

SCHIELE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY EXHIBIT AND PROGRAM POLICY

Mission Statement

The Schiele Museum of Natural History promotes awareness and appreciation for nature, and instills a sense of individual and social responsibility for the diversity of the natural world and the role of humanity in it. To do this, the Schiele Museum collects, studies, and preserves natural specimens and cultural artifacts, and uses educational programs, exhibits, and publications to communicate to all audiences, the variety of those objects, their environmental and social contexts, and the history of their connections.

Policy Goal

The goal of this Exhibit and Program Thematic Policy statement is to provide guidance for exhibit and program development that fulfills the Museum's Mission Statement and recognizes the role of local and regional public involvement, and the need to create and foster new audiences.

This policy provides thematic guidance for the following types of Museum educational activities.

- **Permanent exhibits** rely largely upon existing Museum collections and staff expertise and consistently refocus visitors' on the museum's mission.
- **Temporary exhibits** produced in-house, can expand on this core and amplify the relevance of museum research and collections by placing these in broader contexts of local relevance.
- **Loan or rental exhibits** provide the opportunity to increase the diversity and variety in exhibit and program themes and concepts, allowing the Museum to attract new audiences and present variety to current audiences.
- **School Educational programs** offered by the Museum should reflect the themes and topics of exhibits while those for school children should also relate directly to current sections of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Standard course of Study.
- **Public Education programs** should reflect the themes of the Museum's exhibits and collections. Public programs should offer the Museum's audiences many different types of program format, such as tours, lectures, field trips, and workshops.

Policy Objectives

To address those goals in the overall development of thematic content, the Museum's exhibits and programs will:

- Address relevant environmental, social, and economic issues
- Correlate school programs with North Carolina Standard Course of Study
- Integrate inquiry-based, hands-on learning into student programs and workshops
- Provide diverse educational topics and experiences for adult audiences
- Generate self-sustaining revenue
- Maintain high quality program and exhibit content and presentation
- Demonstration of learning and increased comprehension as a result of the exhibit or program experience
- Monitor and document visitor satisfaction

- Implement schedules providing overall exhibit and program balance and diversity in content and presentation
- Meet AAM Standards of Excellence for exhibits and programs
- Develop and enhance participation of current and new audiences

Thematic Guidelines for Programs and Exhibits

Permanent Exhibits

- **Ecological and biological exhibits** will focus on the natural history of North America with emphases on the Southeast and North Carolina.
- **Paleontological exhibits** will focus on the full range of processes by which fossils are created, and distributed worldwide, incorporating fossils from the Southeast and North Carolina wherever possible.
- **Geology exhibits** will illustrate North Carolina geological history and processes using rocks and minerals from North Carolina and presenting global variations in gems and minerals
- **North American Indian cultures** will be presented in continental scope with more detailed emphases on the culture and ecology of southeastern groups and on the ethnography and history of local Carolina peoples.
- **Environmental education** and stewardship as it relates to specific local or regional issues and contexts.

Short term exhibits

- Natural history and/or science and/or anthropology of North America, the Southeast, and North Carolina with materials from other areas as needed for comparison
- Natural history or animal art
- Regional or local Environmental issues, cultural or social phenomena or processes related to or relevant to regional concerns

Loan/Rental Exhibits

The short term nature of loan or rental exhibits provides the Museum the opportunity to increase the diversity and variety in exhibit and program themes and concepts. This approach allows the Museum to attract new audiences and present variety to current audiences.

- Explanations and demonstrations of the principles, process, discoveries and/or the history of the sciences and arts represented by museum collection
- Astronomy and/or any specific issues, topics or areas of natural history and/or sciences and arts represented by museum collections
- Natural History/animal Art
- Global or national comparative cultural topics relevant to local and/or regional concerns with the natural world
- Global or national Environmental issues relevant to local and/or regional concerns or issues

School programs

- School programs are related directly to the NC standard course of study

Public programs

- Reflect and/or relate to themes and/or topics of permanent exhibits and collections or directly related to themes and/or topics of a current temporary exhibit