

A close-up photograph of a camera lens, showing the intricate details of the glass elements and the metal housing. The lens is positioned on the left side of the frame, with the background filled with a soft, out-of-focus bokeh of purple and blue lights. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the lens, containing the text "CREATING AN EXHIBIT".

CREATING AN EXHIBIT



WHAT IS AN EXHIBIT?

- Exhibits are curated digital showcases combining images, text, audio, video, and other uploaded items into coherent narrative for people to browse. They tend to connect to the overarching themes of the site, contextualizing items with complementary narratives.
- When building exhibits, it is important to remember that items cannot be created spontaneously in Omeka, but thought must be given to site structure from the outset. You have started to create the items, started to sort them into collections, and finally you will now exhibit them, perhaps pulling from multiple collections for one exhibit.

OMEKA PROJECTS (A SAMPLE)

- The following is a list of well-known digital humanities projects that use Omeka Classic.
- [September 11 Digital Archive](#). Sheila Brennan, Sharon Leon, and the [Project Team](#)
- [Hurricane Digital Memory Bank](#). Sheila Brennan and the [Project Team](#)
- [Colored Conventions: Bringing Nineteenth Century Black Organizing to Digital Life](#). P. Gabrielle Foreman and Jim Casey
- [Last Seen: Finding Family After Slavery](#). Judy Giesberg and Jesse Nasta.
- [Baltimore 68: Riots and Rebirth](#). Langsdale Library Special Collections
- [Histories of the National Mall](#). Sharon Leon, Sheila Brennan, and the [Project Team](#)
- [Bracero History Archive](#). Sharon Leon, Tom Scheinfeldt, and the [Project Team](#)
- [Preserve the Baltimore Uprising 2015 Archive Project](#). Denise Meringolo and Joe Tropea
- [Fifteenth-Century Italian Art \(Nicole Riesenberger\)](#)
- [Goin' North](#)
- [Ice Age Flood Explorer \(Chad Pritchard, Larry Cebula, and Paul Lindholdt\)](#)
- [James Monroe Papers \(Alexandra deGraffenreid, Seth Mintzer, MacKenzie Murphy, Chris Wright\)](#)
- [Fredericksburg: City of Hospitals \(Jeffrey McClurken\)](#)

OMEKA'S INTERNAL LOGIC



Everything is organized into ***collections***. Collections are composed of related ***items***. Collections/items hierarchy is the base organization. Collections have their own descriptive metadata.



Exhibits are a way for you to showcase or contextualize items and pair them with text, timelines, etc. to tell a particular story.



Tags: Omeka allows you to add tags to items and collections. You can then browse by tags or search them. This is one way of mapping your own organization onto your content.



Simple Pages: Simple Pages allows you to create pages without digital objects (items).

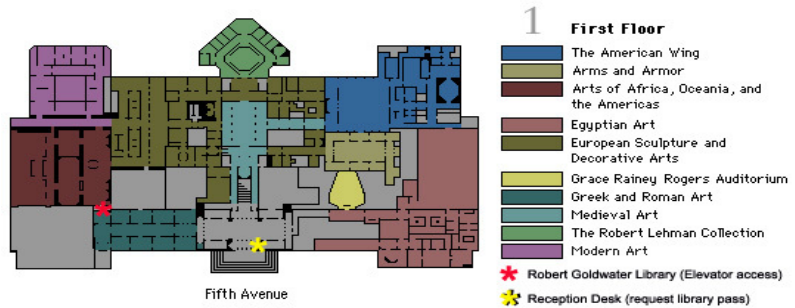
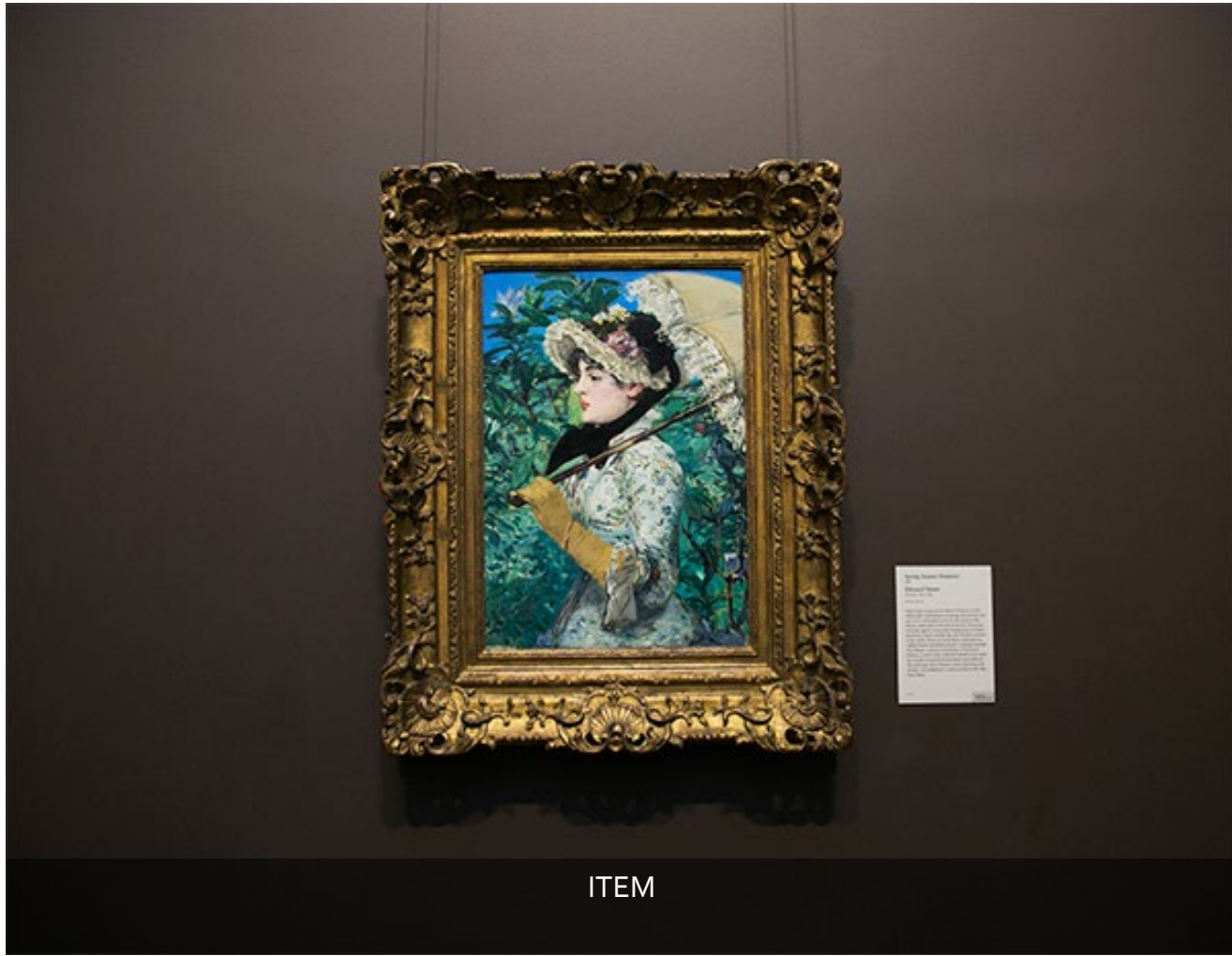
START TO THINK ABOUT ORGANIZING YOUR OWN CONTENT

Omeka's internal organization maps closely to a physical museum's organization.

Think of an **item** as a painting on the wall of a museum. Note that the item has accompanying metadata (information about its provenance and descriptive details).

The museum may organize items into permanent **collections** based on shared characteristics or donors.

Items from multiple collections may be combined and contextualized in an **exhibit**. Often, text accompanies the items and tells a story. Just as exhibits are temporary in museums, exhibits are unique to Omeka. You can export items and collections from Omeka, but you cannot export exhibits.



EXHIBITION | EXHIBIT



PREPARATION

Prior to starting an exhibit, you will need to have two things accomplished:

1. Outline of exhibit, including text and image/files needed for display
2. Load digital files into Omeka.

Omeka Classic Plugins Appearance Users Settings Welcome, Super User Log Out

Dashboard [Search] [More]

10 **0** **0** **4** **1** **Thanks, Roy** **0**
items collections tags plugins user theme exhibits

Recent Items

By the Seashore	Edit
A Bar at the Folies-Bergère	Edit
Paris Street; Rainy Day	Edit
The Railway	Edit
The Cradle	Edit
Add a new item	

Recent Collections

[Add a new collection](#)

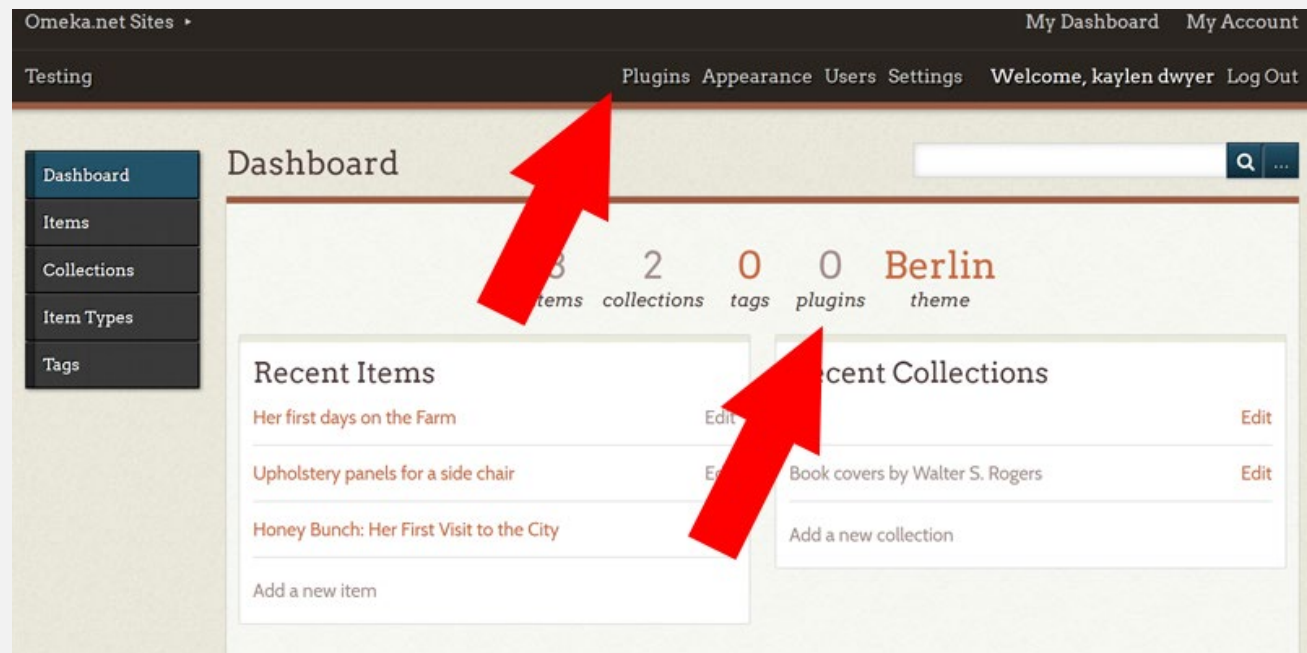
Powered by Omeka | [Documentation](#) | [Support Forums](#) Version 2.6.1 | [System Information](#)

NAVIGATE TO YOUR OMEKA DASHBOARD

ADD THE EXHIBIT BUILDER PLUGIN

To build an exhibit, you must first install the Exhibit Builder Plugin.

Access plugins from your dashboard either from the top menu or from the main dashboard menu on the home screen.



INSTALL THE EXHIBIT BUILDER PLUGIN FROM THE LIST OF PLUGINS.

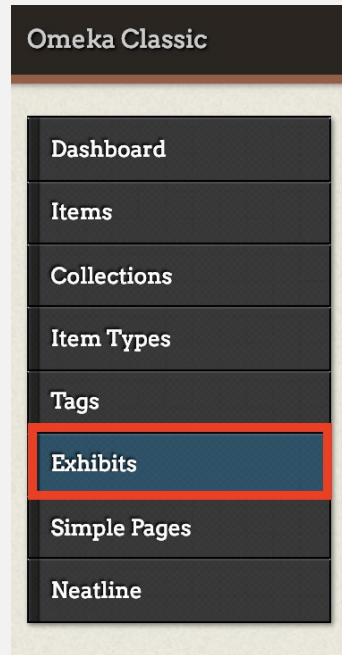
The screenshot shows the Omeka admin interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Testing', 'Plugins', 'Appearance', 'Users', 'Settings', 'Welcome, kaylen dwyer', and 'Log Out'. On the left, a sidebar menu contains 'Dashboard', 'Items', 'Collections', 'Item Types', and 'Tags'. The main content area is titled 'Plugins (9 total)' and features a search bar. Below the search bar, there is a list of five plugins, each with an 'Install' button. A large red arrow points to the 'Install' button for the 'Exhibit Builder' plugin.

Plugin Name	Version	Developer	Description	Action
COinS	2.0.3	Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media	Adds COinS metadata to item pages, making them Zotero readable.	Install
CSV Import	2.0.4	Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media	Imports items, tags, and files from CSV files.	Install
Exhibit Builder	3.4.1	Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media	Build rich exhibits using Omeka.	Install
LC Suggest	2.0.2	Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media	Enable an autosuggest feature for Omeka elements using the Library of Congress Authorities and Vocabularies service: http://id.loc.gov	Install
Locale	1.0	Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media	Configure language for your Omeka site.	Install

After installing the plugin, you may choose whether users will browse the exhibits by date added, alphabetically by name, or by most recent.



Click the exhibits tab in the left-hand navigation bar.



Then click the “add an exhibit” button.



Add Exhibit

Exhibits > Add Exhibit

Exhibit Metadata

Title

Slug No spaces or special characters allowed

Public: Featured:

- Fill out the metadata fields to describe your exhibit.
 - Choose a Title for your exhibit and a short memorable 'slug' that will appear in the URL address for the exhibit. You can input information about the credits and provide a short description about the exhibition to aid potential users – a short, catchy abstract if you wish.
- Uncheck the "Use Summary Page?" box to make the top Exhibit Page the first page in your exhibit



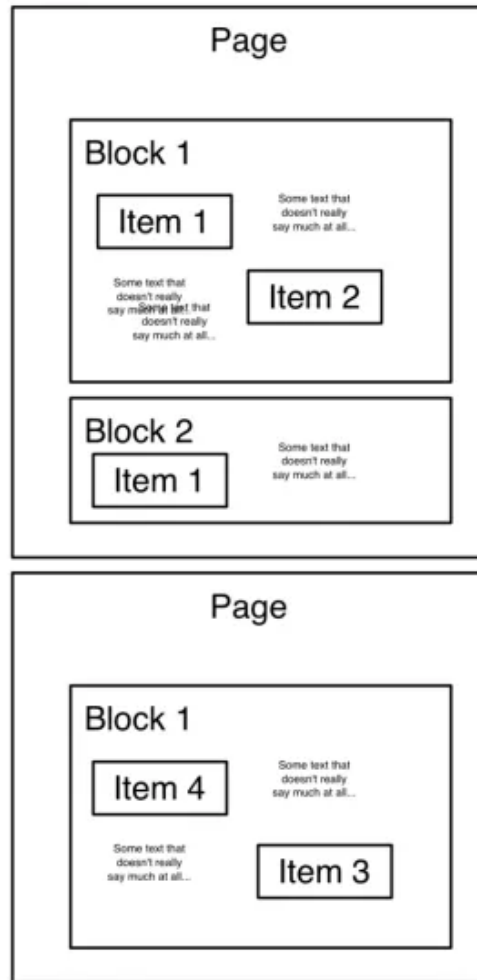
Choose the Edit link from below the Exhibit title and scroll to the bottom of the project metadata page. You will see a button inviting you to '**Add Page**'. **Go ahead – press it.**

Pages

There are no pages.

Add Page

Exhibit



- Note: Exhibits are composed of individual pages which are themselves composed of a series of blocks each of which can contain items drawn from Omeka as well as text and captions that you create to narrate your exhibit.
- This schematic illustrates this hierarchy.
- You will now see a Page Builder screen.

Add Page

Exhibits > The McAteers of Guelph > Add Page

Page Title

Save Changes

Page Slug

No spaces or special characters allowed

Save and Add Another Page

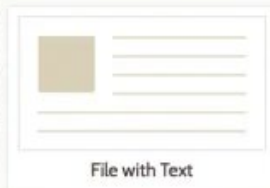
Content

[Expand All](#) | [Collapse All](#)

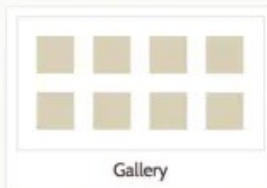
To reorder blocks and items, click and drag them to the preferred location.

New Block

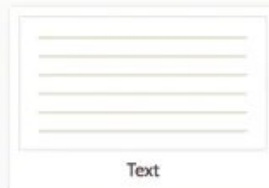
Select layout



File with Text



Gallery



Text



File

- Each exhibit needs to have pages filled with the content for that exhibit.
- Pages are composed of blocks of text and items. Give your page a title (which will be used for navigation) and a slug for use in the URL. I like to start off with an introduction.
- To begin creating content we choose a layout for the first block.

To begin creating content we choose a layout for the first block. Let's kick off by choosing a 'File with Text'.

Choose one of the following content blocks to populate your exhibit's page:

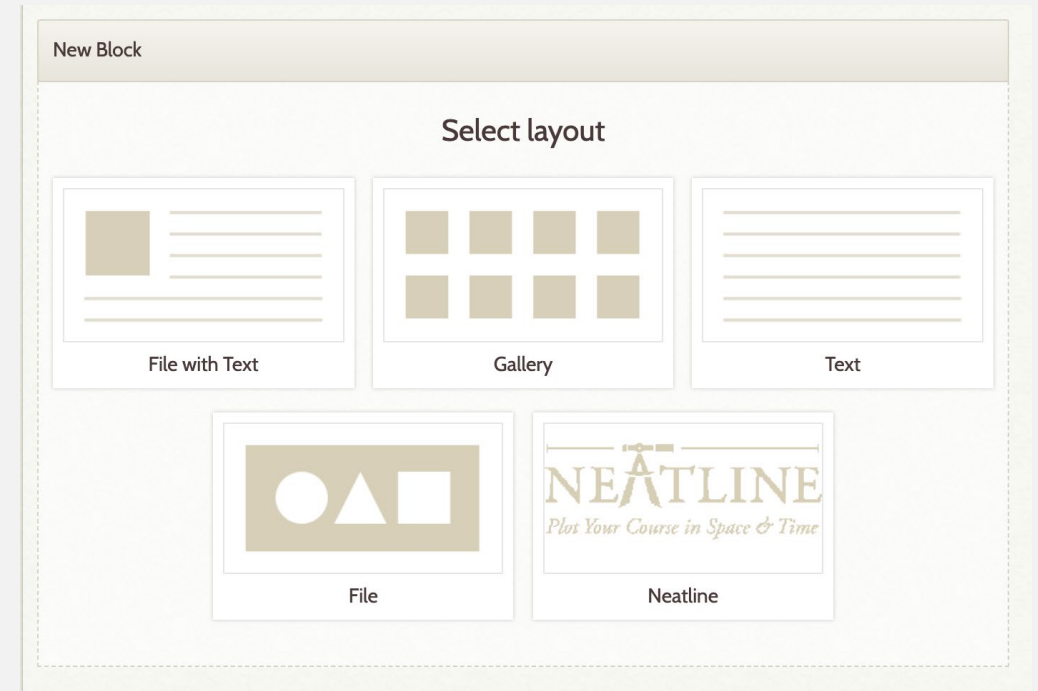
* file with text,

* gallery,

* text,

* file,

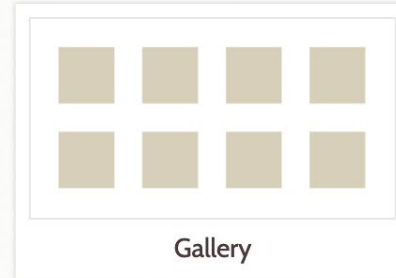
* Neatline (don't worry about this function yet).



Select layout



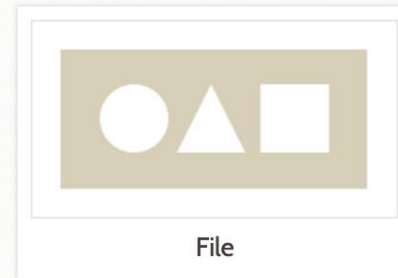
File with Text



Gallery



Text



File



Neatline

Default layout features files justified to left or right with text displaying to the opposite side

Add new content block

CONTINUE BY SELECTING
'ADD NEW BLOCK' BENEATH
THIS SECTION.

The screenshot shows a web-based content management system interface. On the left is a vertical sidebar with menu items: Dashboard, Items, Collections, Item Types, Tags, CSV Import, and Exhibits. The main area is titled 'Content' and includes a sub-header 'Expand All | Collapse All'. Below this is a instruction: 'To reorder blocks and items, click and drag them to the preferred location.' The main editing area is divided into sections: 'Block 1 (File with Text)' with a close button, an 'Items' section with a dashed box containing a plus sign and the text 'Add Item', a 'Text' section with a rich text editor toolbar (bold, italic, underline, bulleted list, numbered list, link, unlink, paragraph, etc.) and a text input area, and a 'Layout Options' section with a right-pointing arrow. At the bottom of the main area is a 'New Block' section. On the right side of the interface are two green buttons: 'Save Changes' and 'Save and Add Another Page'.








CLICKING THE 'ADD ITEM' WILL LET YOU SELECT FROM ALL OF THE ITEMS
IN YOUR COLLECTION.

CHOOSE AN IMAGE OF INTEREST.

- You will be presented with a list of the items in your install.
- Click the item you want to add to your exhibit page's content block and click "select item".

Attach an Item ✕

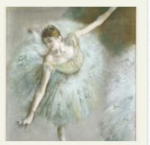
Show Search Form View All Items

-  Paris Street; Rainy Day
-  The Railway
-  The Cradle
-  Swaying Dancer (Dancer in Green) Select Item ▶
-  Walk on the Beach
-  Poppies
-  Impression, Sunrise

Attach an Item ✕

◀ Change Selected Item

Selected Item: Swaying Dancer (Dancer in Green)



dancer.jpg

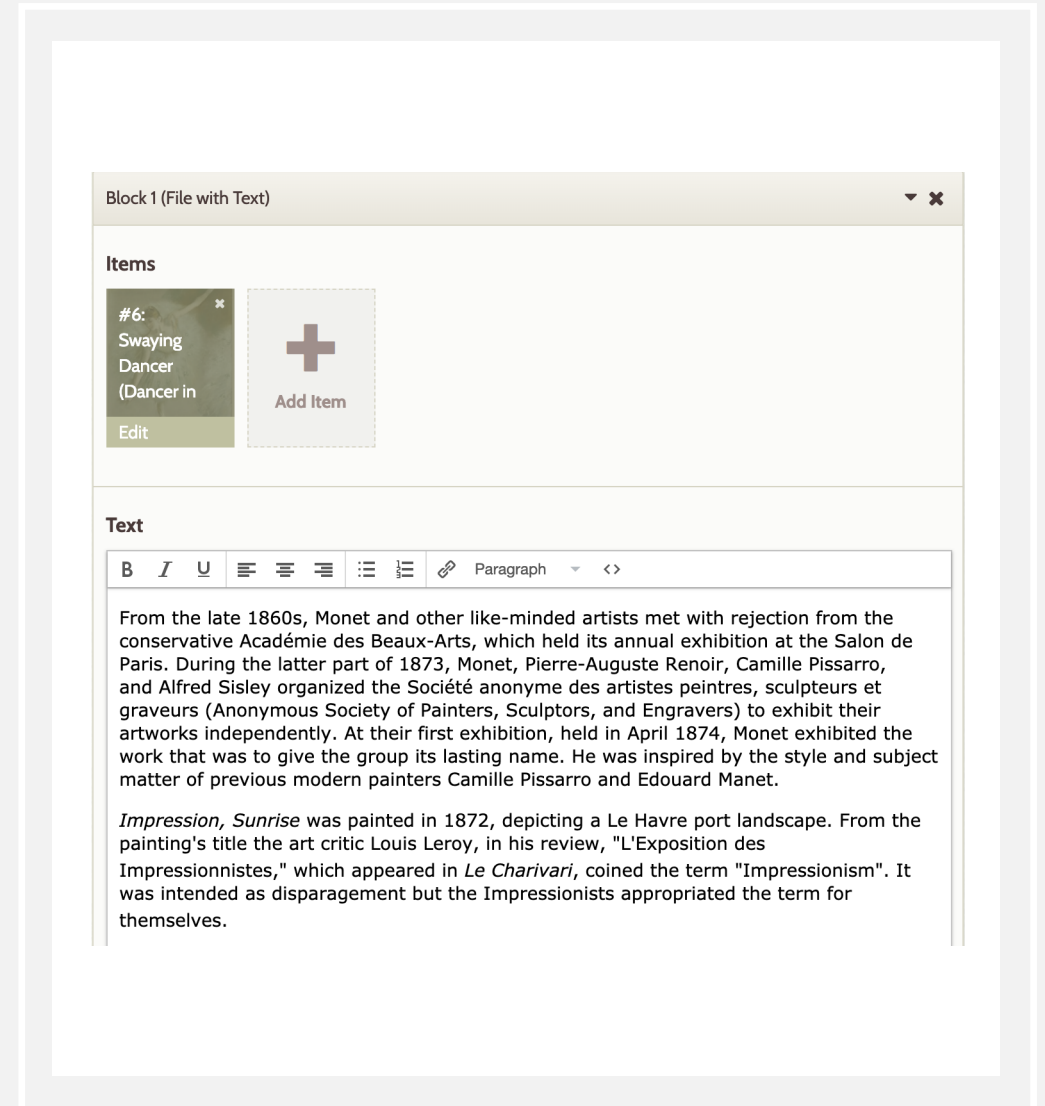
Provide a caption.

B *I* U [List Icons] [Link Icon] Paragraph <>

Apply

- Omeka then allows you to add a caption to the item you insert.
- Click “apply” when done.
- You can then add additional text that will be work with the item.

You can then add additional text that will be work with the item; this will be displayed on your exhibit page.



The screenshot shows a software interface for editing a content block. The window title is "Block 1 (File with Text)". It is divided into two main sections: "Items" and "Text".

Items Section: On the left, there is a preview of an item with the text "#6: Swaying Dancer (Dancer in" and an "Edit" button below it. To the right of the preview is a dashed box containing a plus sign and the text "Add Item", indicating a button to add a new item.

Text Section: Below the items section is a text editor. It features a toolbar with icons for bold (B), italic (I), underline (U), bulleted list, numbered list, link, and paragraph. The text area contains two paragraphs of text:

From the late 1860s, Monet and other like-minded artists met with rejection from the conservative Académie des Beaux-Arts, which held its annual exhibition at the Salon de Paris. During the latter part of 1873, Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Camille Pissarro, and Alfred Sisley organized the Société anonyme des artistes peintres, sculpteurs et graveurs (Anonymous Society of Painters, Sculptors, and Engravers) to exhibit their artworks independently. At their first exhibition, held in April 1874, Monet exhibited the work that was to give the group its lasting name. He was inspired by the style and subject matter of previous modern painters Camille Pissarro and Edouard Manet.

Impression, Sunrise was painted in 1872, depicting a Le Havre port landscape. From the painting's title the art critic Louis Leroy, in his review, "L'Exposition des Impressionnistes," which appeared in *Le Charivari*, coined the term "Impressionism". It was intended as disparagement but the Impressionists appropriated the term for themselves.

Layout Options ▼

File position

File size

Captions position

- You can also fine-tune the various layout objects you insert by choosing layout functions: including file position, file size, and captions position.
- This allows you to orient your images to the left, right or center and provide limited formatting.

- Final to the page construction you can add additional blocks containing additional items, text or combination of the two.
- Note: you can add plug-ins with functionality to Omeka that make additional blocks available for your pages.

The McAteers

Plugins Appearance Users Settings Welcome, Shawn Day Log Out

John McAteer was one such individual. Born in Co Antrim, he was a member of a continuous stream of humanity seeking better prospects in a new country. In 1878, he arrived in Guelph in 1878. The curator is grateful to the staff of the City of Guelph Museums and Archives and the University of Guelph for support, direction and a life-changing voyage of discovery and learning.

Layout Options

New Block

Select layout

File with Text Gallery Text File

Save Changes

Save and Add Another Page

View Public Page



Save Changes

Save and Add Another Page

- When you have finished the page construction, you **save the changes to your page**.
- You can also save the changes and immediately create another page. In this way, you can build your exhibit in sequence.
- Save the page and then choose to **View the Public Page** and preview the page you have created.
- You are able to edit or delete your exhibit on the exhibits page, which you can reach by clicking on the exhibits tab on your left-hand navigation bar.

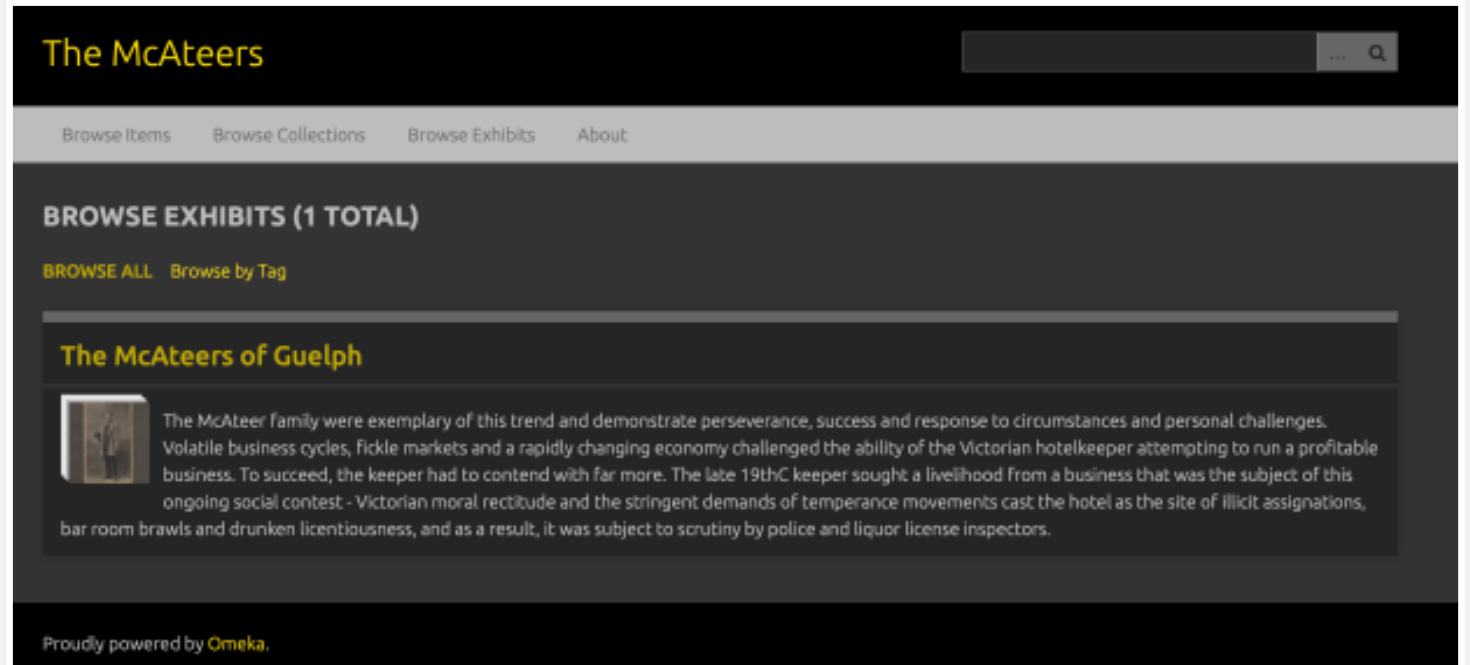
IF YOU WANT TO SWITCH THEMES

- Omeka allows you to change the look of your public-facing site by switching themes. To do this, click on **Appearance** (at the top right of your dashboard). Switch themes by selecting one of the options on the page. Press the green **Use this theme** button to activate your new theme. Then visit your public site by clicking on the name of your site at the top left of the page.

The screenshot shows the Omeka.net dashboard for a site named "Miriam's Omeka Test". At the top right, the "Appearance" menu item is circled in red. The main content area is titled "Appearance" and has three sub-tabs: "Themes", "Navigation", and "Settings". The "Themes" tab is active, displaying a preview of the "MINIMALIST" theme. Below the preview, there is a "Configure Theme" button. To the right of the theme preview, there is a "Current Theme" section that identifies the theme as "Minimalist" by the "Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media". It also includes the text "Clean lines, architectural." and a link to "Get support". At the bottom of the page, there are three small thumbnails showing other available themes: "Rhythm", "Berkeley", and "BERLIN".

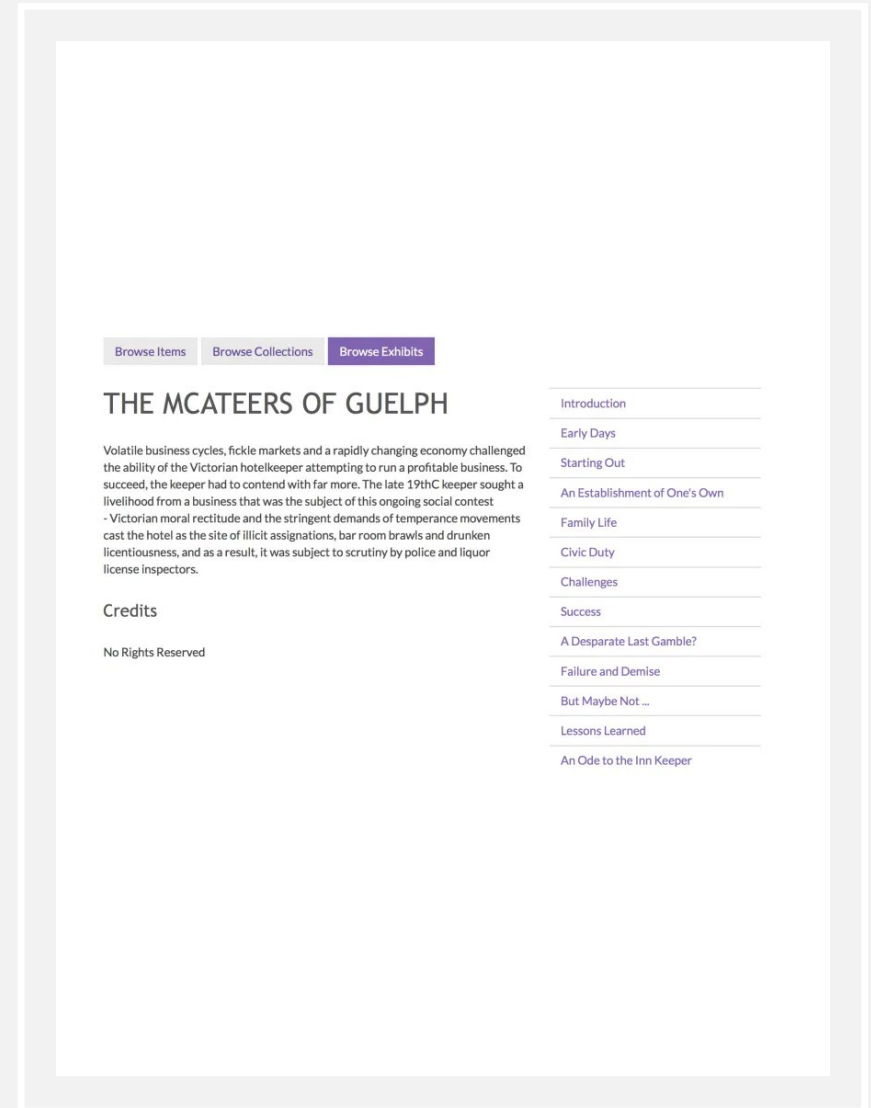
NAVIGATING EXHIBITS

- Now we have the beginnings of an exhibit. If you visit the home page of your Omeka site you will see that users can choose from browsing items, collections and now exhibits.



If a user chooses the first exhibit you have created they are taken to the home screen of that exhibit.

The single page is listed to the right and as we add pages to an exhibit they are automatically added to this right menu allowing for users to navigate to specific pages as you can see in this screen.



ADDING ADDITIONAL PAGES



- Return to our Admin Dashboard and note that we now also have 1 exhibit indicated as created.
- If you click on the digit for the “1 exhibit” you will get a list of exhibits for further editing.
- Click the Edit button under your exhibit and you can start to add all the pages you would like to have in your exhibit.
- From the Exhibit detail screen choose to add a new page after the single existing page. Title the page. Choose a useful ‘slug’ and then choose ‘**Save and Add Another Page**’. In a similar fashion, we can quickly add all of the pages that we will have in our exhibit. The complete list appears in the Text file we downloaded earlier which also contains useful text to populate the pages. Don’t enter the text yet, but do create a couple more pages. When you do so, you can choose to ‘View Public Page’. This allows you to see the exhibit as your users will.
- As you can see, a list of pages now appears down the side of the Exhibit display.

YOU HAVE A NEW EXHIBIT!