Museums

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art

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The Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (JSMA) is a visual arts resource for students, faculty members, and visitors. The museum collects, preserves, studies, exhibits, and interprets works of art for the benefit of the UO curriculum and for the enrichment of the general public. The museum's 14,000 piece collection has strengths in Asian, Pacific Northwest, and American art and has recently expanded collecting into the areas of European and Latin American art. More than half of the museum's collection is searchable online, thanks to grants from the Oregon Cultural Trust.

The JSMA presents exhibitions and programs that emphasize cross-cultural understanding, provide broad education experiences, and support collaborative and interdisciplinary opportunities on and off campus. The collection galleries feature art from the Americas, Europe, China, Japan, and Korea, enhanced with a provocative series of special exhibitions and a full complement of programs designed to keep visitors engaged. A multicultural destination, the museum offers Spanish language materials throughout the galleries.

As a nationally accredited university museum, the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art is an important teaching resource. Its exhibitions and programs are based on the multidisciplinary curricular and extracurricular interests of university and community audiences. Museum staff and faculty members lecture, teach, and lead museum tours for UO students and others in the community. Student involvement is encouraged at several levels, beginning with a free student membership program and ranging from internships, practicums, and paid and volunteer opportunities to service on advisory committees.

Opened in 1933 and designed by architect and former dean of the architecture school Ellis Lawrence, the museum, including its Prince Lucien Campbell Memorial Courtyard, is on the National Registry of Historic Places. In 2005, the museum reopened after a few years of renovation, doubling its original size. Today, in addition to its galleries, the museum houses an art-making studio, lecture and reception halls, a museum café, and two exterior courtyards.

Admission is free for museum members, children under eighteen, UO and other college students, and UO faculty and staff members. University identification is required. The museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with extended evening hours every Wednesday until 8:00 p.m.

Museum of Natural and Cultural History

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The Museum of Natural and Cultural History is a place for making connections—to each other, to our past, and to our future. It's a place for digging into science, celebrating culture, and joining together to create a just and sustainable world.

A center of interdisciplinary research and education, the museum is a resource for teaching, learning, and connecting at the University of Oregon, offering research opportunities, collections tours, internships, and participatory learning experiences. The museum is also home to a vibrant student club that enhances student life through a variety of events and social gatherings throughout the year. Each year, courses in anthropology, biology, geology, architecture, design, and other departments and schools use the museum. Faculty and staff members lecture, teach, and lead museum and field tours for UO students and the broader community. Graduate students and visiting scholars use the collections for research leading to theses, dissertations, and other publications or reports.

As the state's official repository for publicly owned anthropological and paleontological collections, the museum works closely with Oregon tribes and safeguards hundreds of thousands of significant artifacts —including 10,000-year-old sagebrush bark sandals from Fort Rock Cave. The museum is also home to the Condon Collection of Fossils, Oregon's premier paleontological research collection. Museum exhibits focus on Pacific Northwest geology, archaeology, Native American cultures, traditional cultures worldwide, and social and environmental justice. Offering tours and educational activities for children, families, and community groups, the museum serves school districts and a wide variety of community groups across the state.

Admission is free for UO students, faculty, staff, and museum members, $6 for adults, $4 for seniors and youth, and $12 for families; visitors presenting electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards are admitted at a reduced rate. Admission is free for all on the first Friday of every month. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and open late on Thursdays until 8:00 p.m.

Condon Collection of Fossils

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The Condon Collection, part of the Museum of Natural and Cultural History, is the State of Oregon's official repository for paleontological materials. It includes geological specimens collected by Thomas Condon, pioneer geologist and science professor at the University of Oregon. Condon was one of the first professors to join the UO faculty when it was established in 1876. When he died in 1907, his extensive teaching collection of fossils and rocks became the permanent possession of the university. Since 1907 the collection has grown to include more than 65,000 catalogued specimens—including the type specimen of Oregon's famous giant spike-toothed salmon. While vertebrate fossils make up the bulk of the collection, it also includes some invertebrate fossils, large holdings of fossil plants (largely leaf impressions), and several thousand skulls and skeletons of recent mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.