MAS Stickers of Excellence 2024

Standards based recognition of achievement in Saskatchewan museums.

The Museums Association of Saskatchewan (MAS) wishes to celebrate the excellent work within our membership and to help encourage tourism and community pride.

MAS member museums are invited to submit applications for recognition, with accompanying evidence, for evaluation. The evaluation criteria are based on the *Standards for Saskatchewan Museums, Sixth Edition* three main pillars: Governance and Management, Collections, and Communications, as well as recognition of work on Reconciliation and IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity Equity & Access).

Applicants will be notified by MAS via email once the application(s) has been processed, and whether they meet the criteria to receive a "Sticker of Excellence".

*Please be aware this is a pilot year for MAS Stickers of Excellence, and that limitations on applications or deadlines may change due to capacity.

Collections: Collections Management

Standards for Saskatchewan Museums, Collections, "Collections Management" (pg. 50-70).

Museums fulfil obligations of public trust in collections management by preserving their collections. This includes: documentation, acquisition and accession, loans, cataloguing, location control, and de-accession and disposal, etc. These policies, including repatriation policies, should be made available for community access.

Evaluation metrics: Grading scale 1(Poor) - 5(Excellent) for each point of evaluation (5):

- **Collections Mandate:**
1. The museum has and adheres to their Collections Mandate which defines the purpose and prescribing limits and use of its collection;

- **Collections Management Policy:**
2. The museum has a Collections Management Policy, and it is conducted in compliance with all relevant provincial and federal legislation, relevant standards, and generally accepted professional procedures (for example):
    - Recognizes the importance of both the tangible and intangible aspects of an artefact and/or collection;
    - Recognizes and is respectful of traditional knowledge, issues of cultural appropriation, and cultural artefacts, and consults with appropriate community to ensure the proper care and use of such materials;

- ○ Have a written policies (loans, acquisitions, appraisal, etc.) that clearly outlines the criteria for items that are considered for acquisition;
- ○ Thorough documentation of the provenance of artefacts;
- ○ The museum recognizes and supports cultural practices relating to Indigenous collections;

- ● **Collections Management System (digital/paper):**
3. The museum records information about artefacts, providing a complete history of the artefact including its provenance, conservation treatment, loan, use in exhibition or scientific sampling, publication, etc. (examples of good collections/documentation management are):
   - ○ The museums collections documentation is accurate, complete, and easily recalled for use:
   - ○ The museum maintains an inventory of all Indigenous artefacts in the collection and makes it available to Indigenous communities upon request;
   - ○ Keeps records of all efforts to identify rights holders for objects in its collection;

- ● **Transparency, Public Communication, and Awareness:**
4. The museum has an obligation, through the development and implementation of policies and procedures, to the legal and ethical acquisition, documentation, and disposition of material by the museums:
   - ○ This information and policies are made publicly available;

- ● **Relationship with Originating Communities**
5. The museum is committed to involve and consult originating communities and religious representatives in the documentation and preservation of their heritage held in trust by the museum, ensuring proper care and use:
   - ○ The museum recognizes and is respectful of traditional knowledge, cultural artefacts, and issues of cultural appropriation;
   - ○ Provides safe spaces for Indigenous communities to engage with any cultural material that is held in the museum's collection;

Examples of evidence for evaluation include:
- ● Collections Management Policy (Acquisition, Loan, De-accession/Disposal, Repatriation, etc);
- ● Collections Mandate/Collections Strategy;
- ● Collections assessment;
- ● Inventory;
- ● Care and Handling Policy (eg.traditional knowledge, spiritual care, etc.);
- ● Acquisition paperwork and/or provenance questionnaire;
- ● Minutes noting policy updates and/or revisions;
- ● Temporary receipts, object exit forms, loan paperwork, de-accession forms;
- ● Condition report forms;
- ● Cataloguing worksheet;

- Policies publicly available (website, notice to contact for more information, etc.)