

For every shoe there
story: about the BSM



Why Shoes?

Although feet are the same around the world, what people choose to wear on their feet is incredibly diverse. It is in this diversity that some of the most interesting aspects of culture are revealed. The Bata Shoe Museum strives to share these compelling cultural stories by using footwear as the point of entry into the cultures of the world. Particular strengths of the Museum's collection include important holdings in Circumpolar, 18th century European, Indigenous North American, and Asian footwear.

History

When Founding Chairman Sonja Bata first began collecting footwear in the 1940s, she never expected that her unending quest for exceptional artifacts would result in an unparalleled collection and an internationally acclaimed Museum. In 1979, the Bata Shoe Museum Foundation was created to professionally manage the ever-increasing collection and to sponsor and publish research on the role footwear has played in human history. In 1995, the Bata Shoe Museum opened its doors to the public in its own award-winning building. Today, the Museum boasts a world-class collection of more than 13,000 artifacts spanning 4,500 years of history and actively pursues its mandate to research, exhibit, and publish information about the cultural, historical and sociological value of footwear.

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Architecture

When acclaimed Canadian architect Raymond Moriyama was commissioned to create a “gem of a museum”, his response was to design one of Toronto’s most unique and innovative structures. Inspired by the idea of a shoebox, Moriyama created a five-story structure that combines state-of-the-art artifact storage and exhibit space with dynamic and inviting plays of light and texture. Particularly impressive is the “floating” staircase, which is the architectural centerpiece of the museum, and a dramatic wall of prismatic glass that ensures that the Museum’s architecture is as unforgettable as the collection it houses.

On Display Now

All About Shoes: Footwear Through the Ages – Semi-Permanent

Footprints on the World Stage – The Shoes of Notable People – Semi-Permanent

Art & Innovation: Traditional Arctic Footwear from the Bata Shoe Museum Collection – Semi-Permanent

Fashion Victims: The Pleasures and Perils of Dress in the 19th Century – Open until June 2016

Standing Tall: The Curious History of Men in Heels – Open until June 2016

Visiting

In addition to our popular semi-permanent exhibition, *All About Shoes*, the Museum has three galleries for changing exhibitions, ensuring that each visit to the museum offers a new experience. Through the creation of its innovative exhibitions, adult and children’s programming and activities, and a unique gift shop, the Museum strives to enlighten and entertain visitors of all ages.

Location

327 Bloor Street West, Toronto (at the southwest corner of Bloor and St. George Streets)
Steps from St. George subway station (exit onto St. George Street; walk south to Bloor Street)

Hours

Monday to Saturday: 10 am–5 pm; Thursday: 10 am–8 pm; Sunday: 12 noon–5 pm

The Museum is closed on December 25 and Good Friday

Allow approximately 1.5 hours to visit

Admission

Adults \$ 14

Seniors \$ 12

Students (with ID) \$ 8

Children 5 – 17 years inclusive (Children under 5 years of age are free) \$ 5

Family Pass 1 (1 adult and up to 4 children under 18) \$ 24

Family Pass 2 (2 adults and up to 4 children under 18) \$ 35