

Some ideas and observations (from jan 2015)

--The best area is the top room of museum

-- Could have "best of museum" on first ramp or move several interesting new objects here every month

- could move dinosaurs up to this area, or the variety of life on earth or ?

--this room still has art deco. It would be great to continue this through the building except in cave and ice age and Ordovician world. Distinct deco entrances to these transitions from deco to immersion in another world. Deco design features on display.cases. Much more light from different sources. (Sconces and indirect)

- Logical flow through complicated pathway is a problem. If you have a separate room off of a hall, the display in this room has to be very good or people will just look in and then leave

--How to keep your sense of orientation. use of wall or carpet colors

Signage on displays could be computer b&w. easy to change. One sign with general info (eg as of 2007). Second sign showing some more recent research results. Eg for polar bear .

Third sign with evolution of creature , eg moving branching tree showing where polar bear is in evolution.

Or four short 1 min videos ,from national geographic, nytimes etc for each display.

Or create museum's own 2 min video, like antique roadshow, with curator talking about the object to someone, pointing out features or story. And touching the object carefully, since visitors can't.

This reconstruction is the best chance to improve the museum. I see articles about movie-making where they edit and re-edit ... until it is very good. Same here. The displays or flow of museum should be thought and re-thought before finally changing them.

I mentioned years ago having a mini library (Ham county branch) in museum with the best science books from nytimes current best science or all time best science. To try to connect people to something after they leave.

I think that many people will have ideas about what would be best for our displays, outer space and astronomy, geology, biology, math, engineering, global warming

I worry about too much reliance on interactive technology, eg phone apps, computer screens, etc. These change and am not sure we want people looking at their phones as they wander through the museum.

I notice that people like to find errors and they pay more attention to find them . Put some in and ask people to find them.

The Geier center is much more interesting than the museum. How to recreate the interesting and unfinished, but lively feeling in the museum.

Founders room also has a nice display. Dan Striley's messy desk with many objects also is visually stimulating.

The Art Museum is much improved after they redid it 10-15 years ago. They raised the ceilings, improved the light, opened doorways, and improved the organization of the art.