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 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 toys that “go.” See toys in the context of turn-of-the-century decorative arts as you step into a historic recreation 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 why 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:
Understanding Changing Approaches to the Quality and Treatment of Stormwater in Puget Sound

FEBRUARY 15, 1:00 PM
Free and open to the public

How much do you know about the link between storm water and aquatic health? Can community members 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.

FEBRUARY

History Happy Hour Trivia in Olympia

FEBRUARY 1, 5:00 PM
Free and open to the public

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!

Plan Ahead for Summer Camp

Do you know 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.

THREE MAGNETS BREWING CO.

600 Franklin St. SE, #105, Olympia

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 Stormwater 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? Can community members 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.

FEBRUARY

History Happy Hour Trivia in Tacoma

MARCH 21, 6:00 PM
The Swiss Restaurant & Pub,
1904 Jefferson Ave., Tacoma


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


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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.