



From
The
Ground
Up.

Building
Community
at the
Gardiner
Museum





Shaping the future of clay

The Gardiner Museum brings together people of all ages and communities through the shared values of creativity and wonder that clay inspires. Founded in 1984 by George and Helen Gardiner, the Gardiner is now one of the world's top specialty museums at the forefront of ceramic education and curation.

In 2024, we are celebrating our 40th anniversary by embarking on our largest capital project in two decades—a full-scale transformation of our ground floor that will bring our physical space in line with our mission of building community with clay.

Join us for this once-in-a-generation transformation!

Building a reputation for excellence

The Gardiner Museum stewards an internationally renowned collection of over 5,000 objects spanning many time periods and cultures. We are global leaders in the field of ceramics, delivering innovative programming and acclaimed exhibitions by artists including Shary Boyle, Ai Weiwei, Magdalene Odundo, and Yoko Ono.

This capital project marks the next phase of our evolution as a museum, creating exciting new opportunities for dialogue between collections and communities, while emphasizing what connects us as humans.





Free admission for
60% of all visitors

200 school groups
annually

250+ clay classes
per year

60,000+ visitors
per year

“The Gardiner plays a pivotal role in fostering resilience, building self-esteem, and providing a sense of purpose among its beneficiaries.”

Shelley Kavanagh, RP, RCAT, Clinical
Therapist, Radius Child and Youth Services

From The Ground Up



From the Ground up is a project to transform the Gardiner Museum's 9,000-square-foot ground floor. It includes the construction of a fully equipped Makerspace, a Community Learning Centre, and a new gallery of Indigenous ceramics.

Exhibitions, education, and hands-on making will come together to create an engaging visitor experience unique within the city's cultural sector.

As part of our Gardiner community, your support is vital to the realization of this bold and ambitious project.



MODERN & CONTEMPORARY

The William B.G. Humphries Collections Gallery

WELCOME TO COLLECTIONS GALLERY



Gabrielle Peacock, Executive Director & CEO, Gardiner Museum

“The Gardiner Museum has evolved significantly over our 40 year history, but our ability to unite communities through the universal medium of clay remains as powerful as ever. This unique potential is at the heart of the Museum’s approach to innovative programs, hands-on education, and ground-breaking curatorial projects.

As we embark on our most expansive renovation project in two decades, I invite you to join in the next chapter of the Museum’s mission to build community: **From the Ground Up.**”

Project Highlights

- A fully equipped Makerspace
- Open concept galleries that draw connections between cultures and collections
- A new Indigenous gallery highlighting pottery traditions of the Woodland and Great Lakes region
- A multipurpose Community Learning Centre with education resources
- A brighter and more welcoming Entrance Hall



Our Project Principles

Access

The Ground Floor Transformation prioritizes two interpretations of access: features that allow guests of varying physical abilities to benefit from everything the Museum has to offer, and the reduction of barriers to audiences' ability to enjoy and participate in the Gardiner's spaces and programs.

Connectivity

The design plans are guided by the goal of encouraging and establishing connectivity between people enjoying the Museum, between cultures through shared ceramic traditions, and between spaces and their functionality.

Indigeneity

The Ground Floor Transformation furthers the Museum's commitment to reconciliation through a centering of Indigenous artworks and perspectives in the galleries. The Gardiner's Indigenous Advisory Circle, established in 2020, is offering guidance on the project.





Discover

The Collections Galleries

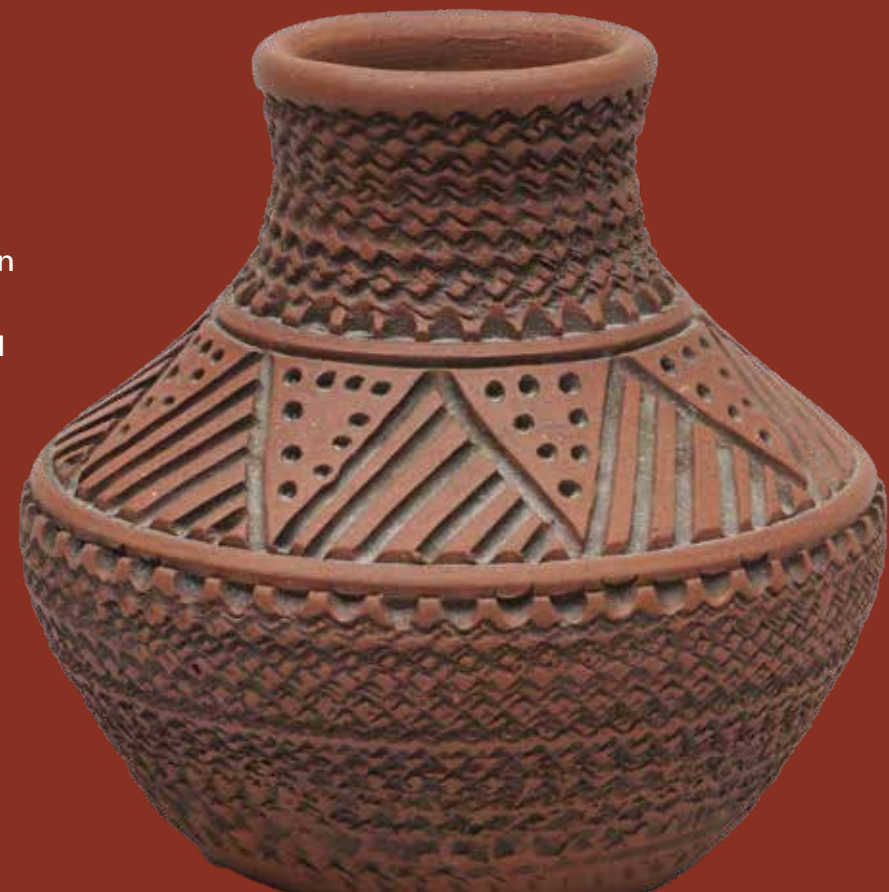
Last updated in 2006, this transformation will bring a fresh perspective to the Gardiner's permanent collection galleries. Introducing natural light and an open design plan, the new galleries will highlight connections between cultures and across time periods and geographies, including the Museum's Ancestral Americas, Italian Renaissance Maiolica, English Delftware, and Modern & Contemporary collections.



Discover

Gallery of Indigenous Ceramics

The Ground Floor Transformation will include the construction of a central Indigenous gallery space showcasing ceramic traditions of the Woodland and Great Lakes Region. Designed by architect Chris Cornelius (Oneida), the gallery will hold objects and stories from time immemorial to the present day, including installations developed with Indigenous community partners.



Discover

The Makerspace

A new fully equipped Makerspace will greet visitors upon entering the Museum, foregrounding hands-on making as central to the Gardiner's mission. Highlighting clay's accessibility and activating the Museum as a site for creativity, the Makerspace will invite visitors to both observe and engage in the artistic process, setting the Gardiner apart from traditional museum settings.





Discover

The Community Learning Centre

The Community Learning Centre (CLC) is a new programming and events space that will bring better visibility to the Museum's education and community-based programming. A comfortable and welcoming place for visitors to connect with one another and engage with educational resources, the CLC will host 200 school groups annually as well as lectures and public programs. It will also feature new display opportunities for the collection and community projects.

Project Partners

Montgomery Sisam Architects

Andrew Jones Designer/Architect

Bozko & Verity Engineers

Chris Cornelius Design Consultant/Architect,
Indigenous Gallery Space

Human Space Accessibility Consultants

Origin Studios Interpretive Planners

Indigenous Advisory Circle

Mary Anne Barkhouse

Kent Monkman

Andre Morriseau

Duke Redbird

Tekaronhiákhwa / Santee Smith

Project Budget

Construction and Project Management \$9,900,000

Architectural Fees \$1,400,000

Curatorial Costs \$1,600,000

Business Interruption Costs \$1,780,000

Campaign Costs \$320,000

Programming \$500,000

Total Project Costs

\$15,500,000



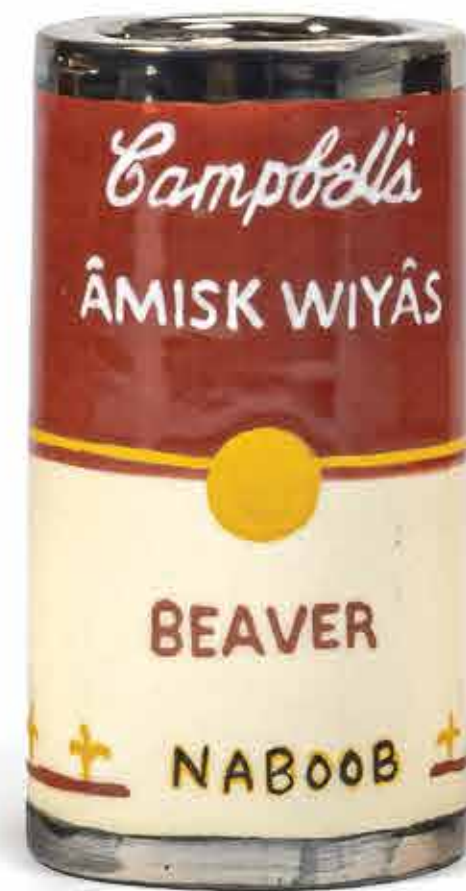
Ways To Support

As we embark on this exciting period of change, we need the support of our community to bring this transformation to life!

Gifts toward From the Ground Up can include one-time donations or multi-year pledges to support the next era of our mission to build community with clay.

Contact our Development team to discuss opportunities to support this milestone project and ensure the impact of your gift is maximized.

Miranda Disney
Chief Development Officer
Telephone: 416 408 5051
Email: miranda@gardinermuseum.on.ca



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Images: Pages 1 & 2: (From Left) Dog-form Effigy Vessel, Colima, Mexico, 300 BCE - 300 CE, Gift of George and Helen Gardiner, G83.1.40; Shary Boyle, *God's Eye*, 2012-2015, Gift of the Artist, G17.12.1; Sergei Isupov, *Lady Cat*, 2012, The Diana Reitberger Collection, G23.10.1; Franco Xanto Avelli, Plate with scene from the story of Metabus and Camilla, Urbino, Italy, 1534, Gift of George and Helen Gardiner, G83.1.363. Page 3: Photo: Tom Arban. Page 6: Installation view of *Shary Boyle: Outside the Palace of Me*. Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid. Page 7: Photo: Lisa Sakulensky. Page 14: Figure of dancer with 'pastillaje' headdress, Central Veracruz, Mexico, 600-900, Gift of George and Helen Gardiner, G83.1.69. Page 16: *Talking Earth*, 2022. Photographer: Vladimir Kanic, Artist: Santee Smith/Kaha:wi Dance Theatre. Page 19: Akio Takamori, *Youth*, c.1990-1991, Gift of John Bingham, G01.5.1.1-2. Page 20: Steve Smith, *Vase*, 1978, Gift of Larysa Fenyn and Orest Melnyk, G19.1.7. Page 27: Photo: Brittany Carmichael. Page 29 & 30: Judy Chartrand, *Métis Soup Series*, 2023, Museum Purchase, G23.15.1.1-9.