



Image: Dan Zen

CANADA: DAY 1

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF IMMIGRATION AT PIER 21

OVERVIEW

Immigration has played a significant role in the building of Canada, shaping Canadian culture, economy and way of life. That first day of physical arrival to Canada is a symbolic, personal and official milestone in the process of becoming Canadian. *Canada: Day 1* aims to explore the multifaceted experiences of newcomers on their first day of arrival in Canada spanning from confederation to present day, as well as the similarities and diversities of these experiences.

Drawing upon oral histories, archival images, original artworks, interactives and objects, *Canada: Day 1* will share stories of immigration in an evocative and engaging way sure to resonate with visitors of all backgrounds.

HIGHLIGHTS

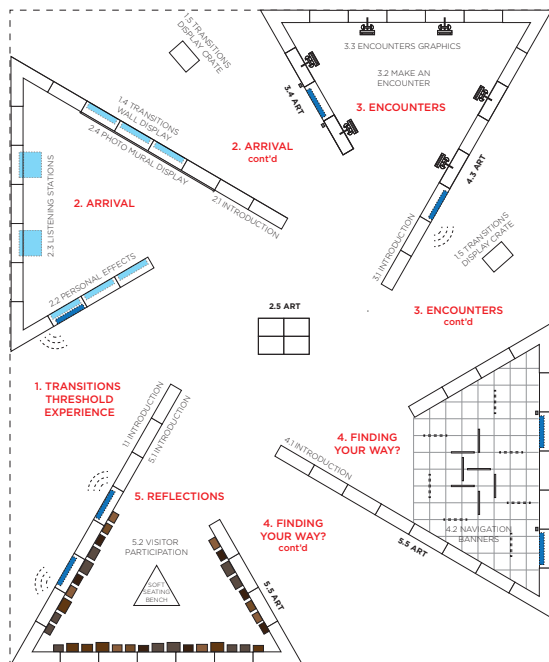
- Draws on oral histories **sharing first person experiences**, archival images, quotes from personal accounts, and displays of objects
- **Original artworks** express immigration experiences through a range of media
- Numerous interactives, including multimedia experiences and participatory elements will create a **layered multi-sensory experience**
- **Flexible design** includes three adaptable layout options – one 1500 ft² (139 m²) and two 1900 ft² (177 m²) configurations
- **Interdisciplinary** experience, combining aspects of history, contemporary art, and contemporary cultural relevance



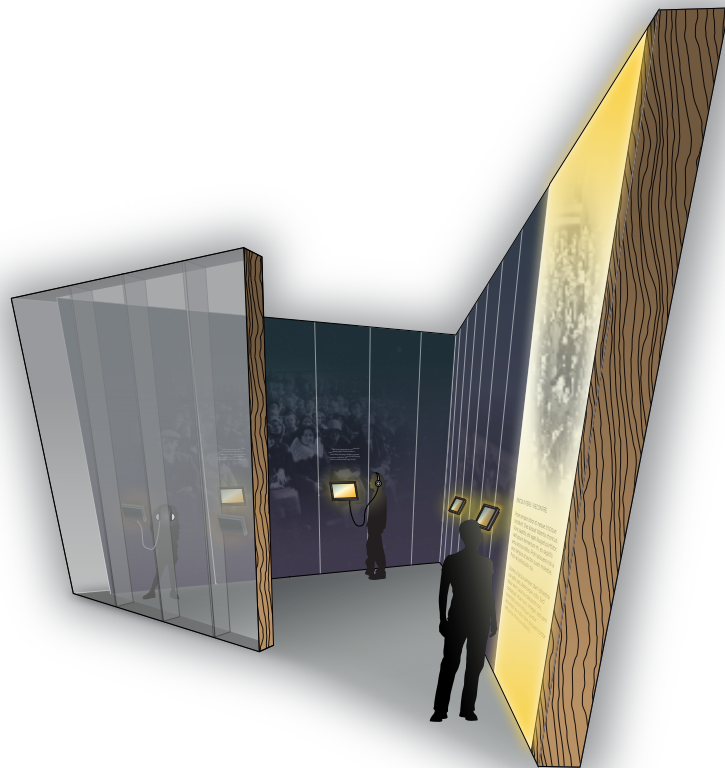
Canadian Museum of
Immigration at Pier 21

Musée canadien de
l'immigration du Quai 21

Canada



Layout 1500 ft² (139m²) option and exhibit elements



Conceptual rendering

THE EXPERIENCE

The exhibition is organized around the five thematic areas:

- 1. Transitions** - Countless moments both big and small mark transitions from a place, experience, and even one step to the next. A poignant threshold experience will provide a clear transition for visitors into the exhibition via projected visuals and sounds related to travel, arrival and departure. The idea of transitions will continue throughout the exhibition, linking all the themes together.
- 2. Arrival** - The theme of *Arrival* presents the personal stories of newcomers and their experiences of arriving in Canada, past and present. The emotional reaction of arriving in a new place and the experiences upon arrival, including those who were refused entry will be explored. Personal effects will be displayed: simple, everyday objects that hold a special meaning, both brought from home and those newly received.
- 3. Encounters** - The people we encounter at stressful, meaningful, and memorable moments in our lives stay with us - whether through small acts of kindness, heroic gestures, or in some cases, encounters we wish we had not experienced at all. These encounters inform or reveal expectations, crystallize moments of culture shock, and

inspire and affect our views of the future. Stories of love, loss, fear, excitement, adventure and kindness will all be explored, speaking to the breadth of experiences that come from meeting and interacting with people at key points in the immigration journey.

- 4. Finding Your Way?** - Immigrants and refugees can face many challenges as they attempt to find their way in Canada. Getting your bearings, settling in, finding support, finding employment and learning to navigate the social systems of Canada can be overwhelming and exhausting but also exciting as hopes and plans for the future are envisioned. This thematic area will offer visitors a glimpse into the challenges of physically, socially, and emotionally finding your way in a new country.
- 5. Reflections** - *Canada: Day 1* will be a moving experience for visitors. The theme of *Reflections* will be where visitors can rest and reflect, as well as contribute their thoughts and experiences to the exhibition.



Image: S.S. Berlin of North German Lloyd, arriving from Bremerhaven, Pier 21. S.S. Bantam docked at Pier 20. April 20th, 1957, Halifax, N.S. Library and Archives Canada/PA-187858

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
1055 Marginal Road
Halifax, NS B3H 4P7
www.pier21.ca

The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 is a national museum in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The Museum is located at Pier 21, a National Historic Site which served as the gateway for one million immigrants between 1928 and 1971. This was also the point of departure for 500,000 military personnel during the Second World War.

The purpose of the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 is to explore the theme of immigration to Canada in order to enhance public understanding of the experiences of immigrants as they arrived in Canada, of the vital role immigration has played in the building of Canada and of the contributions of immigrants to Canada's culture, economy and way of life.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Canada: Day 1 is organized by the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, with project manager A.L. Arbic Consulting, Planning and Facilitation; and planning design team Lord Cultural Resources, the world's largest cultural professional practice specializing in full-service planning and design; and Kubik, internationally recognized for designing, fabricating, installing and managing exhibits, events and environments for businesses, institutions and museums.

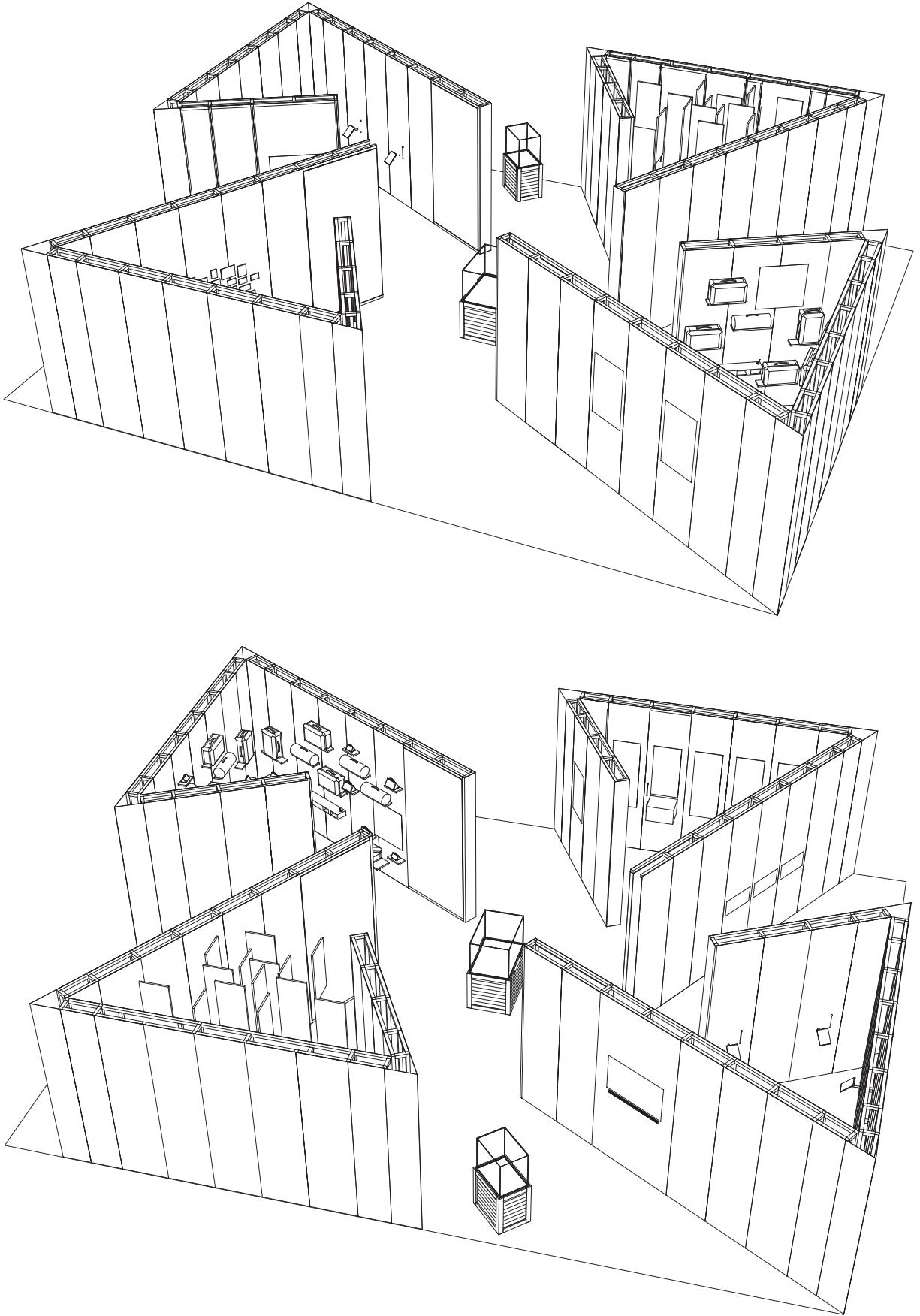
Size: minimum 1500 ft² (139 m²)

Available: late 2013 to 2017

Fee: \$15,000 for 12 week display period,
or \$25,000 for 24 weeks

To learn more about this exhibition and to subscribe to receive further information about *Canada: Day 1*, please contact:

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Layout 1500 ft² (139m²) option and exhibit elements

"My first day in Canada started at Toronto [Pearson] airport. I will never forget that day... There were so many people with different faces, skin colour, hair, clothes and languages."

- Jayavathana Kuganesan, arrived from Sri Lanka, 2000.

"After a most unpleasant trip, my husband and I felt very happy to again stand on solid ground. Just looking at the large sign on the wall, which said WELCOME in many languages, made us feel warm."

-Elizabeth Anasiropoulos, arrived via Switzerland, March 6, 1952.

"It was terrifying and exciting at the same time. It was terrifying because I was leaving my friends, my girlfriend at the time, work, the warmth, the beaches to go to a place... you've only heard stories about."

- Tony Athanas, arrived from Trinidad and Tobago, August 12, 1981.

"One thinks deeply, leaving everything behind that I treasure... my brothers and sisters, family and friends. Acquaintances ... the ground where I was born, yes one leaves everything... and will I ever see it again?"

-Chris DeBruyne, arrived from the Netherlands, April 10, 1950.

CANADA: DAY 1

When did you leave? Did you choose to go? Were you forced away? What do you remember? What do you wish to forget?

Canada: Day 1 reflects the varied experiences of newcomers to Canada. It presents firsthand accounts of uncertainty, fear, excitement and hope - the mixture of emotions that can surround a newcomer's arrival in Canada, from Confederation in 1867 to the present. What are some of the similarities of these experiences? How do they differ?

As you explore *Canada: Day 1* perhaps you will be reminded of family and friends who have made a similar journey to Canada. It may be that through someone else's story you recognize your own.

ARRIVAL

For some, leaving home is bittersweet and painful. For others, it means hope and opportunity. It starts with goodbye - goodbye to all that is familiar as you prepare for the reality of a new land, a new culture, a new language and a new life.

What thoughts and feelings are experienced in preparation to leave? What emotions colour the anticipation of arrival?

