

ONTARIO MUSEUM

of HISTORY & ART

40th
ANNIVERSARY
1979 - 2019

BUILDING COMMUNITY:

*Celebrating Our Past and
Creating Our Future*



ONTARIO
MUSEUM
OF HISTORY & ART

ONTARIO
CALIFORNIA
ARTS • CULTURE • HISTORY



40th

1930s

1970s

*It is a tribute to the City of Ontario
that its leadership saw fit to establish a Museum,*

to be operated as a City department with additional help from its nonprofit support group. This commitment, to preserve and share the history and culture of Ontario and the surrounding area, is in itself a remarkable achievement. The Museum is uniquely fortunate to be housed in Ontario's former city hall, located on tree-lined Euclid Avenue in Ontario's historic downtown. As the Museum has developed its exhibitions, programs, and collections stewardship, it has also grown in value as a significant building that anchors the growing arts & culture scene. The Museum is an asset that contributes to the City's economic revitalization, community development, and tourism. The Ontario Museum of History & Art has extended its vision, embracing long-term planning to ensure that the Museum's capacity matches the growth in value to the community and visitors. To that end, the Museum has embraced rigorous strategic planning, a comprehensive facilities master plan, and is now seeking accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums – the gold standard for excellence. We invite you to join us as we celebrate our past 40 years and plan for our next 40 years!

- John Worden, Museum Director

1979 MUSEUM ESTABLISHED

2019



1930s

IN THE 1930s

Construction begins for the second City Hall of the City of Ontario. The project is funded by the Works Progress Administration.

IN 1937

The ceremonial grand opening takes place. City dignitaries gather in the courtyard at City Hall.



1970s

IN THE 1970s

As the needs of the citizens grow, a new City Hall is built to better serve the community.

IN 1979

The Ontario City Council establishes the Museum of History and Art, Ontario in the old City Hall building.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

R.E. Ellingwood, Mayor
Homer F. Briggs
Beecher Medlin
Faye Meyers Dastrup
Robert K. Abel

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bert C. Francis, President
Patrick J. King, Vice President
Mildred Holmes
Elinore Carlson
Bryce A. Denton
Robert K. Abel





1980s

IN 1983

The Friends of the Museum nominate Virginia Daley as the first President.

IN 1984

The Frankish Fountain is moved from Euclid Avenue to the Museum property. Charles Frankish designs the fountain in 1886 to be a symbol of prosperity promoting Ontario's ample water supply to potential farmers and residents.

1990s

IN 1993

The Museum receives the Biane Family Collection 160 years after founding the Brookside Winery.

IN 1996

The Friends of the Museum disbands and becomes the Museum of History and Art, Ontario, Associates (Museum Associates), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

AUGUST 1996

The Museum receives a \$10,000 grant from the Ontario Community Foundation as well as private donations for the renovation of the Historic Council Chambers.





JANUARY 1997

The first Family Discovery Day, celebrating Chinese New Year, is held, a favorite for Museum visitors.

The Museum receives the Latimer Family donation (The San Antonio Orchard Company).



SPRING 1997

The Museum receives a grant for \$125,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to develop the *Road Ways* exhibit.



1990s *continued*

AUGUST 1997

The North Wing renovation is complete. The original council table and audience seating are restored and can be found in today's Faye Dastrup-Hamill Historic Council Chambers.

FALL 1998

The newly remodeled Museum Associates Store opens.





SEPTEMBER 2000

The Museum is named
Ontario City Landmark #2.

2000s

IN 2001

The Ontario City Council allocates \$550,000 to fund major roof repair for the Museum's historic 1937 building. The City Public Works Department oversees the project and re-uses as many of the original tiles as possible. The Museum is temporarily relocated to 217 Lemon Avenue. During this time, renovation of the South Wing takes place. Once the renovation is complete, the Museum begins installing two core exhibits: *Road Ways* and *Gem of the Foothills*.



JUNE 2001

The Museum receives a Model Colony Rehabilitation Award for the building and Council Chambers.

FALL 2001

Ontario History on the Go outreach educational program visits local schools.

MARCH 21, 2002

Grand Re-Opening of the Museum of History and Art, Ontario.

APRIL 2002

Museum Associates hosts the first *Ontario Invitational Art Exhibition*.





SPRING 2003

Road Ways core exhibit opens to the public.

JUNE 2003

The City of Ontario Public Works Department receives a Model Colony Rehabilitation Award for the exterior of the property.

FALL 2003

The Museum receives \$49,587 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (Learning Opportunities Grant) to develop the Docent Program.

APRIL 2004

The Museum Associates begins a revival of thematic fundraisers with "A Spring Evening Classic California Style."



2000s *continued*

JUNE 8, 2005

The Museum graduates ten docents from its first class.

MARCH 2006

Gem of the Foothills core exhibit opens to the public.



2000s *continued*

MARCH 28, 2006

The unveiling of the “Faye Dastrup-Hamill Historic Council Chambers” plaque takes place at a Board of Trustees Meeting.



OCTOBER 2006

The Museum Associates establishes a Collections Project fund in the name of Curator Maricarmen Ruiz-Torres, who passes away in October 2006.



FALL 2007

The Museum receives a \$90,730 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to inventory and register/catalog the Museum’s collection of artifacts, documents, historic photographs and artwork.

A consultant team funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities: Sustaining Cultural Heritage grant meets with Museum staff and other City of Ontario representatives. The goal is to study how to sustain the Museum’s collections and improve the function of the facilities while preserving the building’s historic fabric. The resulting comprehensive study is completed in 2013.

2010s

IN 2013

The Museum re-plants the Historic Rose Garden found on the south side of the building. The celebrity of the garden is the Charlotte Armstrong Rose, the official flower of the City of Ontario.

The Museum launches an assessment project to gather information for future development of programs and operations in 2014.



SUMMER 2014

The Museum is awarded a \$999,000 Urban Greening Grant from the California National Resource Agency, to transform the Museum grounds into gardens with native and drought-tolerant/water efficient plantings and other water conservation features.



2010s *continued*

IN 2015

The *Faces of the Community* exhibit opens to the public. Artist Andrea Benitez and the Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, in conjunction with Chaffey Community Museum of Art and the Ontario Museum of History & Art, collaborate on a new exhibit documenting the lives of parishioners through portraits and interviews.



Following a community assessment with the Museum Board of Trustees, the Museum Associates, and key stakeholders, the Museum completes its strategic plan. The plan addresses how to grow audience, build resources, and provide facilitative leadership for cultural development.



ONTARIO
MUSEUM
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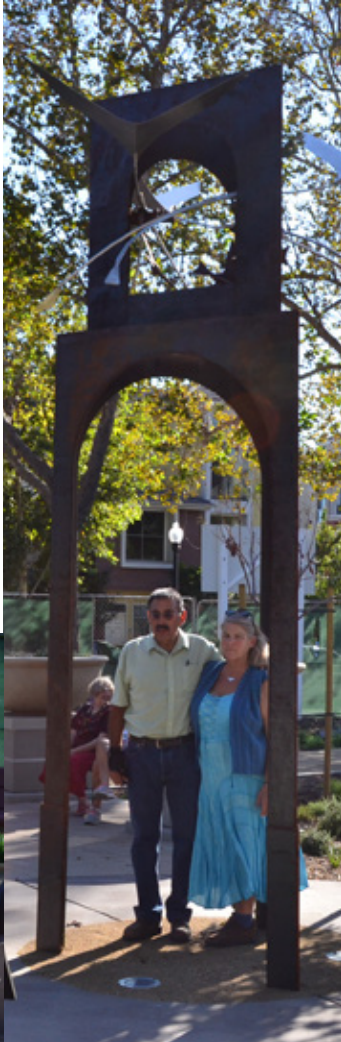
The Museum is renamed the Ontario Museum of History & Art. To coincide with the new name, local artist Rick Caughman redesigns the Museum logo in 2015. Caughman incorporates the historic Frankish Fountain as the main design element.

IN 2016

The Ontario Museum of History & Art, Associates expands the museum store inventory to include more exhibit-themed interpretative materials and handcrafted items by artists.

DECEMBER 6, 2016

The City of Ontario Council approves a new public art ordinance. The Museum assists in recruiting artists for public art in Ontario Town Square and the Civic Center Community Conservation Park. Andrea Benitez' *Moon Benches* and Dan Romero's *The Moment* are two of the featured artworks in the Civic Center Community Conservation Park.



2010s *continued*



IN 2017

The Museum launches the Great Summer Adventure Arts Enrichment Program for children ages 8 to 12. Participants explore local history and art through gallery tours, garden explorations, dance, and individual and collaborative art projects.

The Ontario Museum of History & Art and the Chaffey Community Museum of Art jointly present a major exhibition collaboration – *Art for Living and Living for Art* – that explores the art-making process of three artists: Millard Sheets, Tony Sheets and Luis “Rick” Caughman. The three artists each created art for commercial and public art applications, and each produced a significant body of artwork.





Local Artist Jerry Weems guest curates *Diversity and Inclusion: The Influence of African-American Art in Southern California*. The exhibit reception is attended by over 300 Museum goers.

IN 2018

The City of Ontario creates a new agency named Community Life & Culture. Under the new agency, the Museum, Library, and Recreation Departments provide workshops, concerts, recreational activities, and exhibits for residents.

The Ontario Museum of History & Art and the Chaffey Community Museum of Art select artist Sam Maloof for the next collaborative exhibit, scheduled to open in early 2020. The Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts is partnering with the two museums to showcase the legacy of Sam Maloof, his home, and the local artists he influenced.



2010s *continued*

IN 2018

The Museum receives a \$183,278 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for a new exhibit, *Built on Water: Ontario and Inland Southern California*. The exhibit will focus on the history and future of water in the Ontario region.

The Arts & Culture Committee and the City of Ontario work together to host the first Ontario Festival of the Arts in surrounding the campuses of the Ontario Museum of History & Art and Chaffey Community Museum of Art. Over 3,000 people attend the festival which features music, dance, art and history.

APRIL 2019

The Museum nonprofit support group, the Museum Associates, develops a new fundraising event, the *Ontario Arts & Culture Awards: Celebrating Regional Impact*. The first honorees are artist Tony Sheets, cultural organization the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts, and regional patron of arts and culture Randall Lewis and the Lewis Family.



MAY 2019

After the endorsement of the Museum Board of Trustees and Planning/Historic Preservation Commission, the Museum's 20-year Facilities Master Plan is approved by City Council. The plan sets the foundation for building improvements and restorations for the historic building, meeting professional museum standards.

The Museum is awarded capital improvement funding to begin the first phases of the Museum Facilities Master Plan.

The Museum hires four new interns. The interns assist in collections processing, exhibition preparation and program planning. With the new members of the Museum team, the curatorial staff have a diverse support staff to assist in current and future projects.





225 S. Euclid Avenue, Ontario, CA 91762 • (909) 395-2510
GALLERY HOURS: Noon to 4 PM • Thursday - Sunday

Presented by the Ontario City Council.

The Ontario Museum of History & Art is a public-private museum operated by the City of Ontario with support from the non-profit Ontario Museum of History & Art, Associates.

www.OntarioCA.gov/Museum