

UNDERSTANDING AND BUILDING OUR WORLD AND OUR STORIES TOGETHER

At the McCord Stewart Museum, we use objects, stories, and shared experiences to help our visitors better understand the world around them, no matter their age or background. With our participatory approach and civic perspective, we prioritize observation, questions, and dialogue in our activities.

COSTUMES TELL THEIR STORIES

PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP AT THE MUSEUM

Duration: 60 minutes

Target audiences: Secondary Cycle 2 – CEGEP – university – adult – senior

Target learning areas: Social studies – personal development – ethics and religious culture – history and civilizations – humanities – art history – sociology – philosophy – literature – art and literature

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

As part of the [Costume Balls – Dressing up History, 1870–1927](#) exhibition, participants rely on the historical method to interpret the sociohistorical context of the costumes worn at balls from the Museum's [Dress, Fashion and Textiles](#) collection using textual and photographic archives. Exploring the appeal of disguise as a means of expressing oneself and one's creativity today and yesterday, they'll gain awareness and discuss these issues:

- Societal norms and the transgressions costumes permit and prohibit
- Imperialism and specifically cultural appropriation in the personification of Other
- Interpretation of history

STRATEGIES

Observation – comparison – discussion – consideration – analysis

SKILLS DEVELOPED

Critical thinking – Interpreting social realities using the historical method