Plan Your Visit

Hours
Tuesday - Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed Sunday, Monday, & WKU holidays
Free Admission is provided by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation
Group tours, WKU class visits, and Classroom Close Study of Collections must be scheduled in advance. Reservations are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please call 270-745-2592

Location & Parking
Address: 1444 Kentucky Street, Bowling Green
Parking is available in the “Kentucky Building Lot” (next to the museum) and the “Adams Street Lot” (next to CVS) in spaces marked with “Kentucky Museum Visitor” signs. Visitors must sign in at the front desk parking log.

Share your experience
Most of our galleries are photography friendly, and we welcome sharing of visitor photos and stories via social media.
Please tag us!
@KYMuseum
@TheKYMuseum
@thekymuseum
wku.edu/Kentucky museum

Western Kentucky University is an equal opportunity institution of higher education and upon request provides reasonable accommodations to individuals with disabilities. wku.edu/access

Kentucky Museum provides exhibits and programs that enhance the academic mission of Western Kentucky University and provide quality educational and cultural experiences for our campus and community.
As a teaching museum, our cultural collections complement, support, and challenge the academic experience of WKU students while providing a gathering place for our community to come to know and celebrate who they are as individuals and Kentuckians.
Discover

We provide many opportunities to discover and enjoy the museum, including:

- WKU class tours or classroom close study of collections.
- Community lectures and workshops.
- School break camps for ages 5-12.
- WKU Student FunShops.
- Community events, such as Hammer-In (October) and Christmas in Kentucky (December).

What's New?

Our exhibits change each year, and we offer year-round educational and public programs. To see what's coming up, visit us online and click on “Experience” for programs and “Exhibits” to view current and upcoming exhibitions.

Investigate

Our holdings include a variety of artifacts relating to life and traditions in South Central Kentucky. Some come from close to home, while others were collected from faraway places. Each tells a unique story about Kentucky and its connections to the world. Exceptional holdings include:

- Fine and Decorative Art, including the C. Perry Snell Collection of European art and C. Ray Franklin Collection of Decorative Art.
- Nearly 7,000 examples of 19th and 20th century textiles, including over 250 quilts.
- Local businesses, including Duncan Hines and the Mrs. A.H. Taylor & Company Dress Collection.
- The Rather-Westerman Political Memorabilia Collection.
- Toys, including the Orbra E. King Collection and William H. McLean Toy Soldier Collection.

Notable artifacts include an Egyptian sarcophagus, Babylonian cuneiform tablets, Shaker furniture, paintings by Joe Downing, The Four Seasons statues, a Cornett Rocker, a Philadelphia Chippendale tea table, Flow Blue and Ironstone ceramics, and Margaret Younglove Calvert’s Tumbling Blocks quilt.

Friends

Nearly all of our exhibits, programs, and collections care are funded by private donors like you. One way you can help is to join the Friends group.

Our Friends enjoy exclusive benefits and opportunities while supporting our region’s unique artistic and cultural heritage. There are various levels of membership.

View details at: wku.edu/kentuckymuseum/membership.php or inquire at the front desk.

Attention Faculty

We offer a variety of in-class and co-curricular activities.
To learn more, please visit: wku.edu/kentuckymuseum/facultyresources.php