doers	Generous Collaborators for Tough Problems	Learners For Life
X				X

What will students know and be able to do after completing this program?

- Students will leave with a greater appreciation for the history and uniqueness of West Michigan.
- Students will be able to explain the major inventions, industries, and groups of people who have shaped Grand Rapids and West Michigan.
- Students will be able to describe how the museum shares stories through collected objects and exhibit space.

What questions will students answer?

- What makes West Michigan and Grand Rapids unique?
- What has changed throughout the history of West Michigan?
- Which groups of people have lived in Grand Rapids in the past and established the city as it is today?
- What industries have been important to Grand Rapids?
- How have humans interacted with the natural environment of West Michigan?

Key Vocabulary

Exhibit

Artifact
Victorian Era
Manufacturing
Anishinabek
Culture
Traditions
Immigration
Habitat

Program Activities: 60 minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions: Instructor will share overall museum history with a local focus. Format of the tour and expectations for behavior will be covered.
2. Exploration of Exhibits: In each area, the guide will introduce the purpose of the exhibit and share the key learning points and pieces of interesting information.
 - a. *Streets of Old Grand Rapids*
 - i. Overview: This exhibit represents Grand Rapids in the 1890s, aiming to convey the sense of what it might have been like to visit the streets of downtown during this time period.
 - b. *O is for Oddities*
 - i. Overview: Quick student activity at this exhibit, part of the 26 small exhibits called *Collecting A-Z* which utilizes more than 350,000 artifacts from the GRPM collection. This specific stop of the exhibit features items that are either rare or unusual.
 - c. *Furniture City*
 - i. Overview: Furniture City is the story of people, process, and product; it is the story of Grand Rapids itself. Students will learn how furniture manufacturing has affected the people of Grand Rapids and shaped the growth of this area from 1840 to the present.
 - d. *Anishinabek: The People of this Place*
 - i. Overview: Students will learn about the story of the Native Americans of West Michigan, told in their own voice. Through direct quotes, family photographs, and interviews, visitors learn directly from West Michigan's Native American community. Topics include the sacrifices, achievements, and ongoing struggle of the Anishinabe people to preserve and protect their cultural heritage in a rapidly changing world.
 - e. *Newcomers: The People of this Place*
 - i. Overview: This exhibit celebrates the cultures of West Michigan, established through a rich history of immigration from around the world. More than 45 ethnic groups now call West Michigan their home. Here you can learn about their personal stories, work, play, families, religion, prejudices, cultural traditions and more.
 - f. *West Michigan Habitats*
 - i. Overview: *Habitats* explores our changing relationship with the natural environment while displaying various natural communities in West Michigan--Lake Michigan, Sand dunes, marshes, and forests.
3. Conclusion: Final note encouraging continued curiosity and exploration. Encourage students to follow up and research anything that especially caught their interest.