

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES



HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

The National Museum was established in Manila on October 29, 1901 as “The Insular Museum of Ethnology, Natural History and Commerce” under the Department of Public Instruction by virtue of ACT No. 284 passed by the Philippine Commission. It was created basically to complement the Bureau of Non-Christian Tribes which was subsequently named Bureau of Ethnological Survey.

After the Louisiana Purchase Centennial Exposition at St. Louis, Missouri in 1904, the original name of the Museum was changed to “Philippine Museum” while the Bureau of Ethnological Survey ceased to be an independent unit to become a Division of Ethnology under the Bureau of Education in 1905 to be transferred to the Bureau of Science in 1906.

In 1916 through ACT No. 2572, the Division of Ethnology and the Fine Arts Division of the Philippine Museum were merged to create the “Philippine Library and Museum” while the Natural History Division, all that was left of the Philippine Museum, was retained in the Bureau of Science.

On December 7, 1928, the “National Museum of the Philippine Islands” was created under the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources through ACT No. 3477 only to be abolished in 1933 by ACT No. 4007 transferring the Division of Fine Arts to the National Library (then Philippine Library and Museum) and the Division of Ethnology to the Bureau of Science. The Division of Ethnology and the Natural History Division were combined to become the “National Museum Division”. This was renamed the “Natural History Museum Division” and placed under the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce in 1939 through Commonwealth Act No. 453. The Division was later joined with the National Library’s Division of Fine Arts to become the “National Museum” under the Office of the Executive Secretary.

In 1951, the National Museum was placed under the Department of Education by virtue of Executive Order No. 392 where it remained until Republic Act 8492 was approved and signed on February 12, 1998. Republic Act 8492, also known as the National Museum Act of 1998, finally established the National Museum as an independent institution with a permanent home of its own.

VISION AND MISSION

“protecting, preserving and disseminating the legacy of the Filipino people”

The existence of the National Museum is anchored on the basic philosophy that the Filipino nation is kept unified by a deep sense of pride in its own identity, cultural heritage and nature patrimony. The

national identity of the Filipino must be developed and enhanced, while imbibing the spirit of nationalism and strong commitment in the protection and dissemination of its legacy.

The National Museum is envisioned as the premier institution and repository of our heritage, and as an exciting, informative, and enjoyable place to visit – a place that inspires people to learn from our traditions so as to help shape a better future.

The National Museum is also dedicated to the mission of collecting, preserving, studying, interpreting and exhibiting the cultural and natural history specimens of the Philippine, from the historic times to the present, albeit the diversity of their cultural origins.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

“educational, scientific, and cultural activities in diverse fields of study”

The National Museum has a three-dimensional goal covering diverse of fields of Knowledge through various educational, scientific and cultural activities. As an educational institution, the National Museum disseminates scientific and technical knowledge in more understandable and practical forms through lectures, exhibitions, interviews and publications for students and the general public.

As a scientific institution, the National Museum conducts basic research programs combining integrated laboratory and field work in anthropology and archaeology, botany, geology, and zoology. It maintains reference collections on these disciplines and promotes scientific development in the Philippines.

As a cultural center, the National Museum takes the lead in the study and preservation of the nation's rich artistic, historical and cultural heritage in the reconstruction and rebuilding of our nation's past and veneration of the great pioneers who helped in building our nation.

THE NATIONAL ART GALLERY OF THE PHILIPPINES

As you enter the National Art Gallery, two imposing sculptures of National Artist Guillermo Tolentino greet you. They are heroic monuments, cast in metal, to Manuel Quezon, former Senate President, and Sergio Osmena, former Speaker of the House. At the lobby of the building are two wooden reliefs by National Artist Napoleon Abueva, assisted by Renato Rocha and Jose Mendoza. They portray Rajah Sulayman, His Court, and the Palisades (1967) and Legazpi and the Founding of Manila (1967). At the pediments of the back and front facades of the building and at the former Session Hall of the Philippine Senate are sculptures of Otto Fisher Credo, Walter Strauss, Vidal Tampinco, and Ramon Martinez.

Hall of Masters

This room is dedicated to the 19th-century Filipino painters Juan Luna and Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo who achieved prominence at the 1884 Madrid Exposition. Luna's Spoliarium received one of the three gold medals and Hidalgo's Virgenes Cristianas Expuestas al Populacho (Christian Virgins Presented to the Populace) received one of the fourteen silver medals.

Holding Room

This is a multi-purpose hall where large groups are briefed before they are led through the rooms. Symposia, film viewing, concerts, and other events can also be held here.

Arellano Room

This room is dedicated to the prolific painter-architect Juan Arellano, who is one of the architects of this building. He was a pioneering modern artist and an exponent of Philippine neo-classical and art deco styles. He was also an urban planner, involved in the zoning of Manila and the design of Quezon City.

Beloved Land

The National Museum visual arts collection is organized according to phrases taken from the National Anthem. This room introduces the scope of the history of art in the Philippines through a timeline. Together with this timeline are works that explain how the National Art Gallery is designed in terms of concepts and ideas. For instance, how it tries to reveal shifts and continuities in visual culture, or the culture of seeing and making reality visible in visual form.

Vessels of Faith

This room presents the various expressions of Philippine spirituality. The pieces here - from coffins to images for the altar - speak of belief systems and the ways by which their believers stage rituals, think about the afterlife, invoke the spirits, and so on.

Hall of National Artists for the Visual Arts

This room is dedicated to the visual artists who have been named National Artists by the government.

Freedom Yearned For

This room expresses the theme of struggle of Filipinos against colonialism and the forms of oppression that persist to this day. It is about heroes and heroism, sacrifice and violence, atrocity and the spirit to claim liberty and independence.

Gallery 1 - San Diego

A walk-in diorama depicting the wrecksite of the Spanish ship "San Diego", its artifacts and how it appeared when discovered by archeologists at a depth of 54 meters underwater. San Diego, a Spanish trading vessel built in Cebu by European builders. It was originally known as the "San Antonio" and was docked in the port of Cavite for reconditioning when Antonio de Morga, then Vice-Governor General of the Philippines, ordered it converted into a warship and renamed it "San Diego".



Gallery 3 - The Five Centuries of Maritime Trade Before the Arrival of the West

An actual storage exhibit depicting the Philippines as one of the major links in the maritime trade among the East Asian countries before the arrival of the Spaniards to the Philippine archipelago. On display are rare and significant pieces recovered by the National Museum from five wrecksites

Gallery 4 - SanDiego II

Traces the history of the battleship "San Diego" when it collided with the Dutch ship, "Mauritius", on Dec. 14, 1600 off the shores of Nasugbu, Batangas bringing down 14 cannons, armaments and navigational instruments.



Gallery 5 - SanDiego III

Showcases treasures retrieved from the ill-fated ship, "San Diego", which include jars, porcelain, jewelry, tableware, devotional items, silver coins and pottery.

Gallery 6- Pinagmulan (The Origin)

One of the best galleries that present information on the origin of the Philippine islands and the Filipinos as a whole. Interactive displays and hands-on gadgets are installed to make the visit more meaningful and enjoyable.



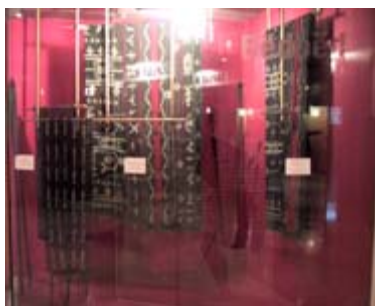
Gallery 7 - Kaban ng Lahi (Archaeological Treasures)

Portrays the burial practices of ancient Filipinos and shows samples of burial jars as well as utilitarian pottery excavated in different cave sites. Learn about one-of-a-kind pottery discovered in Saranggani Province that are shaped in human figures and with different facial expressions.



Gallery 8 - Kinahinatnan (The Filipino Today)

This gallery gives an insight into a diversity of culture that is truly Filipino. It focuses on the material culture of the different ethno-linguistic groups in the country. The exhibit is divided into 4 sections: The Filipino People, The Ecological Zones, The National Treasures and The National Living Treasures.



Gallery 9 - Cloth Traditions

Features the colorful and interesting Philippine traditional textiles from the collection of the National Museum some dated as early as 20th century. This collection includes selected rare textiles that depict exceptional craftsmanship of the Filipinos not commonly found in private collections

GUIDELNES FOR MUSEUM TOUR

I. ENTRANCE FEES:

Adults - P100.00 each

Students - P 30.00 each upon presentation of ID

(For students enrolled in Philippine schools only)

II. EXHIBIT DAYS:

Daily except Mondays and Tuesdays

III. MUSEUM HOURS:

10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (NO NOON BREAK)

IV. FREE ADMISSION:

Sundays (Walk-ins only; No Group Tours)

V. DISCOUNTS:

A. For a group above 50 - P25.00 each for students with ID and P80.00 each for adults

B. Senior Citizen - 20% discount upon presentation of ID P80.00

VI. FREE ENTRANCE FOR THE FOLLOWING UPON PRESENTATION OF ID

A. One faculty member per class on a museum tour

B. One Tour Coordinator per scheduled museum tour

C. Museum Workers

D. National Museum Staff and their immediate Family

For Inquiries and Information, please contact the Museum Education Division at Telefax No. +63 2 527-0278, Tel. No. +63 2 528-4912

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