

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.*

Communication: Exhibits

[Standards for Saskatchewan Museums](#), Collections, Communication, “Exhibits” (pg. 93-99).

Exhibits are a fundamental feature of a museum, and the museum’s main communication tool with its audience. When developing exhibits, considerations should include current and new approaches to exhibit design, and incorporate a variety of learning approaches. Exhibition themes should incorporate multiple perspectives and address the issues and interests of the community.

Evaluation metrics: Grading scale 1(Poor) - 5(Excellent) for each point of evaluation (4):

- **Accessibility:**

1. The museum is committed to providing equal access for all to the programs, exhibitions, and services offered:
 - Exhibit space is readily accessible to both the public and museum personnel;
 - Signage is in the language(s) which best meets the needs of its primary audience(s) or where mandated bylaw;
 - Exhibit information is provided using a variety of media to appeal to diverse learning styles;
 - The museum ensures that every exhibit communicates clear messages and provides information in a respectful manner;

- Exhibits are arranged to allow for easy traffic flow and to avoid congestion and provide corridors wide enough to facilitate safe access for visitors, museum personnel, and objects;
 - The museum strives at all times to be a safe space for all personnel and visitors.
- **Interpretation:**
2. The museum ensures that every exhibit communicates clear messages and provides information in a respectful manner:
 - The interpretative material developed around an exhibition is designed to meet the needs of audiences and is respectful in its use of language;
 - The language and terminology used in relation to culturally specific collections must be accepted by the appropriate contemporary cultural community;
 - Recognizes the need to integrate tangible and intangible aspects of heritage and strives to connect collections and stories into aspects of the exhibit;
 - The exhibition is well researched and reflects the museum's mandate;
 - Online/virtual exhibitions adhere to the museum's mission, reflecting the commitment to preservation, interpretation, education, and public access;
 - Interactive activities have educational or interpretive value and expand on the exhibit's theme or provide information on specific artefacts;
- **Reconciliation:**
3. The museum ensures the full participation of Indigenous people in the planning, development, and production of exhibitions about Indigenous items, stories, and culture:
 - Exhibitions, whether permanent, temporary, travelling, or virtual, clearly state the treaty or unceded territory in an acknowledgement panel;
 - The museums appropriately compensates any community members consulted for their time and contribution;
 - No Indigenous object is included in displays without the approval and prior consent of the originating community;
 - Languages and terminology used in Indigenous collections and exhibitions must be the accepted terminology by contemporary Indigenous communities, through consultation with the communities.
- **Community Relevance:**
4. The museum's exhibitions incorporate multiple perspectives and address the issues and interests of the community, clients, and stakeholders:
 - The themes and objectives of exhibits are developed from the stated goals outlined in the museum's Exhibition Policy and reflect the mandate of the museum;
 - A museum's communities are clearly defined (visitors, stakeholders, schools, cultural representatives, sponsors, grant givers, politicians, etc);
 - Exhibitions reflect the diversity within the community and are sensitive to visitors from various backgrounds;

- Exhibitions are developed in consultation with the community, clients, and stakeholders to ensure the inclusion of various perspectives, providing accurate and unbiased information;

Examples of evidence for evaluation include:

- Exhibition Policy;
- Website links to virtual exhibitions, including links to any apps used onsite;
- Video or photographs (e.g. exhibition spaces, interpretive panels, etc);
- Curatorial essays;
- Land Acknowledgments;
- Percentage of dedicated exhibition space for Indigenous, 2SLGBTQIA+, Indigenous, Black, People of Colour, and Newcomers;
- Community support documents;
- Diverse communication approaches (text, audio, interactives, audio guides, etc.)
- Percentage of permanent vs temporary exhibition space.