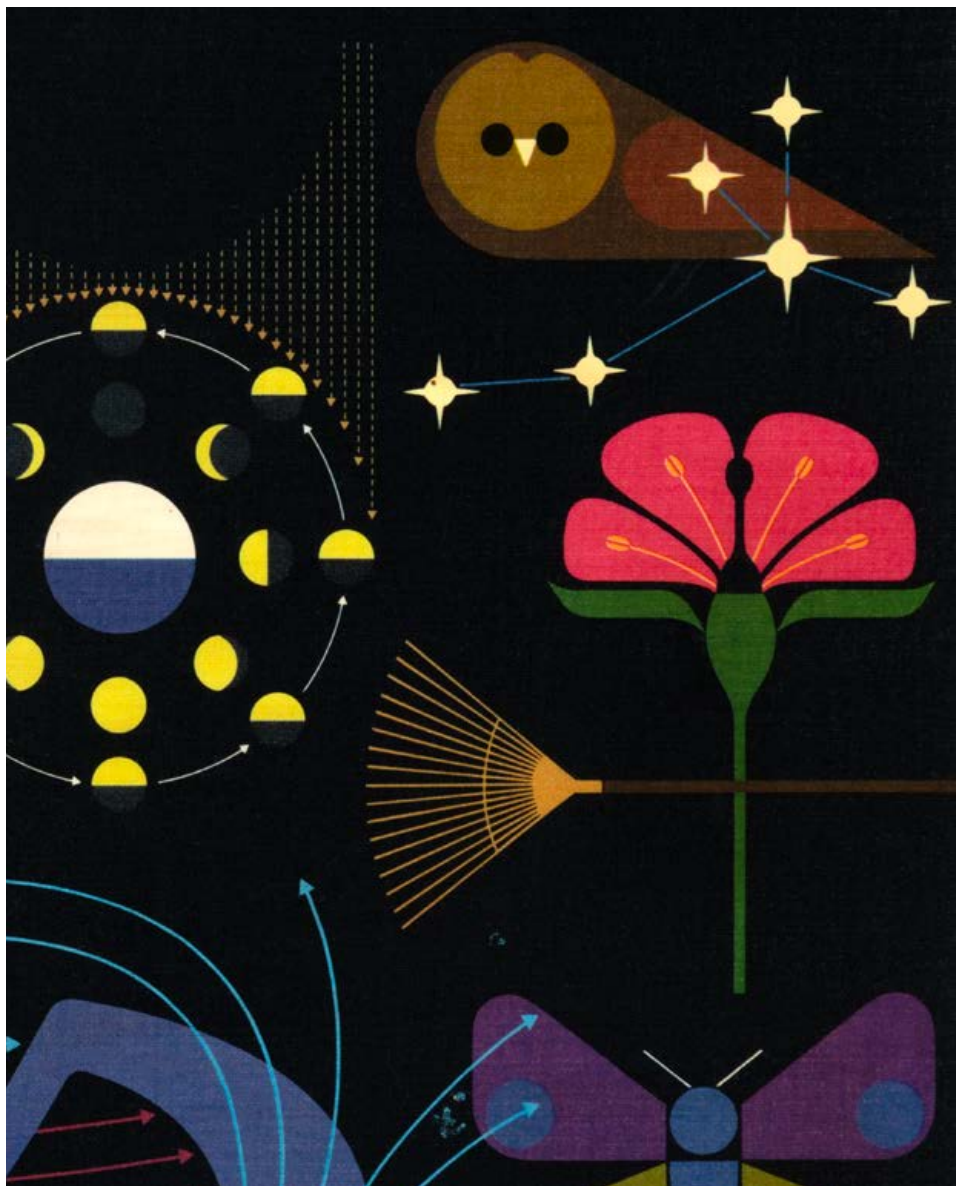


Telling Stories
Bearing Witness
Stimulating
Engaging
Living
the Museum

McCord
Stewart
Museum
Montréal

Annual Report
2023–2024

Sustainability



Cover for the textbook *The Methods of Science, vol. 2*, designed by Rolf Harder for Clarke, Irwin & Company Limited, 1965. Gift of Vivian Harder and Carina Marinelli, Rolf Harder Fonds P810, M2017.13.1.19, McCord Stewart Museum

The United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a call to action to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. The McCord Stewart Museum supports these goals through actions designed to foster a greater commitment to social justice and environmental protection.

Sharing expertise: A key to collaboration (SDG 17)

The year 2023–2024 was marked by the sharing of knowledge, with six public presentations, two blog articles and four staff training sessions, not to mention external representations and individual consultations with peers. These exchanges, which inspired and provided new tools for the museum community's agents of change, also included mentoring for emerging professionals. Two examples: the Museum welcomed intern Ikram-Malek Ghilaci from the UQAM Master's program in Environmental Sciences, and it participated in two student projects as part of the Circular Economy seminar, with the collaboration of Emmanuel B. Raufflet and Anaïs Del Bono at HEC Montréal. They have our thanks.

Public presentations

Martine Couillard, Head, Government and Institutional Relations, delivered a presentation titled "Governance, institutional policies, and action plans" during the seminar "Museum ecologies: museums and professional practices in the era of socio-ecological transition," part of the M.A. in Museology program at UQAM, on February 6, 2024.

Caroline Truchon, Project Manager, Exhibitions, took part in the round table discussion "From carbon offsetting to eco-design: different possible strategies" as part of the "Série qui outille" (a seminar organized by Culture Montréal and HEC Montréal's Chair in Arts Management) on November 24, 2023.

Couillard and Truchon presented a talk titled "Concerted transition to responsible sourcing" at the Acfas conference, which focused on the theme "Museums in transition: building expertise in sustainable development" in Montreal on May 10, 2023. Additionally, they conducted a virtual presentation "Eco-design and waste management of exhibitions" at the McCord Stewart Museum as part of the intermuseum sustainable development training course, "Reducing the ecological footprint of museums: projects, best practice and tools," on September 15, 2023.

Pascale Grignon, Senior Director, Marketing, Culture and Inclusion, gave a virtual presentation on "Becoming an agent of change for social justice" at The Inclusive Museum international conference in Vancouver, from September 18 to 20, 2023.

Data collection: An essential component of the process (SDGs 12 and 13)

Regular data collection, including weighing waste materials, tracking staff and visitor travel and analyzing building energy consumption, continues with a view to providing a more accurate picture of the Museum's overall carbon footprint.

Responsible sourcing in action (SDG 12)

Teams have started using the tools developed as part of the responsible procurement approach implemented last year. Each of the Museum's departments was invited to contact its suppliers and start a conversation about their environmental vision and practices, as well as the sustainability of the products used. A total of 27 supplier sheets and 4 product sheets were created and analyzed by the Sustainable Development Committee. Following this review, certain adjustments will be made to make the tools more effective. In the year ahead, creating product sheets will receive special attention.

Innovation: At the heart of eco-design (SDG 12)

New initiatives supporting and formalizing the eco-design approach to exhibitions were rolled out, in addition to documentation of the processes involved. Research into printed matter to identify new materials was undertaken within the team, as well as through calls for public participation and student projects. Further details on the Museum's eco-design approach and guidelines were incorporated into agreements with scenographers. The scenography for *Norman Parkinson: Always in Style* preserved almost the entire layout of the previous exhibition, *Wampum: Beads of Diplomacy*. This avoided the need to move furnishings and optimized the reuse of existing walls. An initial eco-design assessment was added at the end of the exhibition, and data on this initiative will be evaluated in the coming months. Finally, Caroline Truchon, Project Manager, Exhibitions, and Co-Manager, Sustainable Development, joined MUSÉCO, a new eco-design community of practice for Quebec museums.

Auditing plastics: The first museum in Quebec (SDG 12 and 14)

The McCord Stewart Museum is pleased to be part of the plastic reduction program run by Ocean Wise, at the invitation of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) Canada. In recent months, the team has documented the Museum's plastic footprint through an audit that includes a characterization of waste materials, and has performed an inventory and analysis of its departments' procurement practices. A report and accompanying action plan will guide efforts to raise awareness and improve plastic consumption habits at the Museum.



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