



Chevron Open Minds at The Rooms

The Rooms is a community cultural space where history, heritage and artistic expression come together. Chevron Open Minds at The Rooms is an innovative school program where students, teachers and community experts collaborate for a week of hands-on, experiential learning.

Learners connect with our collections through intellectually rich opportunities. Interaction with historic artifacts, natural history specimens, archival records and art stimulate inquiry and critical thinking in authentic ways. The program is based on the Open Minds education concept, which emphasizes the value of

allowing students to slow down and become immersed in new and engaging learning environments. Each week is a unique, curriculum-based program developed by the teacher in consultation with The Rooms Education Coordinator.

Journal writing and drawing are key elements to the Open Minds concept and every participating student, teacher and parent volunteer will be provided their own journal to use before, during and after their time at The Rooms. Prior to their week at the site, teachers will be given the opportunity to participate in sessions on object-based learning, journal writing and sketching.

How to Apply

1. Plan a cross-curricular study using the week at The Rooms as a focus.
2. Use your outline to develop a 1-2 page proposal (see proposal guidelines below).
3. Fill out the accompanying application form and submit it along with your proposal.

Guidelines

- The program is available to Grades 1 to 12.
- Only one class of students per week can be accommodated.
- Teachers may write a joint proposal if team teaching multiple classes of the same grade. The weeks will be scheduled back to back if possible. Please submit one application and indicate on your form that you are applying as a team with multiple classes.
- If a successful applicant moves to another school, the program usually moves with the teacher. However, in team situations, leaving it with the school will be considered.
- French immersion schools are welcome to apply but please note that programming is in English.
- Cost is \$500 per week and includes all busing to and from school to The Rooms, teacher and student journals, and other costs associated with the program.
- Deadline for applications is May 9, 2025. You will be notified by e-mail when your application and proposal have been received.
- Teachers will be notified regarding acceptance into the program by June 20, 2025.

Proposals are selected on the following basis

1. Demonstration of congruency with the philosophy of the Open Minds Education Concept;
<https://www.therooms.ca/programs-events/for-schools-youth/chevron-open-minds>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVzHnnEt7P4>
<http://www.chevron.ca/community/education-partnerships>
2. Proportional distribution of grade levels and schools
3. Adherence to the above guidelines and dates

**Anna Dunne-Hussey, Chevron Open Minds Education Coordinator,
709-757-8069, annadunnehussey@therooms.ca**





Chevron Open Minds at The Rooms
Program Application Form
2025-2026

Send this completed form, along with your 1 to 2 page proposal, by May 9, 2025 via email, fax or regular mail to: The Rooms

Attn: Anna Dunne-Hussey
P.O Box 1800, Stn. C
St. John's, NL A1C 5P9
F: 709-757-8017
T: 709-757-8069
annadunnehussey@therooms.ca

Teacher name(s): _____

School: _____ Principal: _____

School phone: _____ School fax: _____ Home/cell phone: _____

School address: _____ Postal code: _____

Email address: _____

Is this application for one class or multiple classes? one class multiple classes _____
(# of classes)

Grade level: _____ Approximate number of students (maximum 30 per week): _____

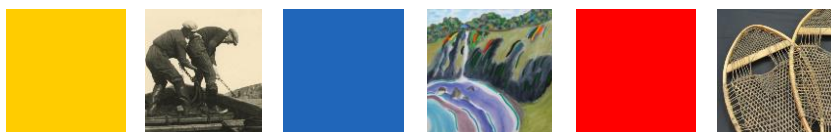
Time of year preferred: _____

How did you find out about the Chevron Open Minds at The Rooms program? _____

Has this class previously participated in the Chevron Open Minds at The Rooms program? ____

IMPORTANT: Attach to this form a 1-2 page proposal describing your plan for a cross-curricular study that uses the week at The Rooms as a focus. Please see provided proposal guidelines.

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Proposal Guidelines for Teachers

Below are suggested components to include in your 1 to 2 page *Chevron Open Minds at The Rooms* proposal. Your proposal needs to contain a description of an extended study that uses the week at The Rooms as a catalyst for your theme. It is understood that this is only a preliminary plan that may change as you begin working with your students.

The BIG IDEA

To guide your planning, think about an over-riding theme for your cross-curricular study. This may be expressed as a statement (*e.g.* Our Heritage, Explorations, Cultural Diversity) or as a guiding question (*e.g.* How do we form an identity? What do we treasure? How has our province changed?).

Curriculum Connections

Outline how your BIG IDEA works with the curriculum. This may be done as concept web with the BIG IDEA in the middle and the various curriculum links connected to it or as a written description.

Year-Long Plan

Your plan helps us to understand how a week at The Rooms will facilitate your classroom teaching. The concept web or description might include components such as novel studies, field trips, art programs, science activities or research projects.

A major part of the work begins well before your arrival to The Rooms through helping your students hone their drawing, descriptive writing and object interpretation skills.

Please note that you do not have to give a detailed account of what your week at The Rooms will look like, however, you should give us an idea of what your interests are in order to assist with program development. For a listing of possible offerings, please check out the *What Does Chevron Open Minds at The Rooms Offer?* on the next page.

Please include what culminating activities you might do after your return to school. These might include a school museum, a community service project, a drama production or simply a program sharing session with the rest of the school. Note that your proposal is tentative and we are open to changes to your customized program.

Additional Information

In this section you may include anything else you feel would support your proposal. You may want to include specific information about your school, how you feel this would benefit your students, and why you want to participate in the *Chevron Open Minds at The Rooms* program.

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What Does Chevron Open Minds at The Rooms Offer?

Chevron Open Minds Education Coordinator

The coordinator will support you throughout the planning stages. Once at The Rooms, the coordinator can also lead sessions to develop critical viewing and interpretive skills and supply you with hands-on objects and other resources.

Meet Our Experts

During their Open Minds experience students can meet staff members of The Rooms such as collections managers, archaeologists, artists, and conservators as they explore the various exhibitions, vaults, and laboratories at The Rooms.

Additional Resource People

Depending on the theme of your program, resource people and experts from within the community can be brought in to facilitate your students.

Education Programs

Teachers may want to choose components of the various education programs that are offered by The Rooms. These workshops can be good starting points to a more in-depth study of a particular topic. For a full listing of currently offered education programs at The Rooms visit <https://www.therooms.ca/schools>

Exhibitions

A wide range of Archives, Art Gallery and Museum exhibitions are available for your class to explore and study during their week on site. For more information on The Rooms temporary and permanent exhibitions, visit our website at www.therooms.ca

Collection Storage Vaults

Everyone loves going behind the scenes! Open Minds participants are given the rare opportunity to visit our vast collections in the vault and lab to see how artifacts are stored and cared for.

Open Minds Classroom

Students re-locate from their classroom at school to their bright and inspiring classroom at The Rooms located in our beautiful atrium. The classroom is a place for teachers to engage students in discussions, various hands-on projects and sharing sessions related to the theme of their program.

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