

Falls of the Ohio Interpretive Center Rotunda

At the Crossroads of Water, Land, Time, and Life



This view of the Rotunda shows the four blown glass sculptures suspended from the ceiling, the mammoth's location in front of the auditorium, a mobile interpretive panel of the Falls mural, and cycloramic banners stating the four exhibit themes:

- An Ancient Sea
- A Changing Land
- Converging Cultures
- The Falls Today



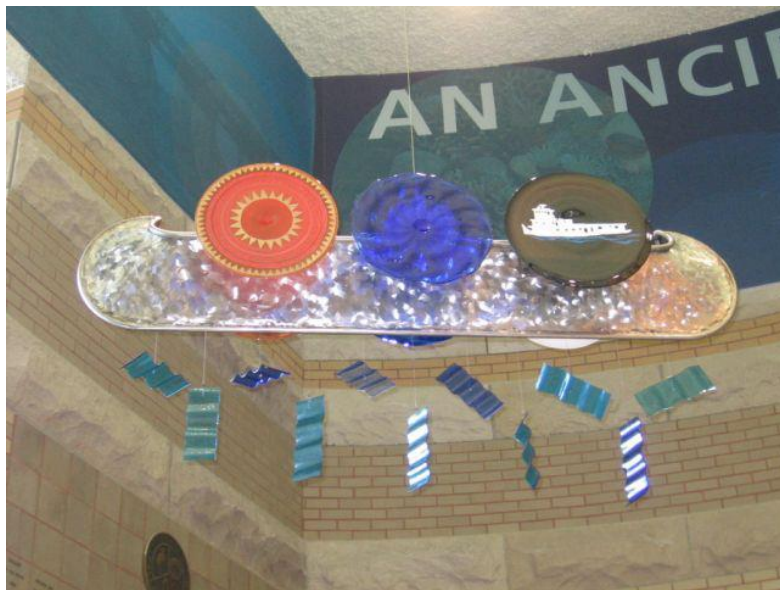
“An Ancient Sea”

“An Ancient Sea” is depicted by this delicately balanced glass sculpture creating the illusion of fossils floating in the ancient sea. Nine fossils etched in glass platters and backlit in blue and amber hang from the three glass waves on metal rods. These fossils can be seen outside in the exposed Devonian fossil bed today: cephalopod, trilobite, crinoid, brachiopod, bryozoan, horn coral, wasp nest coral, branching coral, and pipe organ coral.



“A Changing Land”

“A Changing Land” is represented by the progression of time on glass platters attached to an aluminum branch (tree) of life. Images reflected move from the barren earth, to mammoth tracks on snow, bison hoof prints on grass, the emergence of human foot prints, and the dawning of a lush landscape with colorful flowers.



“Converging Cultures”

“Converging Cultures” is symbolized by a common mode of river transportation for both past and present cultures – the canoe. On both sides of the canoe, carved in red and yellow glass are sun circle designs of the Mississippian Period’s prehistoric native people who lived along the Ohio River hundreds of years ago. Modern culture is portrayed in black and white glass with illustrations of a towboat and city skyline. Blue glass conveys the connecting theme of water.



“The Falls Today”

“The Falls Today” is illuminated by the falling water chandelier centerpiece of multi-colored blue water drops, cascading downward. The arc of time with sun, moon, and stars stretches across the centerpiece. The sun’s power is manifested in tri-colored glass rays bursting outward with energy. The moon is composed of glass platters characterizing a gray, rocky landscape.