

CARD RUSH MUSEUM

The Charter

The governing document of the Museum · Second Issue, 2026

***Card Rush Museum preserves witnessed autographs
and the stories that produced them.***

How This Began

This did not begin as a museum. For a long time the working assumption was that we were building a sports card business. The Museum identity emerged on its own — as preservation, cataloguing, provenance, documentation, storytelling, and recognition accumulated, it became clear we were behaving more like a museum than a store. We stopped resisting it.

Who We Are

We are a family — a father and two sons — who go to games, meet players in the tunnel, and get cards signed in front of our own eyes. We keep the evidence. We encapsulate the artifact, document the encounter, and publish the record. The Museum is that record.

We are being built in public. Museum Library is a diary, not a monument: it shows the collection growing, the institution forming, and the work as it actually happens, including the parts that are unfinished. That is the point, not an apology.

What We Preserve

Artifacts, in their own voice — what they are, who signed them, when, where, and who watched.

Provenance where the card itself is on camera through the signing. Presence where the encounter is documented and witnessed firsthand. Provenance, not rarity, is what distinguishes this collection. Many people can own a signed card. Far fewer can show the signing, the witness, the encounter, and the story together.

The card is not the hero. The story is. A card may be valuable; the story is what makes it an artifact. We preserve both, and we do not claim what we cannot show.

How the Museum Remembers

The Museum preserves the histories of objects. It also preserves the histories of people. The Museum Passport is that parallel record — a provenance record for a person, held to the same standard as an artifact record: factual, dated, and worth reading in ten years.

Credentials and medallions are commemoration, not reward. They mark what happened. The Museum remembers participation, contribution, and stewardship.

What the Museum has remembered, it does not forget. Records do not lapse, expire, or decay through inactivity. A person who steps away for years returns to a record that is intact.

Who Belongs Here

Anyone who walks in. The public Museum and Museum Library are open, free, and always will be.

Those who register hold a Museum Passport, which records their history with us.

Those who materially support the Museum's work — through contribution, participation, or stewardship — may be recognized as Patrons. Patron status is conferred by the Museum. It cannot be purchased.

What We Owe

Honesty about what we are: a small family business that sells artifacts and keeps a public record. We are not a nonprofit and do not claim to be.

Our intention is that once the Museum covers its costs, profit we do not reinvest goes to charitable causes in our community — and when that happens, we will say what we gave and to whom, after the fact, never before.

What Success Means Here

Not more content, more followers, more discounts, or more transactions. Success is more credible artifacts, stronger provenance, more documented stories, greater institutional trust, and a growing public record.

The Museum is built for continuity rather than volume. Decisions that look inefficient in a season are meant to hold up over a decade.

Preserving artifacts. Preserving stories.

Standing Decisions

These are settled. They are not reopened without cause.

The Institution

- The Museum and Museum Library are free to everyone, permanently.
- There is no paid membership tier.
- Three states of participation: Visitor, Passport Holder, Patron. There is no “Member.”
- Patron is conferred, never sold, never applied for, with no published threshold.
- Recognition is always announced after the fact — “recognized for,” never “do this and you will become.”

The Record

- The Passport is a provenance record for a person, in the same way an artifact record is for an object.
- A Passport entry must be factual, dated, and still worth reading in ten years.
- No points, levels, streaks, progress bars, or activity counts. Ever.
- Credentials are the digital marks in the Cabinet. Medallions are physical and commemorate a moment — a founding year, an exhibit, a first — not a rank.
- Records never lapse, expire, or decay. There is no inactive status and no benefit that quietly disappears.
- The record must outlive the software. A human-readable archive of the Passport ledger, artifact records, and Museum Library is exported and kept outside the running application.

Commerce and Charity

- No discounts. Access — being first — is the benefit collectors actually value.
- Charitable giving is stated only retrospectively, naming the gift and the recipient after it is made.
- No “supports charity” language appears anywhere until a documented gift exists.

The Library

- Museum Library is the correct name — not “The Library,” not “the Museum’s Library.”
- Museum Diaries, Book One: Chapter 1 Italian Collection (closed); Chapter 2 Building the Museum (finite, about ten episodes); Chapter 3 Tales From the Tunnel (ongoing).
- Museum Field Notes, Book Two: Chapter 1 Tunnel Magic, the raw field record captured close to the moment.
- Each chapter holds its colorway permanently, so a card is identifiable at a glance.
- Participation: Visitor, Passport Holder, Patron. There is no “Member.”

The Five Tests

Apply these to any proposal — a feature, an episode, a benefit, a piece of copy. If it fails one, it does not ship.

1. The Provenance Test

Is it true, and can we show it? Nothing is claimed that the Museum cannot evidence. No invented records, no staged footage, no implied authority we do not hold.

2. The Trust Test

Does this make the next artifact more credible? Museum Library is a trust engine, not an archive for its own sake. An episode that entertains but does not build trust in what we preserve has not earned its place.

3. The Ten-Year Test

Would this still be worth reading, holding, or looking at in ten years? This is the test that separates a Passport entry from a page view, and an episode from a post.

4. The Sunday Test

Can it run without me? Every promise made is recurring work for one person who already has a full-time job. If it cannot be automated or hard-capped, it is not promised.

5. The Institution Test

Would a museum do this? Not a store wearing museum language — an institution. If the honest answer is that only a retailer would do it, the Museum does not.

The Museum is still being built.