

# Pickering Museum Village



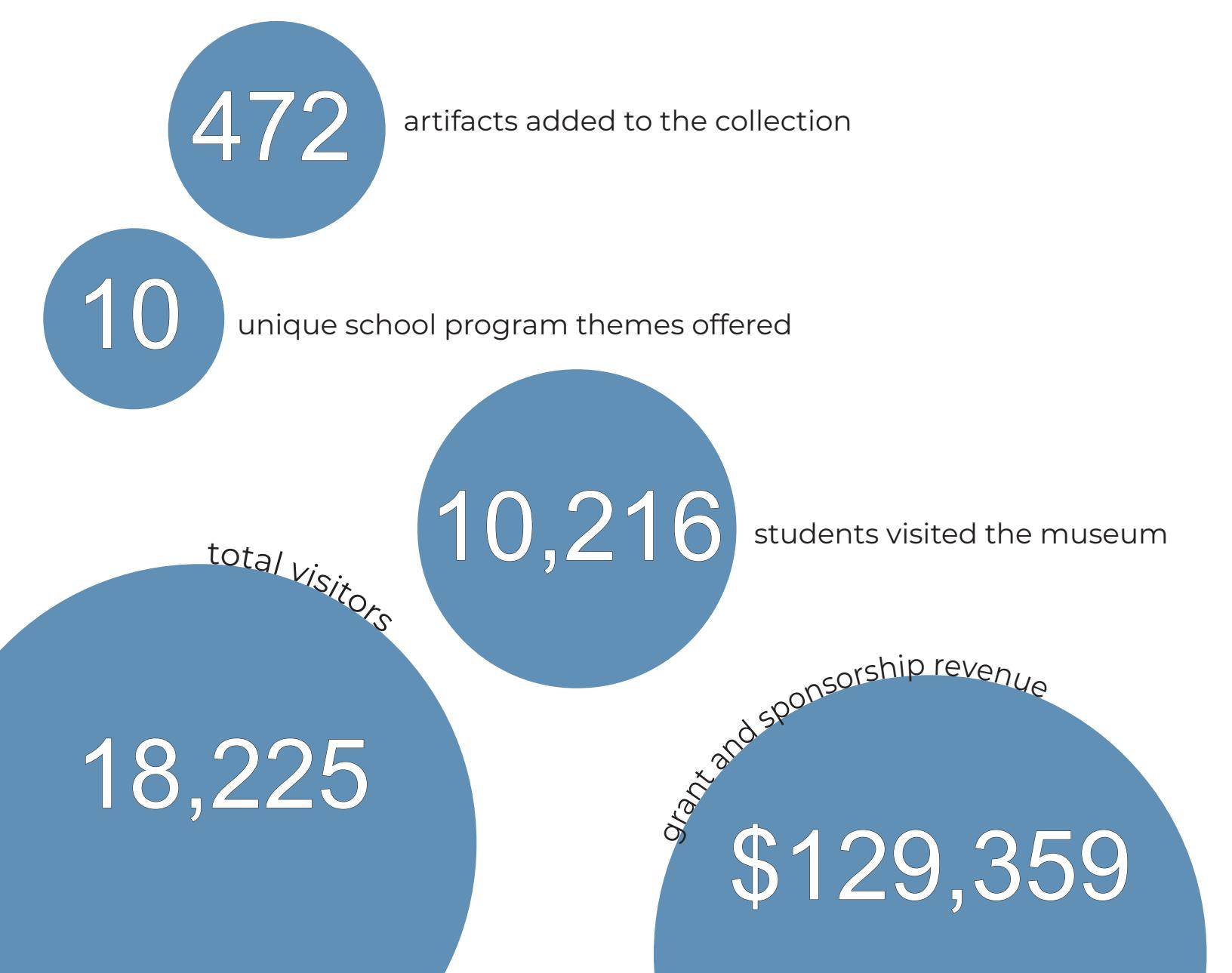
Blacksmith Shop, Pickering Museum Village

# Pickering Museum Village

Pickering Museum Village is a community hub where people come together to learn, share stories, and build relationships through progressive, fun, and vibrant experiences.

Through exhibitions, public programming, and school programming, now in both French and English, the museum ignites imaginations and fosters a connection between our residents and our history.

The museum is the safeguard for historical material and visual culture of our area. By collecting, preserving, and contextualizing important artifacts, we enable our residents to engage with and interpret artifacts and social culture.



472

artifacts added to the collection

10

unique school program themes offered

10,216

students visited the museum

*total visitors*

18,225

*grant and sponsorship revenue*

\$129,359

# Collections

In 2024, a plan to reorganize the museum's off-site storage - Green River, began. The objects here were once kept in a rented trailer and moved.

From March to December a total of 133 artifacts were catalogued.

**399** Artifacts moved

**855** New Object Records

## Conservation

A total of 12 objects were treated this year for mold remediation. Nine of which are chairs with fabric. After being cleaned these items were wrapped in a clear plastic to be sure all mold was removed. If mold continued to grow, the plastic would allow staff to monitor but keep the mold contained. All potential mold objects were then placed together away from the rest of the collection.

## Artifact Donations

**472** Artifacts Acquired

**20** Accessions

855 artifacts were entered into the Past Perfect 5 database. To date there are 9399 artifacts, 594 photographs, and 1668 archival records entered in the database.



Some artifacts of note that were acquired this year:

### Green family of Greenwood Fond

Including photographs, documents, and artifacts.  
This family is the namesake of Greenwood.

### Artifacts from the Altona China Hall

In 1865, Thomas and Joseph Monkhouse built a three-story store in Altona. The main floor was typical general store merchandise. The China Hall, on the second floor was the main attraction. It carried a large inventory of dry goods and delftware.



# Education Programs

A highly skilled team of 15 Museum Interpreters delivered the following exploratory and interactive education program, available in both English and French. These new education programs are based on the new Roots to Rebellion exhibits and Black History content,

**10,216** Field Trip Participants

## Millie's Day

Step back in time and experience the life of early settlers through the eyes of young Millie. This immersive education program takes students on a journey to understand the challenges and daily activities Pickering's early Black settlers. Through hands-on activities and interactive storytelling, students will explore the forest, participate in traditional chores, and learn about life in a log cabin.



## Follow the Drinking Gourd

Step back in time and embark on an interactive journey to freedom in this education program. Students explored the inspiring story of George Chapman, an early Black settler who escaped enslavement in Virginia and found freedom in Canada. Through primary source exploration and hands-on activities, students learned about George, the Underground Railroad, the significance of quilt codes, and the challenges faced by freedom seekers.

## Mapping Freedom: The Journey Continues

Students continued the UGRR learning adventure with an immersive add-on program that delved into the experiences of freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad. Students engaged in orienteering activities, mapped out escape routes using quilt codes, and responded to the powerful installation "The Way Gone Made Clear" by Georgia Fullerton.



## Events & Birthdays

### Woodworker's Apprentice Workshops

Year-round 2024

This high demand, hands-on workshop taught guests woodworking skills to complete a porch sign or charcuterie board. This public program that attracted crafters and social media influencers alike will be returning in 2025 by popular demand with a third crafting option.

### Trick-or-Treat at the Museum

Children, families, and the public were invited to explore the spook-tacular exhibits at Pickering Museum Village and the heritage traditions behind this holiday. Guests participated in games, crafts, and a haunted house while trick-or-treating around the Village.

**3968** Public program guests

**3000** Birthday party guests

# New Permanent Exhibit

In 2024, the PMV completed rehabilitation work on two historic buildings: the log house (c. 1830) and the log barn (c. 1830). The rehabilitation work included conservation of the masonry using heritage mortars, repairs of existing woodwork and wooden windows, replacement of cedar shake roofing, as well as new flooring, modern glass doors, and an upgrade to electrical and data cables within the space.

## Roots to Rebellion

This engaging and hands-on exhibit brings to life Pickering in the 1830s. Visitors can explore two historic buildings—the Log House and the Log Barn—where they can immerse themselves in early settlement activities and discover the rich Black history of Upper Canada. Audiences will be guided through the exhibit by Millie, a fictional 12-year-old girl whose family came to Canada on the Underground Railroad. These stories and activities will illuminate the injustices faced by early White and Black settlers, and the issues that led up to the Rebellion of 1837. Highlights include interactive elements like augmented reality and digital storytelling provided by Oddside Arts.

Through augmented reality, text panels, and activities, visitors will understand the causes of the rebellion, the major players, Pickering's role, and the aftermath, as explained by Millie. While learning, visitors can try their hand at various household chores, experiencing life in an 1830s household.

The exhibits are accompanied by a new educational website. Available in both English and French, visitors explore the artifact and audio gallery, play some games and learn what it took to live in the 1830s. <https://www.rootstorebellion.com/>. From August to December 2024, the Roots to Rebellion website has received 7,915 visits.

Developed in partnership with Sharon Temple National Historic Site and Museum, Mackenzie House (Toronto History Museums), Fort York National Historic Site (Toronto History Museums) Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society (Black Mecca Museum), Archives of Ontario, Canadian Race Relations and the Government of Ontario.

The exhibits were created by staff, with contracted specialist museum technician positions funded by Young Canada Works at Building Careers in Heritage. Volunteers participated in the development of the exhibit, in consultation with the Cultural Advisory Committee and the Anti-Black Racism Taskforce.

Funding provided by the Government of Canada Museum Assistance Program Digital Access to Heritage, Canadian Race Relations Foundation, and Government of Canada Young Canada Works Program.



Roots to Rebellion Exhibit Opening.  
From the left: Stoyan Barakov,  
Niko Taylor, Georgia Fullerton,  
Queen Kukoyi, Ellen Tayles,  
Marisa Carpino.

# Other Exhibits

The Museum offers a range of dynamic and educational public programs that encourage learning, foster connection, and spark imagination. By bringing the past to the present in interesting ways, the museum instills a sense of municipal pride and imparts cross-cultural knowledge amongst residents and visitors.

## Gather & Grow Mini Exhibit

**Fridays in July & August, 2024**

In 2024, staff created a travelling exhibit, Gather & Grow, featuring topics such as recipe sharing, sharing seeds, and coming together. This exhibit featured child friendly content such as a scavenger hunt and coloring pages as well as a near field communication (NFC) tag to take participants to the Gather & Grow webpage where they can share their own stories and recipes. Exhibits were installed in the Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex, Pickering Public Library, and George Ashe Library & Community Centre.

## Blacksmithing in Ontario Website - Forging ON

In 2024, the team completed the final stages of the Blacksmithing in Ontario website, funded through the Digital Museums Canada program. The website is available in both French and English and is a learning resource for students in high school. Developed in conjunction with five museum partners, the website takes the visitor through the history of blacksmithing from 1850-today through a series of videos, photographs, and teaching resources.

This project was funded through the Digital Museums Canada program.

## Museum Village Digital Interpretation

The Museum also introduced a NFC self-guided tour for the museum's buildings. Visitors can tap their mobile devices on the NFC tags located on signs around the village to explore additional information about the buildings on site. This work involved creating a website, designing and installing text panels, sourcing archival images, and curating information about each building.

