

Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre – Interpretive & Exhibition Plan Request for Proposal

Project Number: 2020-02-01

Project Overview

The Rossland Historical Museum & Archives Association, located in Rossland, BC, Canada, is requesting proposals from cultural and museum exhibition design companies for the development of a conceptual Interpretive and Exhibition Plan for *Phase II: The Mine Experience* of the Rossland Museum Renewal Project.

Proposals should be received by April 10th, 2020 by 4pm PST.

Project Background

The Rossland Historical Museum & Archives Association is a registered charity and BC society that operates the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre (RMDC) on the “Mining in the Kootenays” Historic Site of Canada that encompasses the historic entrance to the Black Bear Mine, a number of large industrial mining artifacts and related outbuildings, and an outdoor community event/programming space. The community of Rossland came together in 1967 to plan and fundraise for the initial exhibition building for the Rossland Historical Museum on crown land given over to the City of Rossland for the purposes of a museum.

Since 1967, the main facility has been added onto in order to incorporate exhibition space that explores themes of local skiing history, hydroelectric power generation, mining and smelting, and the social and cultural history of Rossland and area. From 1967 to 2009, there was a very informative, experiential, and successful underground tour of the Black Bear Mine on the neighbouring property leased from Teck Metals Ltd. After a detailed safety review following the 2009 season and set of requirements to allow continued public access to the mine tunnel, it was concluded that the City of Rossland could not dedicate the funds to complete the necessary safety upgrades. Access to the mine was officially closed in 2012 by the property owners, and since then the museum association has endeavored to make up for this lost experiential opportunity through new interpretive displays, walking tours, gold panning, and other special programming.

The closure and subsequent lost revenue necessitated an organizational review of the Rossland Historical Museum, and Donald Luxton and Associates Inc. was engaged to prepare a “[Plan for Renewal](#)” finalized at the end of 2013. The Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre Board of Trustees, working closely with [Teck Metals](#) and the [City of Rossland](#), has prepared a phased approach to this Renewal Project to strengthen the museum’s capacity to play a central role within the community and act as a gateway to the region.

The Renewal Project Vision

A Journey of Change...

- A refreshed and transformed Rossland Museum that will reinforce its position as one of the West Kootenay's leading museum and archives
- A landmark site to congregate, create, and strengthen links between diverse communities in the region
- A significant shift in public programming: new interactive exhibits, exciting visitor experiences, and innovative ideas
- An active presence in the community that supports local economy, spurs partnerships, and regenerates tourism

Phase 1 of the Renewal Project - Complete

Phase 1 was completed in 2017 and allowed for renovations to the Archives, administrative areas, washrooms, and the entryway to create a new Entrance Gallery - all within the existing building envelope.

Phase 2 of the Renewal Project

Thanks to generous donations from local industries, businesses, and organizations, we are able to begin the planning of Phase II: The Mine Experience - a combination of the *Plan for Renewal's* Phases 2 & 3. The staff, consultants, and volunteers have conducted a number of open houses, strategic planning sessions, and community consultations since the beginning of the Renewal Project and have some key interpretive topics and permanent exhibitions to be covered in this interpretive & exhibition plan.

This combined phase includes three main zones:

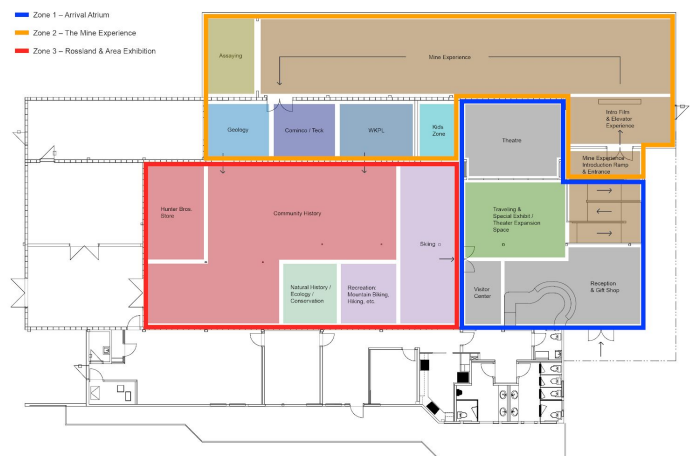
Zone 1 - The Arrival Atrium. This new architectural addition to the museum will house the reception area, gift shop, visitor information centre, a presentation/digital theatre with integrated displays, and a temporary exhibit and theatre-expansion flex space.

Zone 2 - The Mine Experience. This wholly new exhibit will largely be housed in a new addition to the museum, and will recreate an authentic mine tunnel environment and experience above ground, incorporating hands-on and interactive displays on a variety of mining and related industry topics.

Topics to be covered:

- Human History - Industry (Hard-Rock Mining, Cominco/Teck, Life of a Mine)
- Human History - Industry (Power Generation and West Kootenay Power & Light Co.)
- Natural History - Geology

Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre Renewal Project –
Phase 2 Preliminary Zone & Layout Plan



Zone 3 - The Rossland Social/Sport History Main Hall. Contained within the existing museum footprint, this will house a mix of existing, refurbished, and renovated exhibits on Rossland's history, culture, sports, and environment.

Topics to be covered:

- Natural History - Ecology
- Human History - Industry (Brewing)
- Human History - Community History (Pre-Settlement, Business and Commercial Activity, Unions, Domestic Life, Spiritual Life, Fraternal Societies & Community Groups, Social Life, Education, Health Care)
- Human History - Recreation/Sports (Skiing, Mountain Biking, Hockey)

The Interpretive and Exhibition Plan for these three zones will be developed together (as defined in this RFP).

Detailed design, specification, and implementation of these zones (not included in this RFP) will be executed in two steps: Step One - Zones 1 & 2, Step Two - Zone 3.

Project Scope

Deliverables

The Interpretive & Exhibition Plan for Phase II: The Mine Experience will include the following deliverables:

- A. A schematic Exhibition Plan of Phase II of the Renewal Project (must be to scale and clearly define each topic area, exhibit, and intended visitor flow).
- B. Schematic elevations and conceptual sketches of key exhibits and displays with preliminary objects and archival selections.
- C. A written treatment, keyed to the Exhibition Plan, describing the overall visitor experience, key exhibits, displays and elements, including interactive and multimedia components and informational and educational content.
 - a. Clear exploration of universal design and accessibility considerations
 - b. Clear exploration of environmental sustainability and educational considerations
- D. Defined fabrication and implementation cost estimates for each exhibit area (based on the overall cost per square foot allocations provided by the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre), including examples of existing exhibits or displays that illustrate the level and quality of build that will be achieved.

Intended Project Outcomes & Measures of Success

When it is completed, Phase II: The Mine Experience is expected to result in the following:

- Creation of an immersive exhibit experience that conveys the essence of Rossland's mining history, industries, culture, communities, and natural environment
- Elevation of the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre's exhibits to a new level of design and professionalism, resulting in greater engagement with our visitors, interest groups, stakeholders, and the community at large

- More responsiveness in the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre's exhibits to the needs and desires of our community through the employment of a "multiple intelligence" and universal design approach in exhibit design
- A stronger, active link between the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre, the Rossland community, and its surrounding region
- A level of flexibility and environmental consideration to easily, cost-effectively, and sustainably update and/or modify exhibits

The success of Phase II will be measured by the following:

- An increase in attendance to the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre by attracting and appealing to traditional and non-traditional museum audiences of all ages and interests
- Effectiveness in meeting the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre's learning and interpretive objectives
- Effectiveness in meeting the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre's environmental sustainability objectives
- Elevated support from stakeholders, donors, volunteers, and visitors
- Elevation of the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre to a regionally and nationally recognized destination

Implementation Budget

The following are budget estimations for the fabrication and installation of each Zone of Phase II of the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre's Renewal Project. Please note that these cost per square foot allocations do not include building architecture and MEP systems, or the construction of the faux stone mine tunnel walls, nor do they include design and specification fees.

Zone 1 - The Arrival Atrium

Total Area: 1,907 sq. ft.

Cost per square foot estimate range: \$50 - \$75

Zone 2 - The Mine Experience

Total Area: 3,411 sq. ft.

Cost per square foot estimate range: \$100 - \$175

Zone 3 - The Rossland Social/Sport History Main Hall

Total Area: 2,883 sq. ft.

Cost per square foot estimate range: \$75 - \$100

Project Budget

Consultant (fee is inclusive of travel expenses): \$25,000

Proposal Requirements & How to Submit

Proposals must include the following in this order and conform to the format detailed below:

- A. Summary of your firm's background, resources, and relevant experience. *Max 2 pages*
- B. Examples from past projects of a similar size and scope. If possible, these should include projects carried through to actual exhibit installation. Each project's square foot costs listing design fees separately and time to complete should be included. If projects of similar size and scope have not been completed by the Designer, then include examples that are felt to be the most relevant in demonstrating your firm's ability to complete this project. *Max 5 pages*
- C. Statement of firm's design philosophy and capabilities. How do you view the relationships between designers, architects, and clients? What arrangements have worked out best for you on past projects? Design firms without extensive experience in large, immersive history exhibits should be sure to specify in this section why they feel they can handle this project. *Max 3 pages*
- D. References from past clients of projects of a similar size and scope.
- E. Proposed schedule for completing the Exhibition and Interpretive Plan, including project stages, milestones, client review and sign-off points, and payments. *Max 2 pages*
- F. Proposed budget for completing the Exhibition and Interpretive Plan by major categories. *Max 2 pages*
- G. Names and resumes of key personnel that will be *directly involved* in the project. *Max 2 pages per person*
- H. Supporting materials of the firm's choosing (e.g., brochures, case studies, testimonies, etc.) may be included. *Max 5 pieces*

Proposal Format:

- 1. Proposals must be submitted in 8.5"x11" format, in English
- 2. If sent by mail, One (1) signed original and four (4) complete copies of the proposal must be delivered
 - a. The five (5) copies should be sealed in one package with the following clearly marked on the outside of the package: "Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre Exhibition and Interpretive Plan RFP Submission"
- 3. If sent electronically, One (1) signed digital copy attached

Evaluation Criteria

While cost will be a consideration, proposals will be judged primarily on the submitting company's past success in creating immersive, interactive history exhibits on time and within budget. However, consideration will also be given to firms that have a proven track record of outstanding history exhibit design even if they do not have extensive experience in immersive environments. In such cases these firms will need to demonstrate the expertise and resources they feel will allow them to successfully complete such projects. In all cases, preference will be given to the proposal that the Museum feels will best help it achieve the Project Outcomes and Measures of Success for the completed exhibit.

Expected Date of Award & Schedule of Deadlines

RFP Questions

Questions about the project, RFP, or proposal submission requirements must be emailed by **March 30th, 2020** to museumdirector@rosslandmuseum.ca

Formal responses to all bidder questions will be issued in writing via email to all bidders by **April 3rd, 2020**.

Proposal Deadline & Delivery

Proposals must be received by the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre by **4pm PST, on April 10th, 2020**.

Please deliver proposals to:

Joelle Hodgins

Museum Director

museumdirector@rosslandmuseum.ca

1100 BC-3B, PO Box 26

Rossland, BC Canada V0G 1Y0

(250) 362-7722

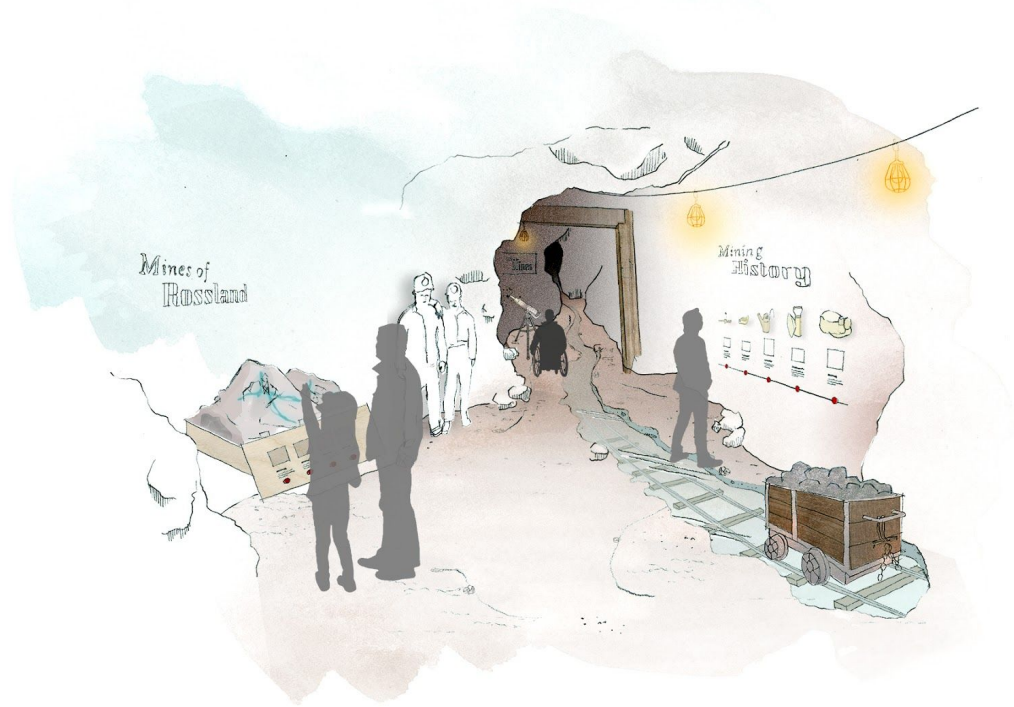
Project Award:

Award of the project is expected to take place on **April 20th, 2020**. All bidders will be informed of the results of their bid.

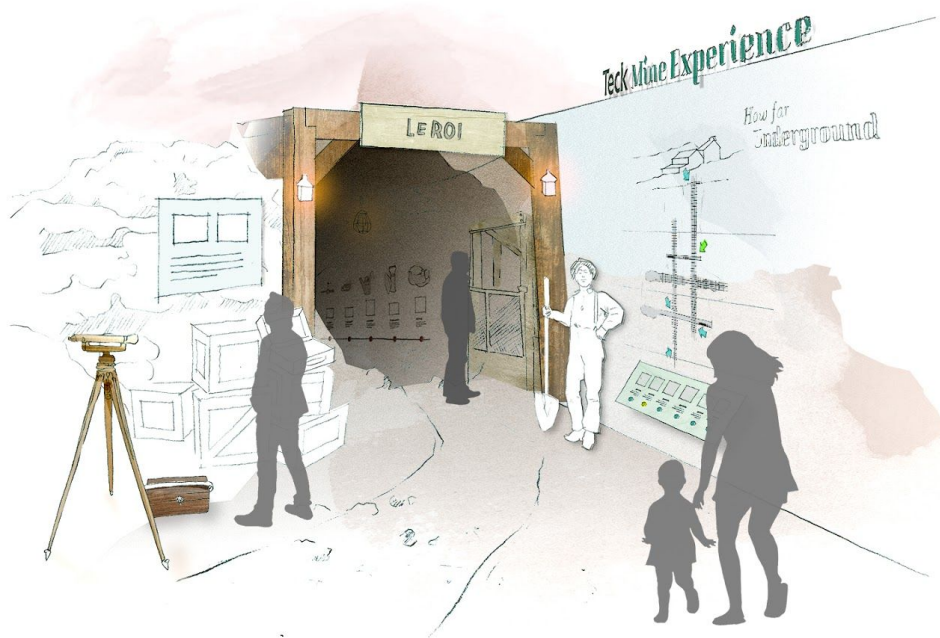
Preliminary Designs



Perspective 1: Interior of the Mine Experience (condensed view)



Perspective 2: Entrance to the Mine Experience



Perspective 3: Exterior of the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre

