



OMCA Fact Sheet

MISSION The mission of the Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) is to inspire all Californians to create a more vibrant future for themselves and their communities.

HISTORY The Oakland Museum of California was created by the City of Oakland in the mid-1960s with the merger of three small, early 20th-century museums—the Oakland Public Museum, Oakland Art Gallery, and the Snow Museum of Natural History. The Oakland Museum of California as we know it today opened its doors in 1969, bringing three historically independent disciplines—art, history, and natural sciences—under one roof.

COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN *All In! The Campaign for OMCA*, a five-year capital campaign, concluded in 2021. Approximately \$86 million was raised to support OMCA's architectural and landscape enhancements, curatorial and public programming, and to grow the endowment.

CAMPUS ARCHITECTURE & RENOVATION DETAILS Inspired by the vision of OMCA as a “museum for the people,” Kevin Roche, of architectural firm Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates, created a bold and innovative design for the Museum as a vibrant community gathering place. With terraced gardens, a central courtyard, walkways, koi pond, interrelated interior spaces, and outdoor sculpture courts, Roche’s design continues to provide an urban park for Oakland residents and visitors. Renowned landscape architect Dan Kiley designed the multilevel rooftop gardens and surrounding arboretum to complement the structure’s modernist geometry. The building is recognized as an icon of mid-century modernist design.

In 2019, landscape architect Walter Hood (Hood Design Studio) and project architect Mark Cavagnero (Mark Cavagnero Associates) broke ground on OMCA’s campus renovation focused on enhancing access to the multi-terraced campus, improving visitor amenities, and significantly updating and refreshing the planting scheme to represent ecoregions of California. Design plans included the removal of an exterior border wall along the Museum’s northern side, connecting to Oakland’s Lake Merritt and creating a new entrance to open the campus and increase public access to its gardens.

**PREVIOUS
RENOVATIONS AND
UPGRADES**

In May 2010, OMCA reopened its galleries after a major multi-year \$58 million renovation that touched almost every aspect of the 300,000 square-foot Museum. The transformation built upon Kevin Roche and Dan Riley’s original civic-minded vision by improving integration of OMCA’s collections and programs, strengthening its role as a public forum, and creating new gathering spaces and program areas to engage visitors and encourage them to share their own perspectives, questions, and stories.

OMCA’s renovation and expansion was overseen by Mark Cavagnero Associates. Modifications included new exhibition and programming spaces, modernized lighting, an enhanced sky-lit canopy entrance, and improvements to the Museum’s theater, café, and store.

SQUARE FOOTAGE

Total museum gallery space: 110,000 square feet
Total museum space (including gardens): 300,000 square feet
OMCA occupies 7.7 acres on four city blocks
OMCA’s gardens cover 26,400 square feet

**OVERVIEW OF
COLLECTIONS**

The permanent collections of OMCA contain more than 1.9 million items, including works of art, historical artifacts, ethnographic materials, natural specimens, and photographs of astonishing scope and diversity—including the personal archive of iconic documentary photographer Dorothea Lange—representing the legacy of California and its peoples. The collections are animated by innovative interpretive tools and interactive features, creating opportunities for visitor participation and community engagement.

No other institution has assembled such a full and distinguished multidisciplinary California collection, making OMCA particularly relevant to audiences locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally.

The Museum’s collections are presented in three core galleries: The Gallery of California Art, Gallery of California History, and Gallery of California Natural Sciences. A fourth gallery space, the Great Hall, houses major rotating exhibitions.

**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT &
EXHIBITIONS**

The Museum centers community engagement in its mission and vision, and underscores programming to create meaningful experiences that are relevant and valued by OMCA’s audiences. For exhibitions, community engagement is a focus of both content and program design. Exhibitions focus on timely issues of particular resonance to the Oakland and Bay Area community. Museum curators and exhibition teams engage community members in developing exhibitions through field-wide convenings and local advisory councils, with all exhibitions reflecting a range of community perspectives and stories.

OMCA’s educational vision sees all K-12 students taking on a vital role in creating change in their communities. This “changemaker” model places

**EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMS**

students at the center of their own learning. Educational experiences are oriented towards students' needs and encourage students to make a positive impact in their communities. Field trips support teachers and students with relevant content, opportunities to connect to other learners, and refreshing learning opportunities.

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