



The Museum of Vancouver

The Museum of Vancouver has been collecting artifacts for over 100 years. In 2009, the focus of the museum shifted towards displaying the story of Vancouver to the world.

In 2010, the Museum of Vancouver realized storage space was required to provide protection for stored artifacts as well as to allow room for growth.

In total, the museum needed to store close to an additional 40,000 items, including pieces from the new Legacy Collection arriving after the 2010 Olympics.

The objects and artifacts in the collection vary widely in age, size, and material.



The problem

In addition to the growth of the quantity of artifacts stored, these pieces needed greater protection from damage associated with overcrowded shelves. The artifacts also needed to be easier to access with better organization. Through lengthy consultation, Hi-Cube worked with the museum staff to design a custom solution, provided all materials, and installed the components while working within tight budget constraints.

The requirements

The Museum of Vancouver has a limited amount of floor space and 30,000 square feet of storage in use over multiple buildings. By compacting the shelving and adding specialized storage, the end result was 7,250 square feet of additional storage capacity customized to the museum's unique needs.



- Shelving solutions needed to be designed to protect artifacts from breakage and environmental damage associated with overcrowded shelves
- Sturdy racking solutions were required for heavy items
- Artifacts needed to be well organized, visible, and easy to access
- Storage had to be customized to handle artifacts of varying sizes and weights
- Access was required for safe navigation in the facility, including clear aisles in the event of an emergency
- With limited floor space, the solution had to allow for open work space within the collection when required

- The project needed to be completed with as little disruption to the museum as possible
- There were strict budget restraints, as one of the most critical components of the project's cost was museum staffing for the collection move



The Solution

Mobile Shelving:

By adding nine 44 foot long carriages and reconfiguring the layout, the complete mobile shelving solution now features 26 rows of shelving, 14 feet of flat tray cabinets, over 90 feet of hanging garment storage, 26 feet of rolled textile storage, and 190 custom trays for very small artifacts. To protect the museum collections, our storage designer selected low VOC plywood for the sub floor, which reduces off gassing. The glue used for installing the tiling was water-based and environmentally friendly.

Static Shelving

Static shelving space was maximized by building extra shelving around the existing concrete building columns instead of just having shelving between the columns. The customer's existing 336 lineal feet of shelving was retrofitted to meet project specifications and upgraded to meet seismic requirements. Hi-Cube's storage designer was able to reduce costs by capitalizing on the ability to re-purpose the museum's existing shelving.

Art Rack

Art rack not only doubled the amount of art storage available in the existing space, it also allowed for more appropriate storage of hanging items. By installing additional rails for future collection growth, the Hi-Cube storage designer planned for future storage while creating an additional area to accommodate a small photography studio space.

ActivRAC

An ActivRAC mobilized industrial racking system was selected to store heavy and/or oversize objects. The system included mechanically assisted rows with adjustable gear ratios for ease of movement. Four ActivRAC carriages provide heavy-duty storage and easy movement for large artifacts.



Custom designed storage with limited budget and space:

This project was completed quickly and with very limited disruption to the day-to-day operation of the museum. A phased project plan allowed museum personnel to move collections to completed storage sections while the next system installation was being finished.

Hi-Cube took on all of the responsibilities, including; architectural design, engineering, code consulting, and project management. By working with the museum, well-planned project plans and drawings were completed that considered unique requirements for the collection move.

Consulting, project management, and permit coordination were all handled as part of the complete Hi-Cube fixed price contract. Storage consultation long before the work begins is a critical part of the process. We work closely with customers to design the perfect storage solution for the immediate requirements while considering budget, priorities, and future needs.

Hi-Cube takes the time to understand your project, taking all of your unique storage challenges into consideration throughout the entire design process. Delicate objects, large, heavy items, and sensitive pieces with special storage requirements all need very specific solutions.

Storage Solved.



Before



After

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