



Museums are special places. They can take many forms, and one of the most common is as a space to hold and display works of art. The New Mexico Museum of Art is a state museum, which means it belongs to everyone who lives in New Mexico. Staff at the Museum work hard to take care of and share with everyone the treasures that live in the Museum's collection.

Museums are not the only places that show works of art. Many people collect artwork and objects to display in their homes. From handmade coffee mugs, to children's drawings, to precious stones, to paintings and more, people tend to surround themselves with works that are pleasing to look at, or make them think in a new way, or that remind them of an important event or person. There is no one reason why people collect and appreciate art, but it is a very important part of life!

In this activity series, we will help you to pretend that your home is a museum! In the first activity, we showed you how to create display labels for the artwork in your home. Next, we covered how to curate your own exhibition with the objects in your collection. The third activity tells you how to act as a docent and give tours to your family, pets, and more. In this final installment, we have an easy craft to share with you that will allow you to make your own object display case.

New Mexico Museum of Art



Luis Tapia, Viva La Fiesta (Zozobra), 1996, carved and painted wood, 36 x 39 x 39 in. Collection of the New Mexico Museum of Art. Museum purchase with funds from the Boeckman Acquisition Fund, 1997 (1997.8.1) ©Luis Tapia. Photo by Blair Clark

Many people have collections. In the previous activities, we focused on art collections, but, for this activity, we want you to look at other important items you have in your home. Smaller items work best for this activity, so that they can fit into your display cases. Some ideas include: coins, cards, jewelry, rocks or precious stones, dried flowers, small toys, miniatures, and/or shells. The list could go on and on! Choose something that is important to you or your family; something that you would enjoy to look at on display!



Image credit: DIY display case from luci creative: https://lucicreative.com/future-exhibit-designers-5-fun-at-home-make-a-museum-activities-for-kids/?fbclid=IwAR0H0N6mmBxwn8L1rNUR0mChQDHXkiysnD2N-HOnTsw8nMsx2pfu_rNUzfU

Create your own display cases

The best instructions we found come from [luci creative](#). To do this activity you will need the following materials:

- Cardboard
- Pencil or Pen
- Ruler
- Scissors
- White Paper
- Glue Stick
- Tape
- Smartphone or Flashlight

This activity will let you practice following directions and making precise measurements. Since you will be using scissors (that can be sharp), please get adult assistance/permission before getting started.

[Click here for the DIY Artifact Display Case instructions.](#)

Instructions for this activity come from **luci creative**, who came up with a lot of excellent ideas for aspiring exhibition designers. If you want more after this activity series, please go online and visit their post:

https://lucicreative.com/future-exhibit-designers-5-fun-at-home-make-a-museum-activities-for-kids/?fbclid=IwAR0H0N6mmBxwn8L1rNUR0mChQDHXkiysnD2N-HOnTsw8nMsx2pfu_rNUzfU