



Exhibits that Endure the Test of Time

Considering Longevity from Concept Through Close-Out

Start with a concept that will last!

- Consider concepts and topics that remain interesting and engaging over many years despite changes in culture, trends, hardware, etc.
 - Immersive environments draw you to interact
 - Spaces that energize and connect to the story / big idea
 - Moving towards experiential / edu-tainment
- Know who you are you talking to!
- Consider content that can be updated, added to, and built upon to grow into the future

Consider the lifespan of gallery as a whole vs. individual experiences

- Balance different types of experiences - things that don't break down vs. those that do
- Blend mechanical interactives, digital, and interpretive exhibits for a dynamic experience
- Consider off-the-shelf vs. custom options --> off-the-shelf is cheaper, but may be discontinued or become obsolete...custom is more expensive, but it can always be procured
- Focus on flexibility - consider modular and/or changeable cabinetry can accommodate changes in hardware that will be replaced over time

Consider the questions you need to ask yourself as you develop an exhibit

- Consider a formal evaluation. Is your exhibit meeting requirements?
 - Test in several years to ensure that it's still meeting goals.
 - How often to evaluate?
- Do you have the staff necessary to maintain the exhibits?
- Have to set aside a budget for ongoing maintenance?
- What kind of use and abuse scenarios should we expect?

Plan for maintenance

- Consider replacement parts, costs associated with maintenance, and staffing required to maintain
- Never forget...maintaining exhibits is less expensive than buying new exhibits!
- Consider the tools the museum shop should have on hand for maintenance and repairs
- Consider the skills your team should have to ensure that exhibits are properly maintained

Know when to ask for help...

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