

# American Museum of Natural History Tell the Truth - Action Manual

## Background:

Three times so far, we have entered the museum of natural history and disrupted one of their most famous exhibits to highlight biodiversity loss and reveal the dirty secret of their fossil fueled funding. The museum hides its climate exhibit in the basement. We know why. It is because the banks that finance the fossil fuel industry with hundreds of billions of dollars fund the museum along with the Koch Brothers who fund climate deniers. Join us on Sunday, February 25th as we demand that the museum do its job, tell the truth and bring an uptodate, accurate climate exhibit into the main hall.

#### Message, know this:

WE ARE ASKING THE MUSEUM TO TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT CLIMATE BREAKDOWN, DO NOT HIDE IT! THE MUSEUMS CLIMATE EXHIBIT IS HIDDEN IN THE BASEMENT AND IS OUT OF DATE.

WE ARE FACING THE 6<sup>TH</sup> MASS EXTINCTION BECAUSE OF OUR DEPENDENCY ON FOSSIL FUELS. IT IS THE MUSEUMS JOB TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC. WE ARE ASKING THE MUSEUM TO UPDATE THEIR CLIMATE EXHIBIT AND PUT IT IN A PRIMARY LOCATION.

## More details:

Climate catastrophe is happening right before our very eyes in the forms of snowless winters, fiery summers, and mass migration. As vast swaths of earth become uninhabitable, our future becomes less and less secure. We need our leaders to act on this emergency.

AMNH references climate in a small exhibit in the basement. Nowhere is there any mention of the true scale of the chaos that is rapidly bearing down on us. AMNH discussions of climate are weak and not commensurate with the gravity of the impending disaster.

We know why AMNH is not acting appropriately -- the reason is clear-it's because of their fossil-fueled donors!

## Action Overview:

Date: Sun. Feb. 25th

Meet-up Time: 12:00 - Gather to ground and practice, confirm roles, give out flyers, buy tickets on phone, etc.

Duration: around 3 hours- approximately

Meet-up Location: Diana Ross playground in Central Park, near 81st st.

Diana Ross Playground - Google Maps

Action preparation:

- Come to training in person, (Friday the 23rd or Sat. 24th) TBA, email or text will be sent. and/or attend action call on Feburary 22nd at 6 PM link here
- Join 4th Triceratops on signal link here:
- Sign-up action link https://actionnetwork.org/events/mass-extinction-protest/
- Buy tickets online https://tickets.amnh.org/select for 12:00 pm
- Wear: black or dark colors, look nice, no xr swag
- Decide on your role
- Be prepared, come to training!!!!!
- Familiarize yourself with the museum- <u>Museum Map: Free App or Printable Downloads |</u> <u>AMNH</u>

This is a non-arrestable event focused on outreach where there are a lot of young children. If you feel too angry to hold a peaceful affect during this action, please consider our outside options.

**1PM** we go into the museum, in groups of two or three (no xr swag). Small groups will fan through the museum and talk to people there by asking them whether or not they have seen the climate exhibit. Talk about it being hidden in the basement. Hand them a flyer and ask them to join us. Tell them we are on a campaign to make the museum tell the truth, not hide it.

**2PM** we will meet up outside on the front steps facing Central Park West. There we will rally, sing, chant and hand out more flyers. We will circle up for a closing debrief.

Optional: we might present a large copy of the letter we send to the members of their board. And have opportunities for people to hold banners and do some street theater outside.

Roles: spokesperson, flyrers, videographers, and de-escalators.

Be prepared to tell people we are nonviolent and we are helping the museum with their mission to educate people.

## Action Agreement:

By signing up to participate in this action, you agree not to:

- Touch or damage anything or its enclosure or any member of the public or security
- · Engage in any violent or aggressive behavior

Exhibiting any of these behaviors go against the spirit of nonviolent protest and may have severe legal consequences. Please review <u>https://www.xrebellion.nyc/action-consensus</u>

After <u>signing up</u> for the event, we kindly request your phone number. This is essential for a smooth operation.

If you want to form your own team, decide on who holds the following roles:

- Action participants: Carries out the action per the "Action Overview" section above.•
- One photographer/videographer:- try to surreptitiously capture interesting interactions in vertical format (9:16) using a phone. Try not to appear as if you are videoing, the main goal is to get people to join us. But if weird stuff happens that will get good attention on social media, we would appreciate it. We recommend videos to be no longer than 60 seconds. Share the content on social media.. We can send you a pdf in email.
- One de-escalator/ guard liaison: Support action participant(s) by speaking with members of the public and security who may be agitated by the action. Explain your team's intentions to be peaceful, and spread the museum's mandate to educate and maintain a calm situation.
- One person can hold multiple roles.

Join the pre-action meeting in person, TBA, sent to you by text or email, please look for it! And or join our <u>action call on Feburary 22nd at 6 PM</u> for important information, updates, and instructions to participants involved in the action. This will include de-escalation tips, safety measures, and other relevant information needed for effective participation. Additionally, this is an opportunity to address any of your questions or concerns. <u>Link to meeting here.</u>

## Action Day Timeline for Sunday, Feb. 25th

- Meetup 12 noon- <u>Diana Ross Playground Google Maps</u>
- **1 pm** Enter the museum as anonymous members of the public. The museum opens at 10 am. For any New York State residents as well as New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut students, the amount you pay for admission is up to

you (minimum donation 1 cent). You must buy a timed ticket.

- Between 1:00 pm 2 pm we go into the museum, in groups of two or three (no xr swag). Small groups will fan through the museum and talk to people there by asking them whether or not they have seen the climate exhibit. Talk about it being hidden in the basement. Hand them a flyer and ask them to join us. Tell them we are on a campaign to make the museum tell the truth, not hide it. And we know why. Their funders finance the fossil fuel industry (Chase, Citi, BoA), fund climate deniers (Koch bros) or actively destroy our biodiversity (Monsanto)
- **2PM** Outside we will gather on the steps at the main entrance and rally:
- Chants:

HUMAN POLLUTION/ IS CAUSING MASS EXTINCTION;

TELL THE TRUTH: WE'RE FACING BIO BREAKDOWN

DON'T HIDE THE FACTS: WE'RE IN CLIMATE CHAOS

SHOW LEADERSHIP ON CLIMATE, DON'T HIDE IT IN THE BASEMENT

By end of day: Post the photos or videos on your personal social media, tag
@extinctionrebellion on Twitter and/or Instagram

See you there!-

Dancing Leaf