



# MUSEUM OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

## Operating Policy

### **M/OP 16.1:** Food and Drink in Exhibit Galleries

**Date:** March 2013 (rev. August 2014)

**Purpose:** This policy clarifies for the public the reasons why the Museum of Texas Tech University does not allow food and drink in the exhibit galleries at any time.

**Review:** This policy will be reviewed in even-numbered years by the Director's Advisory Council and revised as needed.

### **POLICY**

A museum's collections are an important means of advancing its mission and serving the general public. Collections are held in trust for the general public and made accessible for its benefit. Stewardship is the careful, sound, and responsible management of that which is entrusted to the Museum's care. Care of collections incurs legal, social, and ethical obligations to provide safe and secure exhibit conditions, proper physical storage and management, as well as intellectual control. Effective collections stewardship ensures that the objects the Museum owns, borrows, or holds in its custody are available and accessible to present and future generations.

The Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. Accreditation confers national recognition and acknowledges a museum's commitment to excellence, continued institutional improvement, high professional standards, and accountability. As such, the Museum must continue to demonstrate that it is guided by its mission, provides public access to its collections while ensuring their preservation, has appropriate measures in place to ensure the safety and security of people, its collections, the facilities it owns or uses, and takes appropriate measures to protect itself against potential risk and loss. The presence of food and drink has the potential to damage and stain artworks, artifacts, and specimens and contribute to their deterioration. Therefore not allowing food and drink around collections, whether on exhibit or in the collections rooms, is a museum best practice and part of being a professional museum.

As an accredited museum, the Museum of Texas Tech University does not allow food or drink in the galleries at any time when an exhibit is present. To ensure the safety and preservation of its collections and maintain its accreditation, the Museum does not accommodate special requests to allow food and drink in the galleries anytime when an exhibit is on display.