

The Royal BC Museum
BEHIND THE SCENES

Behind the Scenes invites visitors to experience the world of the Royal BC Museum *behind the scenes!*

It's an experience for all ages.

This is a project in two phases. To mark the *International Year of Biodiversity*, the first phase [from June 2010 to October 2011] our focus will be on the research and collections work of our Natural History staff. In 2012 we'll turn our attention to the work we do in Human History.

Why is the Royal BC Museum focusing on biodiversity?

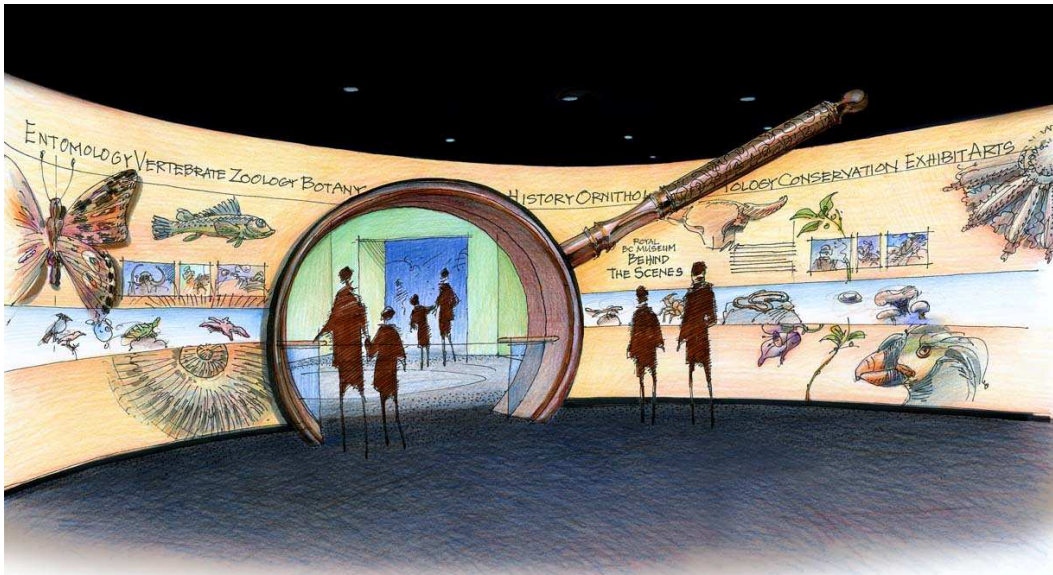
Simply put, biodiversity means the variety of living things - from bacteria to whales. If the Earth's ecosystems are to remain healthy, they require many different kinds of plants and animals. Every living organism has a role to play in our environment. Every one of us relies on a huge variety of living things for our food, shelter, medicines and many everyday products.

The world's biodiversity is under threat and humans [along with all other species] are affected negatively as biodiversity decreases. Measuring biodiversity is difficult, though museums around the world find themselves with a unique opportunity to contribute to understanding and helping to conserve the planet's biodiversity.

The United Nations declared 2010 the *International Year of Biodiversity* global initiative, with the following aims:

- to increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity for our well being
- to halt the loss of biodiversity, which is currently up to 100 times greater than the natural rate of extinction
- to celebrate the success stories

What does *Behind the Scenes* look like?



Imagine passing through a portal and entering another world. Images of specimens and objects are illuminated from floor to ceiling. Bold graphics proclaim statistics beyond imagining... millions of specimens, exotic objects, cutting edge research.

We emerge into the hub of a bright and colourful space. A central avenue is flanked by 'mini-portals' each leading to a different curatorial zone. Each zone is surrounded by collections of objects and specimens on shelves and cabinets. We're introduced to the museum staff and their fascinating work preserving and researching the natural history and history of British Columbia.



The presentation is highly interactive with microscopes and lots of chances to explore and handle the collections – 'to stand in the shoes' of the museum staff.



The Amuseum

For the first time, the Royal BC Museum is going to create a mini-museum for very young children. Activities include a Dino-Niche, Be-a-Barnacle, Explorer and Archaeologist Kits, Historical Costumes

The Discovery Lounge

We are at 'programming central' – a unique environment that invites you to rest, explore and be entertained all at the same time. Inspired by the Attenborough Studio at the Natural History Museum in London, this will be a learning environment with a twist. Here visitors can rest, browse the museum's work on line and enjoy daily presentations by experts and special performances.

Feature presentation - in Victoria and on the road

The Museum is creating a special focus exhibition that explores a particular area of research. This special show will premiere as part of *Behind the Scenes* and then go 'on the road' - touring communities across BC. Eventually our hope is to install it as a component of our permanent galleries.

In 2010, the focus is *Aliens Among Us*. It's about invasive species in BC. This very topical presentation will explore the plants, birds, fish, mammals and insects that are not native to our province – that have 'hitched a ride' here or been introduced and have taken hold. We'll help visitors identify which species are invasive, what their impact is... and how we can each help to protect natural diversity.

Object of the Month

When you hear that only 5% of the RBCM collections are on display, you know there are all kinds of treasures that never see the light of day. Not now. The RBCM is making a special effort to throw the spotlight onto one special object or specimen from our collection each month,

What Brings It to Life? *Behind the Scenes* will 'hum' with activity:

Discover Program

On weekends, holidays and during the summer season, RBCM experts will present their work live and in person. When experts are not there, you can meet them on video.

Live in the Field

In the summer, our curators and scientists will beam video reports live from the field. If you miss it, you can catch the report on our special web site.

Museum Camps

Young collectors, historians and scientists have a chance to visit our collections and labs and develop their own research expertise in an immersive week long camp.

Family Workshops

A series of special 3 hour workshops are offered by RBCM curators and visiting experts.

Adult Workshops

In the fall, we focus on special topics for adults (each session has a “behind the scenes” component and/or community experts):

Behind-the-Scenes Special Tours

We’re opening up the doors to our collections and science labs. Mini tours will leave daily to the basement and the Wet Collection! We’ll also be offering exclusive tours for members to special parts of our collections, research projects in action and exhibitions under development.

*** Dates for all special event to be announced in spring 2010**