

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(updated 7-7-23)

How long will Real Bodies The Exhibition be at Sloan Museum of Discovery?

July 7, 2023-January 14, 2024.

What are the hours of the exhibition?

Tuesday-Saturday 10:15 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 12:15-5 p.m.; entry for Real Bodies is timed for every 15 minutes to keep the # of people in the exhibit at a maximum capacity of 182 at a time.

What is the appropriate age level for the Real Bodies exhibition?

We recommend the exhibit for 12+, although we are not restricting the exhibit to younger children. Parents and Guardians who have younger children who are more mature, science-minded or very curious may find that their children will enjoy the learning.

Where is the exhibition?

Fun Gallery exhibition hall, opening July 7. Real Bodies is the first special traveling exhibit Sloan Museum of Discovery.

What are the ticket prices for the exhibit and where can patrons buy them?

Online at www.SloanLongway.org/Real-Bodies or call (810) 237-3450. For group reservations, email: Reservations@SloanLongway.org or call (810) 237-3409. The Real Bodies exhibition ticket will include admission to the entire Sloan Museum of Discovery, including the Discovery Hall hands-on science gallery, the Discovery Lab maker's space, Hagerman Street Early Childhood Learning gallery, the History Gallery, and the Durant Gallery historical vehicle exhibition hall. **Patrons cannot buy a ticket for the Real Bodies exhibit alone.** There will be a guest services staff member selling tickets outside of the exhibit for people who decide to go in last-minute while at the museum. **Below are the prices for Real Bodies tickets. Entry will be at :15 minutes after and :45 minutes after, with 91 people allowed to enter each half hour:**

Tickets	Sloan General Admission	Exhibit Charge	Total Ticket Prices
Adults	\$ 14.00	\$ 8.00	\$22.00
Children (2-12)	\$ 9.00	\$ 6.00	\$15.00
Seniors	\$ 11.00	\$ 7.00	\$18.00
College Student with ID	\$ 11.00	\$ 7.00	\$18.00
Members	\$ -	\$ 5.00	\$5.00
Genesee County-Adult	\$ -	\$ 8.00	\$8.00
Genesee County-Child	\$ -	\$ 6.00	\$6.00
Genesee County-Senior	\$ -	\$ 7.00	\$7.00

School & community groups over 20 need to reserve space by calling our Reservationist at (810) 237-3409.

Who is the presenting sponsor of Real Bodies The Exhibition at Sloan Museum of Discovery?

Hurley Medical Center is the presenting sponsor.

What types of things can be viewed at Real Bodies The Exhibition?

Real Bodies The Exhibition uses real human specimens that have been respectfully preserved to explore the complex inner workings of the human form in a refreshing and thought-provoking style. System by system, the exhibition provides an approachable and fascinating insight into what's happening inside every one of us. The exhibition also explores how elements such as breathing, hunger, the rhythm of the heart, and other essential body functions have deep cultural and emotional significance that reach as far back as the dawn of humanity.

How long does it take to see the exhibition?

While everyone's experience in the exhibition may be different, on average the highly immersive exhibition takes between 45 and 60 minutes to explore. However, all guests are welcome to stay and be fascinated by the thought-provoking galleries as long as they like.

Is the exhibition wheelchair/disability accessible?

Yes.

Is photography permitted in the exhibition?

Yes, you can take photos.

Are food and drinks permitted in the exhibition?

No.

Can I enter and exit the exhibition more than once with my ticket?

No. Patrons can only use the ticket for the day and time selected. Once a patron leaves the gallery, they cannot go back in. This is due to capacity issues set by the fire marshal. **After exiting the exhibit, patrons are welcome to explore the rest of Sloan Museum as General Admission is included in the cost of the Real Bodies ticket.**

Can I exchange my tickets for another date/ time?

Yes, as long as the exchange is made BEFORE the date and time the patron is to enter Real Bodies. After the entrance time passes, no refunds.

Are group or school bookings available?

Yes, groups and field trip bookings may be made by calling (810) 237-3409, or Reservations@SloanLongway.org

What makes REAL BODIES: The Exhibition different from other exhibitions?

REAL BODIES: The Exhibition is a comprehensive educational experience with multi-layered narratives and unique individual specimens presented in dramatic, compelling environments. While a similar exhibit was seen in the past at the Detroit Science Center, this is the first time this international exhibit has ever been available for Mid-Michigan residents.

The full body specimens are presented in more dynamic poses with superior dissection and detail than similar exhibitions. The exhibition also includes immersive environments of art, science and culture such as the Anatomist's Study, similar to walking through a cabinet of curiosities that includes unique and sometimes strange examples of the early days of anatomical study. **REAL BODIES: The Exhibition** explores much more than just the human anatomical systems and the way we work. It is not only an in-depth look at the "how" of human anatomy, but also an exploration of "why," posing deeper questions in each gallery such as "Why are we here?" "Where are we going?" and "What becomes of us?"

How are the bodies preserved?

The process used by **REAL BODIES The Exhibition** is commonly used in this type of preservation. The method is called Polymer Preservation and uses liquid silicone rubber to prevent the natural body process of decaying – ultimately permanently preserving the body. The experts that preserve the displays at the exhibition are the best in the business, allowing for nearly perfect preservation. The process can take up to a year, depending on the size of the organ or size of the overall body.

What do we hope audiences of REAL BODIES: The Exhibition will take away from their experience at this new exhibition?

We want visitors to have a positive experience, while learning more about themselves through the study of the human form presented in this approachable and thoughtful way. We hope they come away with an uplifting sense of how resilient, creative, and hopeful humanity has been through time – and continues to be today. **REAL BODIES: The Exhibition** offers a message of unity in a time the world can use it most.

Where have the bodies in the exhibition come from?

The specimens in **REAL BODIES: The Exhibition** are provided by Dalian Hoffen Bio-Technique Co. Ltd, one of the world's leading centers of plastination research and innovation. The specimens are all unclaimed bodies that have been donated by the relevant authorities to medical universities in China. The specimens featured in the exhibition were donated legally, were never prisoners of any kind, showed no signs of trauma or injury, were free of infectious disease, and died of natural causes.

What is an unclaimed body?

An unclaimed body is an individual that has passed away whom no next of kin have come forward to claim, or cannot be found within a period of time set by the relevant authorities.

What is the process to determine if a body is unclaimed?

The exact process varies from province to province, but for example, if a person passes away in a place other than a hospital, the police may make local enquiries at the scene of the discovery of the body and with persons in the vicinity who may know or have knowledge of the deceased, to ascertain as far as possible the details surrounding the death and the contact details of the family members. Searches will also be made in the police computer databases, if necessary, to see if he/she is wanted or has been reported missing. If the body is still unclaimed after a set period however, the coroner will designate the body as unclaimed, and the mortuary will inform the relevant government department to remove the dead body for cremation or donation to medical universities.

What is the timeframe a body is held before it is determined to be unclaimed in China?

Although timeframes can vary from province to province in China, the average timeframe is approximately 30 days.

Is there a waiting period before an unclaimed body is donated for teaching and research?

Waiting periods vary by province, mortuary availability and the needs of the education and research facilities. The legal minimum is 3 months.

Who decides what criteria determine which bodies are used for teaching and research?

The coroner for the relevant local authority where the body is discovered.

In the absence of physical injury, under what circumstances would the death of a person be unclaimed and unidentified?

There could be many causes of death, for example a non-infectious disease such as cancer. A person's body could be unclaimed for many reasons, for example the deceased had no identification at the time of his or her death, or no next of kin can be found to claim the body.

What process was used to determine the cause of death?

The coroner for the relevant local authority where the body is discovered determines the cause of death.

Do bodies need to be plastinated within a certain time frame (e.g. within 48 hours)?

The polymer preservation, or plastination, process could be 10 days or 100 years after death, as long as the body has been preserved. Contrary to some reports, the plastination process does not need to begin within 24-48 hours after death.

Is China the only country that utilises unclaimed bodies for research and education purposes?

No. Many countries allow unclaimed bodies to be donated for research and education purposes including South Africa, Brazil, India and some states of the USA, for example the state of Maryland.

Has Real Bodies The Exhibition ever been banned?

No. **Real Bodies The Exhibition** has never been banned, nor has it ever been found to violate ethical or legal standards in any of the countries it has visited.

Who produces Real Bodies The Exhibition?

Imagine Exhibitions, based out of Atlanta, Georgia, produces Real Bodies The Exhibition. They are currently producing over 35 unique exhibitions in museums, science centres, aquariums, integrated resorts, and non-traditional venues worldwide. In addition to developing successful traveling exhibitions, Imagine Exhibitions designs, opens, and operates permanent installations and venues, and consults on building, expanding, and directing museums and attractions. With over 25 years of diverse experience in the museum and entertainment industries, Imagine Exhibitions consistently develops exhibitions that educate and excite while exceeding attendance goals. For more information, visit www.ImagineExhibitions.com or find them on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ImagineExhibitions).

Questions?

Email: Sloan@SloanLongway.org if you have additional questions about the REAL BODIES exhibit.