



County of Peterborough Policy Manual

Department:	Lang Pioneer Village Museum
Policy No.:	LPV-09
Subject:	Exhibition Policy
Approved by Leadership Team:	January 11, 2023
Originally Approved by Council:	December 3, 2004
Revised by Council:	February 15, 2023
Approved by:	Resolution No. 37-2023

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide an understanding of the exhibition mandate of Lang Pioneer Village Museum (hereinafter referred to as “the Museum”), as well as specifying the proper use of the museum’s facilities and artifacts in the development and display of temporary and permanent exhibits.

Scope:

This policy pertains to all staff and volunteers involved in the development, promotion, logistical support, and construction of exhibits, at or for Lang Pioneer Village Museum, as well as on site interpreters, Advisory Committee members and all other interested parties.

Practices will be based on the Museum’s mission and mandate to achieve their Vision.

The Museum Operations Manager will ensure that all persons involved in any stage of the exhibit process are aware of the museum’s Exhibition Policy and adhere to accepted standard museum practices and ethical guidelines.

Definitions:

Exhibition: A public display of objects, artifacts, archival material, or other items of interest on public display either in the Village or as part of outreach programming, whether it be permanent, temporary, borrowed, or rented. This also includes any display or demonstration of a particular skill or trade.

Museum Staff: Includes any senior staff, seasonal staff, volunteers, interns, contract workers, and students working for or on behalf of Lang Pioneer Village Museum.

Mission: The Museum’s mission is “To preserve, promote, and authentically recreate the history of Peterborough County.”

Mandate: The Museum's mandate is "To be a vibrant living history museum that engages our community and actively preserves our cultural heritage in order to provide an interactive and educational visitor experience."

Vision: The Museum's Vision is "To provide each and every visitor to Lang Pioneer Village Museum with a living history experience of exceptional quality."

Object: Throughout this policy the word "object" encompasses all objects, artifacts, and archival materials.

Policy:

Overview:

Lang Pioneer Village Museum is committed to the development and presentation of high-quality exhibits that are thoroughly researched, accurate, authentic, relevant, objective, and consistent with the Museum's mission, mandate, and vision. These exhibits will be based on themes that reflect or stem from the history of life in Peterborough County and will address the needs and interests of our visitors and the communities we serve. Lang Pioneer Village Museum's exhibit spaces include the Visitor's Centre Orientation Theatre, the Peterborough County Agricultural Heritage Building (PCAHB), and the historical buildings that make up the site.

As a living history site, emphasis will be placed on the illustration of our county's history through live demonstrations by skilled and knowledgeable interpreters in period and task specific costumes, as determined by the museum's Costumer.

Resources:

Lang Pioneer Village Museum will ensure that it meets its commitment regarding its physical, human, and financial resources, to produce the highest standard of exhibitions. There is a fully equipped workshop and conservation lab on site to aid in the construction of exhibits and the treatment of the artifacts that are placed on display.

In addition to the Museum Curator, several staff members and volunteers contribute to the research, development, construction, promotion, and maintenance of exhibits. An Exhibit Supplies budget category has been set up to fund the Museum's exhibit design, development, construction, maintenance, and evaluation expenses. Other funding will be required from time to time, and this may involve fundraising or applications to various levels of government, public and private foundations for grants.

Exhibition Types:

The Museum will feature the following types of exhibits:

- Self-Generated Temporary Exhibits: Community-based Exhibits
- Travelling Exhibits
- Promotional Exhibits
- Public Relations

The Museum's major exhibitions will be promoted through a wide range of media (social/digital, print, radio, etc.)

As Peterborough County's community museum, Lang Pioneer Village Museum must respect both the curatorial integrity and public sensibilities in the selection and presentation of its exhibits. Subjects of a controversial nature will be reviewed with the Advisory Committee and have the approval of Peterborough County Council before any work on development can begin. Visitors will therefore be advised in advance, through printed material and signage, of controversial content. Any public concerns that arise will be referred to the Museum Operations Manager for response.

Objects for Exhibition:

The Museum Curator will select objects from the collection in accordance with Lang Pioneer Village Museum's Collections Management Policy (LPV-13) and standard museum policy when mounting exhibits or augmenting community-based or travelling exhibits.

Exhibit Design and Installation:

The Museum Curator and other staff of the museum designated by the Museum Operations Manager will be responsible for the design, development, and installation of exhibits, ensuring they are of a professional quality. All exhibit text will be verified through research and meet accessibility standards. Where a matter of contention arrives with stakeholders, the Museum reserves the right to make the final decision. Such decisions are the responsibility of the Museum Operations Manager or their designate.

Incoming Exhibitions:

The Museum will document the terms and conditions of each temporary or community-based exhibit in an Exhibition Agreement to formalize the respective responsibilities of the borrower and lender of artifacts as outlined in the Collections Management Policy (LPV-13) and the Conservation Policy (LPV-10).

Donor Recognition:

Lang Pioneer Village Museum does not employ permanent and/or visible donor recognition within exhibit spaces (see LPV-13 Collections Management).

When it is a condition of a travelling exhibit, the lender of loaned artifacts for temporary exhibits will be acknowledged by Lang Pioneer Village Museum through the inclusion of their name, within modern exhibit spaces only.

Review Cycle:

This Policy and corresponding procedure (LPV-09-PR01) will be reviewed at least once per term of Council.

