



With a life-size dollhouse and a piano keyboard you can dance on, this exhibition is HUGE! Opening February 16 at the History Museum. Read more below. Follow us on Facebook at Washington State Historical Society and Washington State History Museum.

Press PLAY, a 21-plus History After Hours event, will highlight toys from the past. Remember Zoltar? | State Nine Design photo

Stage Nine Exhibitions presents *Toytopia*, a traveling exhibition with many interactive sets that invite you to learn about and explore toys; hosted by the Washington State History Museum, February 16 through June 10. | Stage Nine Design photo

TOYTOPIA: Learn About the Origins of Toys and How We Play

What was your childhood passion? Jumping rope? Playing Space Invaders at the local arcade? Mixing up cakes for the Easy Bake Oven? You're sure to find your favorite toys in *Toytopia* at the Washington State History Museum from February 16 through June 10, 2018. The exhibition is huge, both in components—such as the world's largest Etch A Sketch, a life-size dollhouse, and a Monopoly car that you can sit in—and in square footage, filling most of the museum's expansive fifth-floor galleries. Kids of all ages will also enjoy *PlayDates*, an accompanying exhibition highlighting toys from the Historical Society's collections, including a Slinky Dog, which, by the way, was invented in Washington.

"Our goal was to capture the essence of childhood wonder; that dream of being in a world of toys," explained Troy Carlson, owner of Stage Nine Exhibitions LLC, which created *Toytopia*.

Rekindle the wonder and delight of your favorite childhood moments and experience the history of these inventions that have been integral to our lives. Bring your family and play in a world of BIG toys!

For an adults-only experience, check out **Press PLAY** on February 22, when this 21-plus History After Hours event takes over the museum. This night of fun will include games of all kinds throughout the museum. Play the original Oregon Trail video game on the theater screen, explore *Toytopia*, slip a ticket into Zoltar to have your fortune told, and much more. Three Magnets Brewing will provide craft beer. The Children's Museum of Tacoma will offer child care that night, so your kids can also play in a safe environment just a short walk from the History Museum. Press PLAY is one of four History After Hours events planned for 2018; tickets for single events or a discounted four-pack are available at www.WashingtonHistory.org.

TOYTOPIA HIGHLIGHTS:

- World's largest Etch A Sketch, almost 8 feet tall
- Retro Arcade area with working games
- A life-size dollhouse with play areas
- A life-size Monopoly car and game board; sit inside for a unique photo opportunity
- From the movie *Big*: the giant piano keyboard that star Tom Hanks played on, and Zoltar Speaks, the vintage-inspired carnival arcade fortune teller machine

- LEGO® wall and play area
- LEGO® train layout with a train running through an inventive LEGO® landscape
- A signature jack-in-the-box exploring the science of toys, from Furby® to radiometers
- Schylling Tin Toys—see how tin toys are created out of simple sheets of tin
- Keva Planks, Lincoln Logs, and Brain Teasers play areas

DON'T MISS THIS!

22ND ANNUAL MODEL TRAIN FESTIVAL

December 22 – January 1 (closed Dec 24-25)

Treat your family and friends! This festival is sure to delight the kid in everyone.



Info at ModelTrainFestival.org.

EXPLORE IT! CALENDAR

History Museum programs are included with admission unless otherwise noted. For full details, visit WashingtonHistory.org.

HISTORY MUSEUM EXHIBITS

PlayDates: Toys from the Historical Society's Collection

JANUARY 20 – JULY 15, 2018

While the ways in which children play have changed over time, toys are and have always been an important part of Washingtonians' lives. *PlayDates* celebrates some of the most popular toys in America with a look into the collections of the Washington State Historical Society. Decades of fun are represented through play sets, games, and things that "go." See toys in the context of turn-of-the-century decorative arts as you step into a historic re-creation of a children's nursery, too.

Toytopia

FEBRUARY 16 – JUNE 10, 2018

Play your way down Memory Lane! Learn about the origins of toys, who made them, and why they are fun and dear to us. Discover why some toys succeeded and some failed and which toys have become collector's items and why. *Toytopia* satisfies the curiosity of visitors of all ages with beautiful, compelling, and informative displays. But it's not just about toys—it's about how we play. Challenge friends to beat your top score in our video arcade filled with games from the 1970s and 1980s. Walk through a life-size dollhouse, see the world's largest Etch A Sketch, sit in a giant Monopoly car and have BIG fun.

Washington: My Home

NOW OPEN!

The Great Hall of Washington History's newest permanent exhibit focuses on Washington immigration and migration stories. Listen to first-person recordings, see and touch artifacts, and imagine yourself in someone else's shoes as you learn about the many different people who have made our state their home. Join us on January 18 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and opening program with Washington State Governor Jay Inslee. See WashingtonHistory.org for details.

JANUARY

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

JANUARY 15, 2:00 PM

Free and open to the public

Join us at the History Museum for a celebration of Dr. King's legacy with a performance by our partners at the Broadway Center. The show *11 Days in the Life of Dr. King* is educational, family-friendly, and full of song and dance. The museum is free and open to the public all day in honor of Dr. King.

Great Hall of Washington History Public Opening and Reception

JANUARY 18, 5:00 PM

Free and open to the public

We're celebrating the opening of our recently renovated galleries in the Great Hall of Washington History and you are invited! Join us for a performance of *Northwest Passages* by the award-winning Living Voices program at 5:00 PM. At 6:00 PM, hear from Governor Inslee and special guests at a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Scholarly Selections: Towards a Universal Network History of Humankind

JANUARY 18, 6:30 PM

Free and open to the public

Join us at the History Museum to hear from Muhammad Aurangzeb Ahmad, Center for Data Science at University of Washington Tacoma. Muhammad will discuss a fascinating digital humanities initiative that connects scientists, philosophers, mathematicians, and other scholars from across time and all over the world through one social network. While the individuals are from vastly different times and places, the network reveals common intellectual traditions.

Glasnost & Goodwill Symposium

JANUARY 20, 12:30 PM

Free with museum admission

This symposium is centered on Cold War citizen diplomacy between

Washington and the former Soviet Union. Hear from faculty of University of Washington's Ellison Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies, part of the Jackson School of International Studies.

FEBRUARY

History Happy Hour Trivia in Olympia

FEBRUARY 1, 7:00 PM

Three Magnets Brewing Co. 600 Franklin St. SE, #105, Olympia

Join us at the Three Magnets taproom and eatery for a spirited night of trivia. We're partnering with fellow history fans, the Washington State Archives. Come on down and show off your Washington trivia knowledge!

Scholarly Selections: Understanding Changing Approaches to the Quality and Treatment of Storm Water in Puget Sound

FEBRUARY 15, 6:30 PM

Free and open to the public

How much do you know about the link between storm water and aquatic health? How can the community begin assessing and addressing storm water quality and treatment? Learn more with research scientist Dr. Katherine Peter of the Center for Urban Waters at University of Washington Tacoma.

History After Hours: Press PLAY

FEBRUARY 22, 7:00 – 10:00 PM

Age 21-plus event: \$20 preregistration, \$25 at the door (or, for just \$60 get the 2018 four-pack with tickets to all four great events)

The 2018 History After Hours series kicks off with fun and games for adults 21 and over. Enjoy the new exhibition *Toytopia* while games take over the entire museum for the evening! Ever dream of being Tom Hanks in the movie *Big*? This is your chance to ask Zoltar for your fortune and play Chopsticks on a giant floor piano! Think you can make it all the way to Oregon without dying of dysentery? Play the original Oregon

Trail video game on the museum's giant theater screen and test your skills! All this fun is complemented with tasty beer from our partners at Three Magnets Brewing Company.

Got kids? We've got you covered! Children's Museum of Tacoma (CMT) will host Parents' Night Out while we host Press PLAY. CMT provides a safe and fun atmosphere for your littles and is just a short walk from the History Museum. Visit CMT's website for details: www.playtacoma.org.



MARCH

Pierce County READS Partner Program

MARCH 15, 6:00 PM

Free and open to the public

The History Museum teams up with the Pierce County Library System to bring you a special program in partnership with Pierce County READS. We can't announce the book just yet, but the event is sure to be a hit! Check our website for more details: WashingtonHistory.org.

History Happy Hour Trivia in Tacoma

MARCH 21, 6:00 PM

The Swiss Restaurant & Pub, 1904 Jefferson Ave., Tacoma

Test your Tacoma and Washington state trivia knowledge with the Washington State Historical Society, City of Tacoma Historic Preservation Office, and Tacoma Historical Society. Facts, fun, and prizes aplenty! Come solo or bring a team.

Plan Ahead for Summer Camp

Do you know kids who need some adventure this summer? Sign them up for summer camp at the Washington State History Museum. Check our website after the holidays for details. Registration will open March 1. Questions? Contact Molly Wilmoth, lead program manager, at molly.wilmoth@wshs.wa.gov.



WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY MUSEUM, 1911 Pacific Ave., Tacoma, WA 98402
INFORMATION 253-272-9747 or (toll-free) 1-888-BE-THERE | WashingtonHistory.org



The Washington State Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its program delivery and will provide, to the best of its ability, alternate formats upon request. For assistance, contact the ADA Coordinator at 253-272-3500, Tuesday through Friday, 9 AM–5 PM, and indicate the nature of your accessibility need and preferred format.