



Niagara-On-The-Lake (NOTL) Museum's Museum Assistance Application (MAA) User Manual (Visitors version)

Welcome!

Hello new and returning users of the Niagara-On-The-Lake (NOTL) Museum's Museum Assistance Application (MAA). In this user manual, we hope to provide you with the steps to help you install the program, get started with it and introduce you to the more advanced features of the program.

The MAA was designed with enhancing the user's experience at the museum in mind.

Although the museum itself is not very large, we realise visitors may not have the luxury of time to browse through every exhibit/showcase to find the ones they are most interested in.

Therefore, we have designed the MAA to help the users who have a goal in mind by providing them with a map and basic navigation features that will help them find their way around the museum efficiently. New visitors or those who just wish to browse the museum remotely may also benefit from the MAA as it allows them to view artefacts from within the application before physically arriving there.

Lastly, the MAA is able to benefit every type of user by providing information about washrooms and exits in case of emergencies. Whether it is an emergency or not, we hope it will bring you relief knowing where everything is located so you do not have to worry about being lost.

Where the Manual is Located in the App

If you ever need to refer back to this manual, it can be found at the bottom of the “info” tab on the home screen.



The image on the right shows what you see after scrolling to the bottom of the “info” screen.

Installation Guide

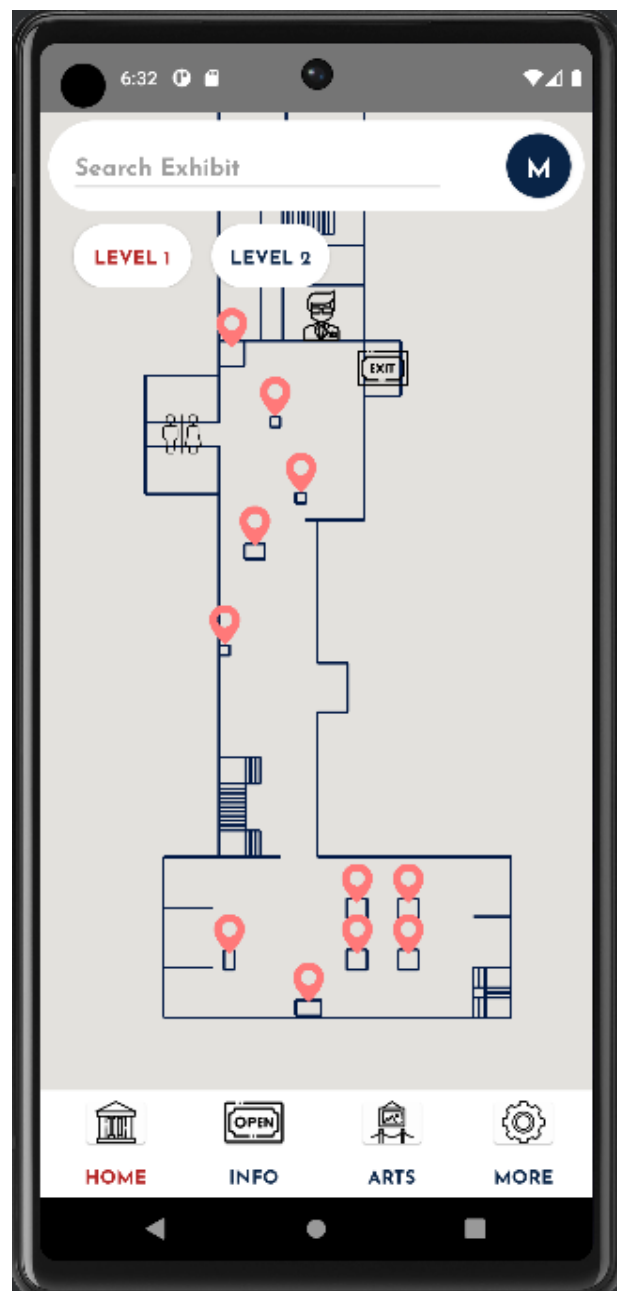
Currently, the program is only available for the Android platform and therefore can only be run within Android Studio using an Android emulator or by connecting a physical Android device and setting it up within Android Studio. To gain access to the code, please go to our [GitHub](#) and clone the repository onto your computer. Then, open and run it on Android Studio. If you do not have a physical device, we recommend using the “Pixel 6 API 30” emulator as it provides a good balance between stability and screen size. It also allows you to modify your internet access by turning off the wifi and mobile data to access the app in offline mode (which other device emulations may not be able to do).

Note: all screenshots in this document will be done with the Pixel 6 as the emulator.

Getting Started

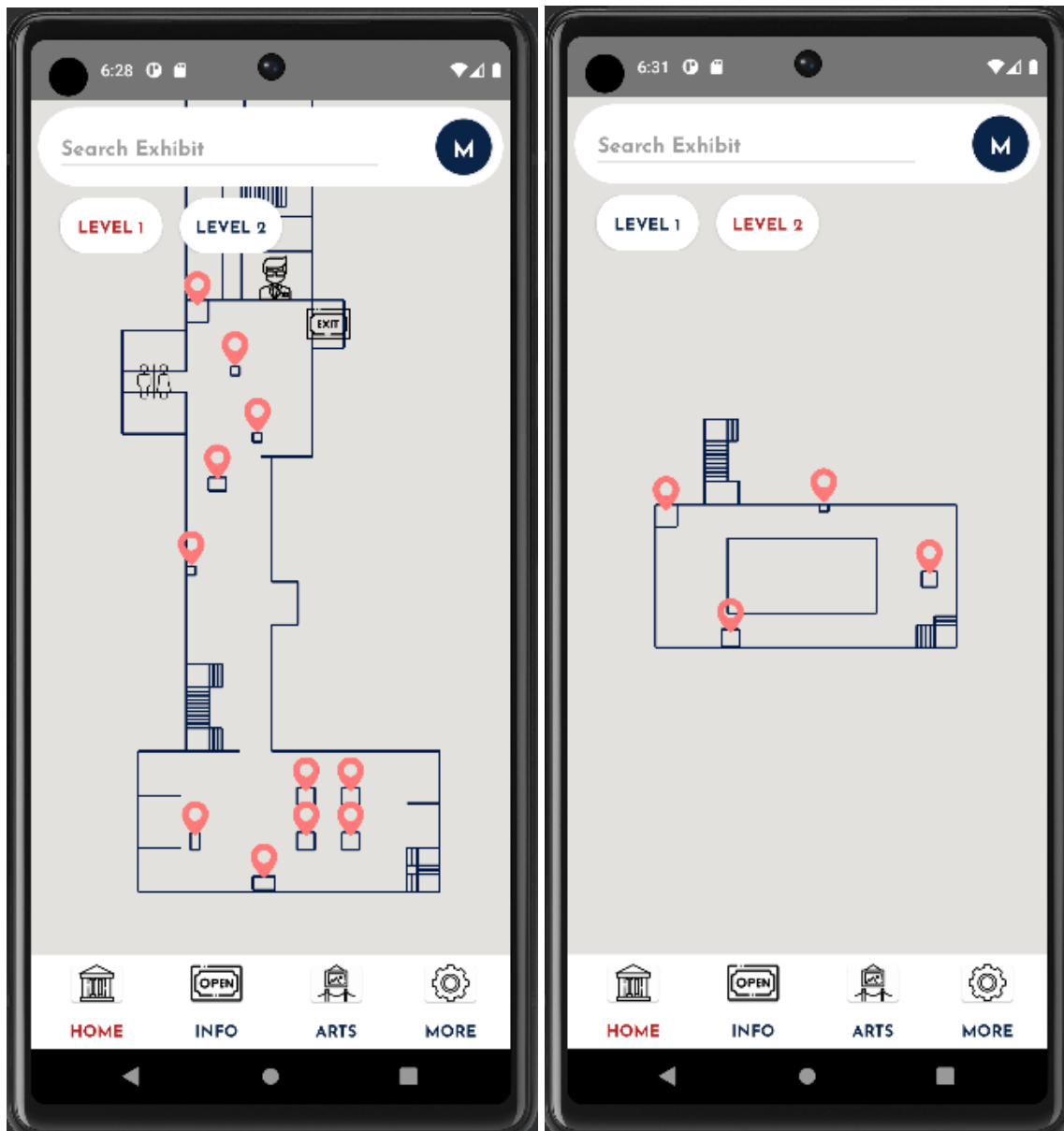
Home Screen

On the home screen, you will have access to our interactive map features. Notably, this includes searching for exhibits on the map directly, searching for them through the search bar, viewing each exhibit and the items inside of them, and the core interactive map features (moving the map around, zooming in and out, switching floors, etc.).



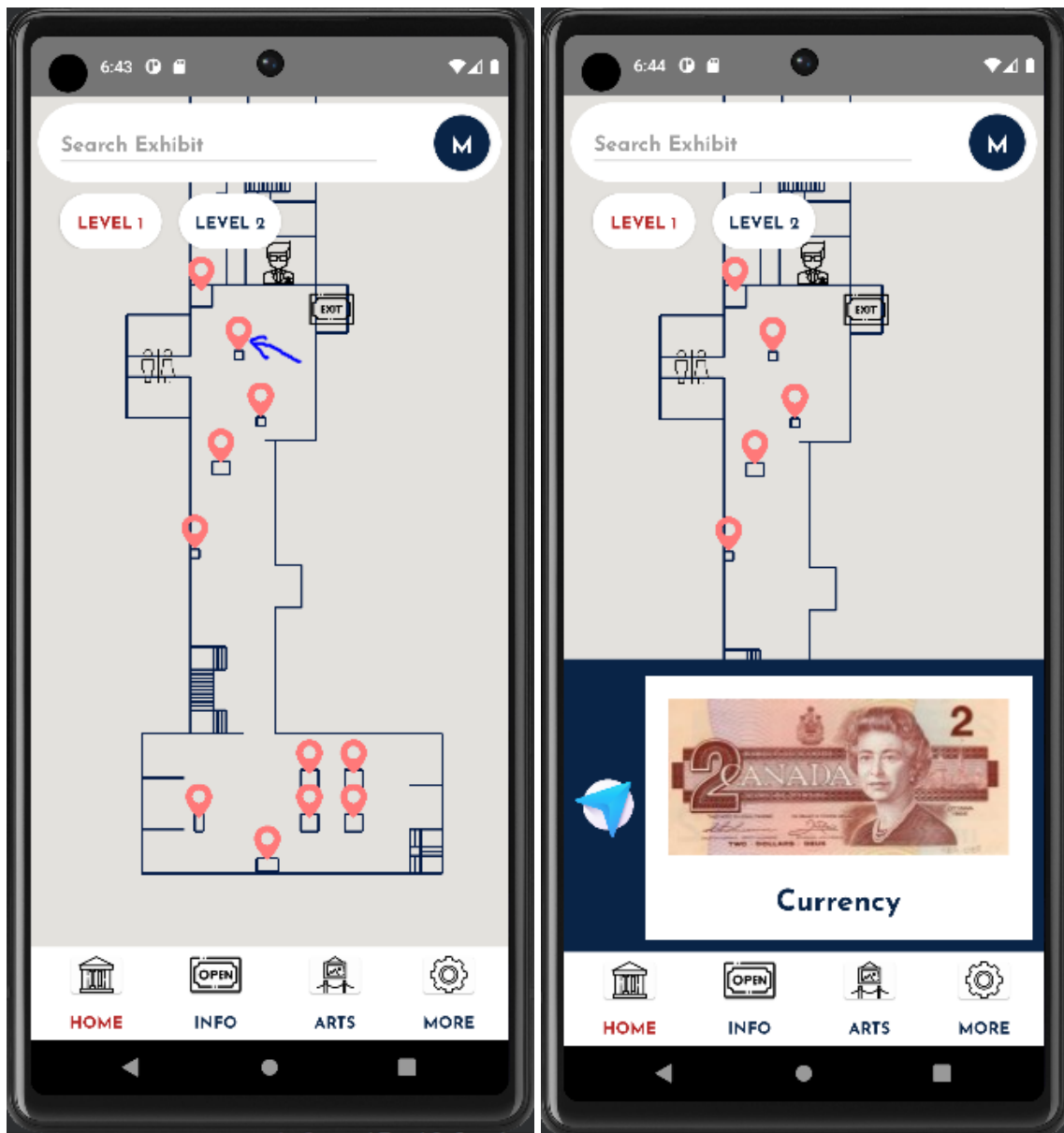
Switching Floors

To switch between the floors, simply select the button for which floor you want (i.e., Level 1 or Level 2).



Interacting with Exhibits

The pins (i.e., the orange drop icons) represent an exhibit. Each exhibit can contain zero to many items each. To examine an exhibit, click on the pin to open up an item list which shows the artefacts displayed within that exhibit.



From the bottom menu, you can scroll left and right to see which items are contained within that exhibit. If you wish to examine the item, click anywhere on the box encapsulating it and a pop-up will be presented with more information about the item.

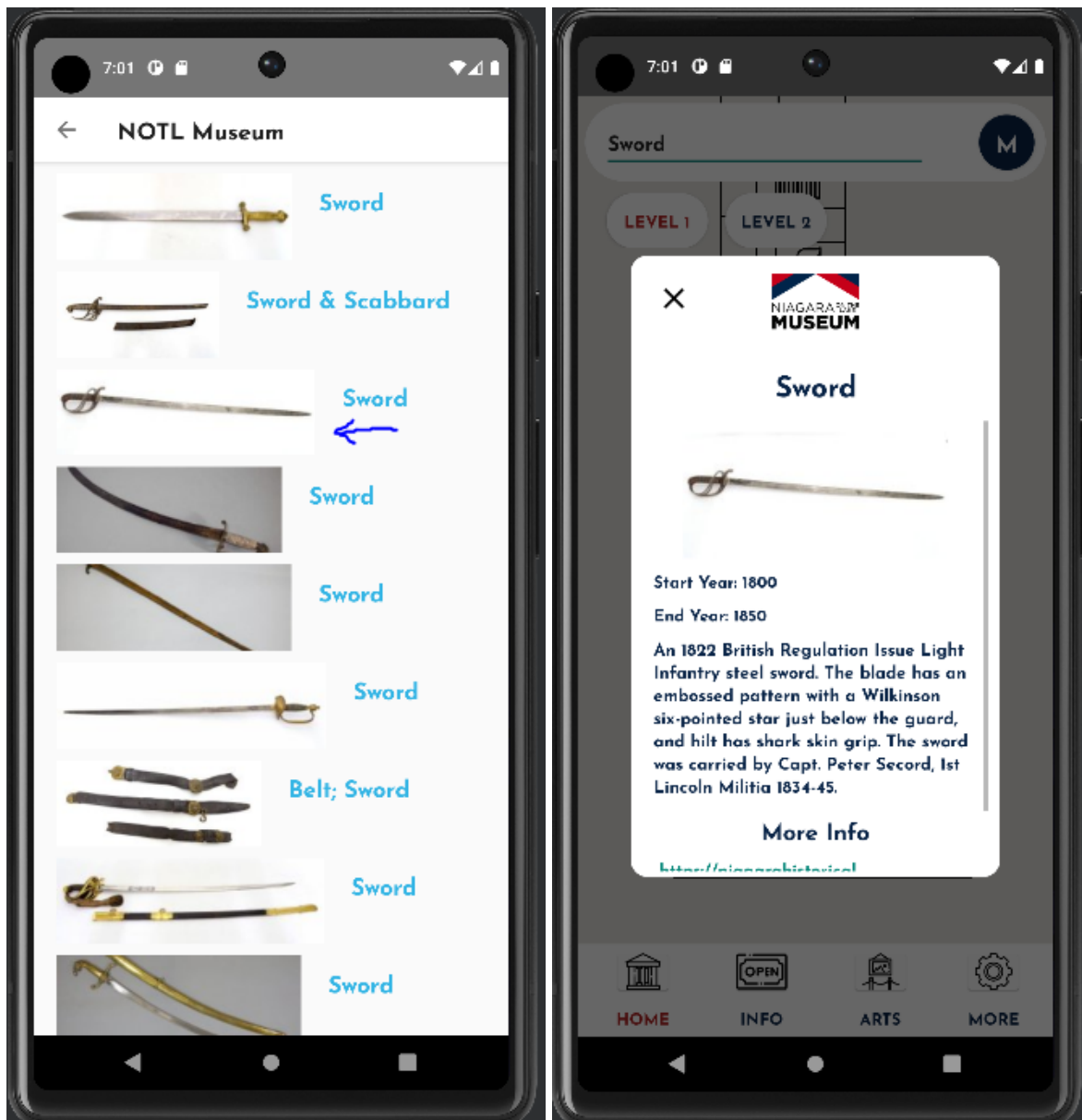


Within the pop-up box, you can also scroll down to view more information. At the bottom of each pop-up box, you will find a link to the museum's database entry for that item. That page will contain more information and images related to that item.

Search Bar

To search for an item (artefact) from the museum, please enter the name of the item you are searching for into the search bar and select the result that best matches what you are looking for.

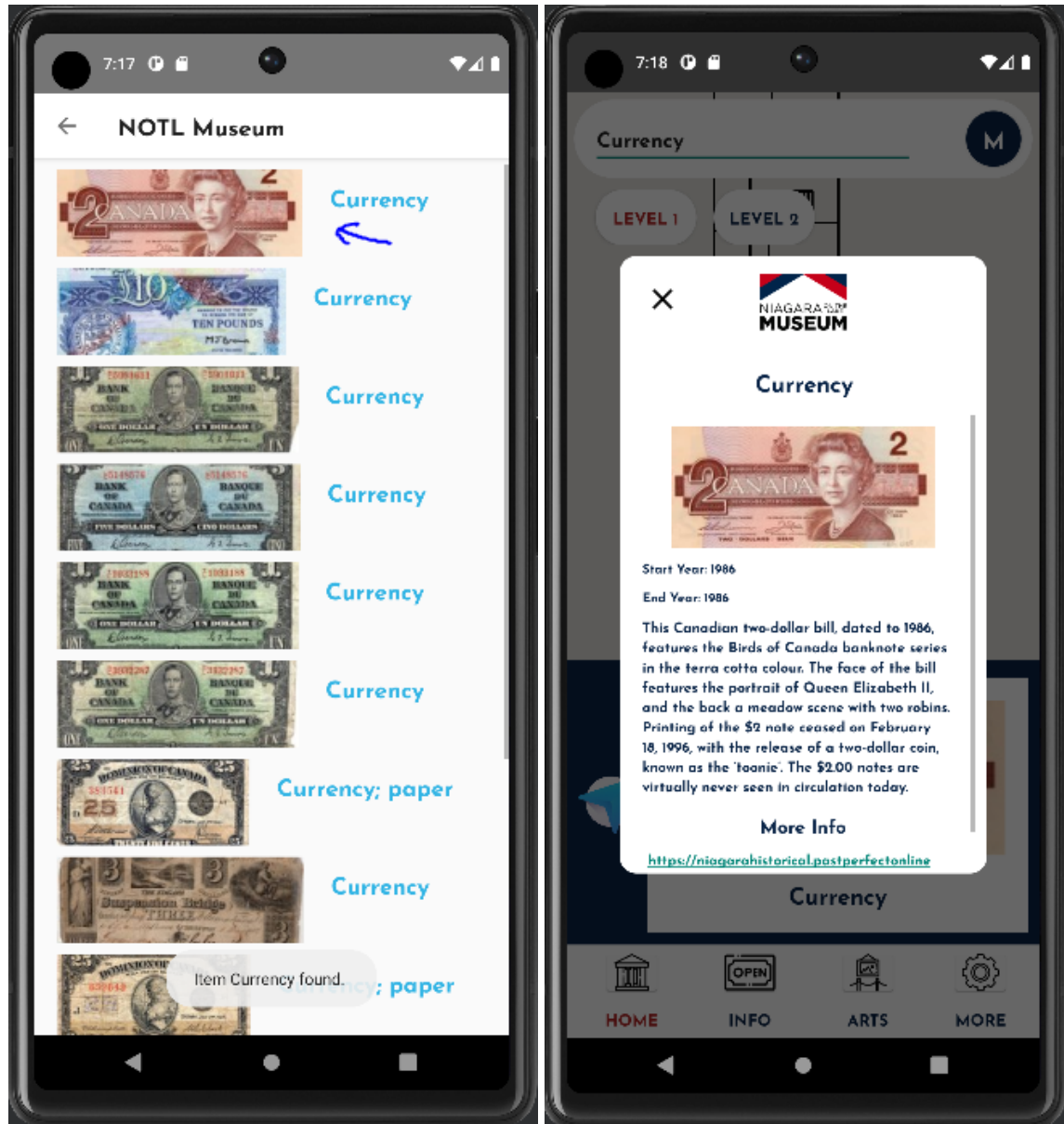




From the list (see left image), click on your desired item or scroll down until you have found the item and click on it. This will create a pop-up providing you with information about it (see right image).

In the current version, we have only provided you with the information about the item itself but in future versions, information about where it is located in the exhibit (if it is on display) and how to get there will also be provided.

In the current implementation, if the item is currently on display, searching for it will bring you to the exhibit (also called showcase) that contains it. Otherwise, only the pop-up box will come up as seen in the example above. See below for an example with an item on display:





Upon closing the pop-up, you are presented with that exhibit's list of items. From here, you can access the navigation functions.

Tip! Use the navigation function to set this as a starting point to highlight which exhibit it is on the map. The exhibit's pin will turn green after doing so!

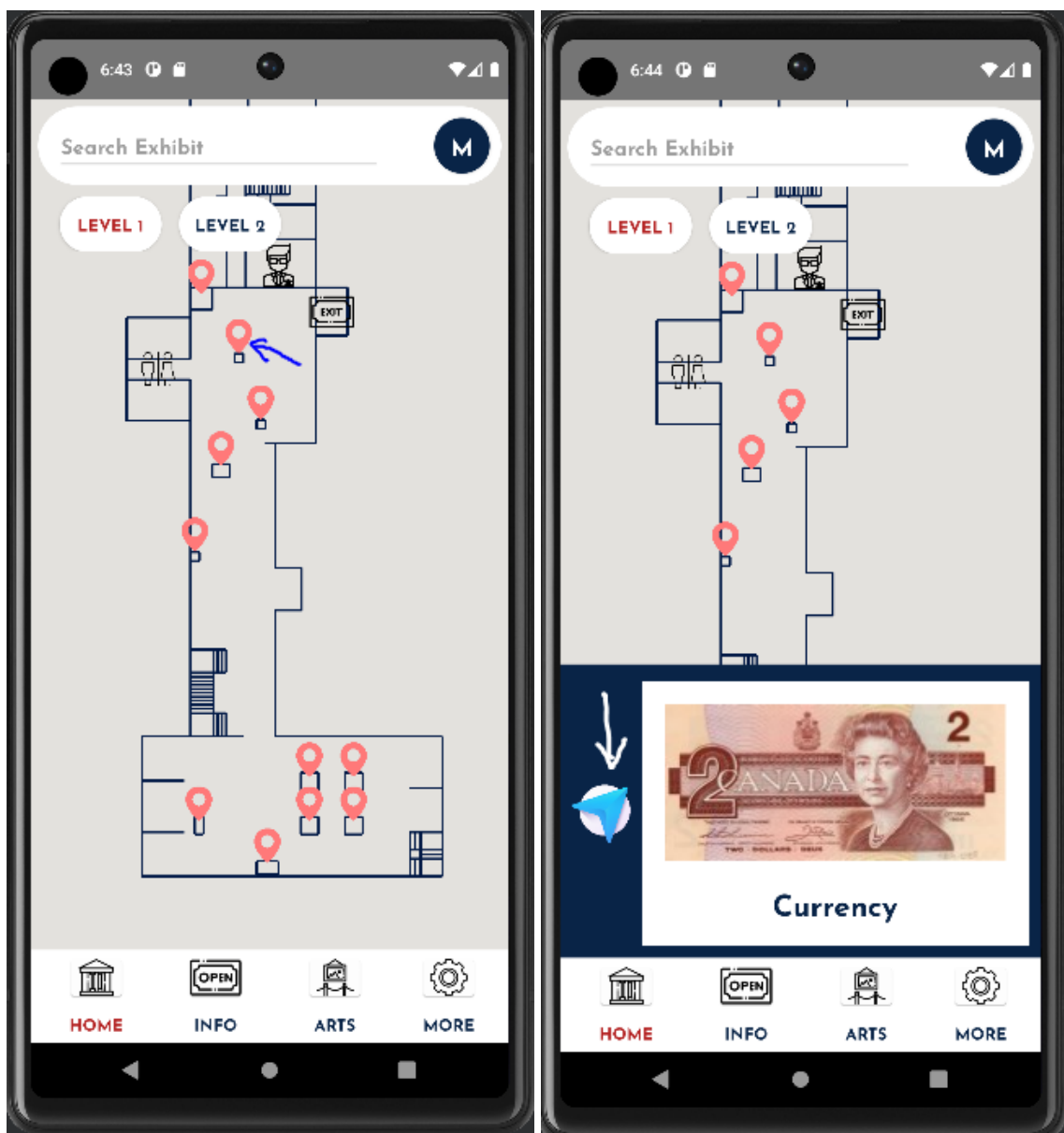


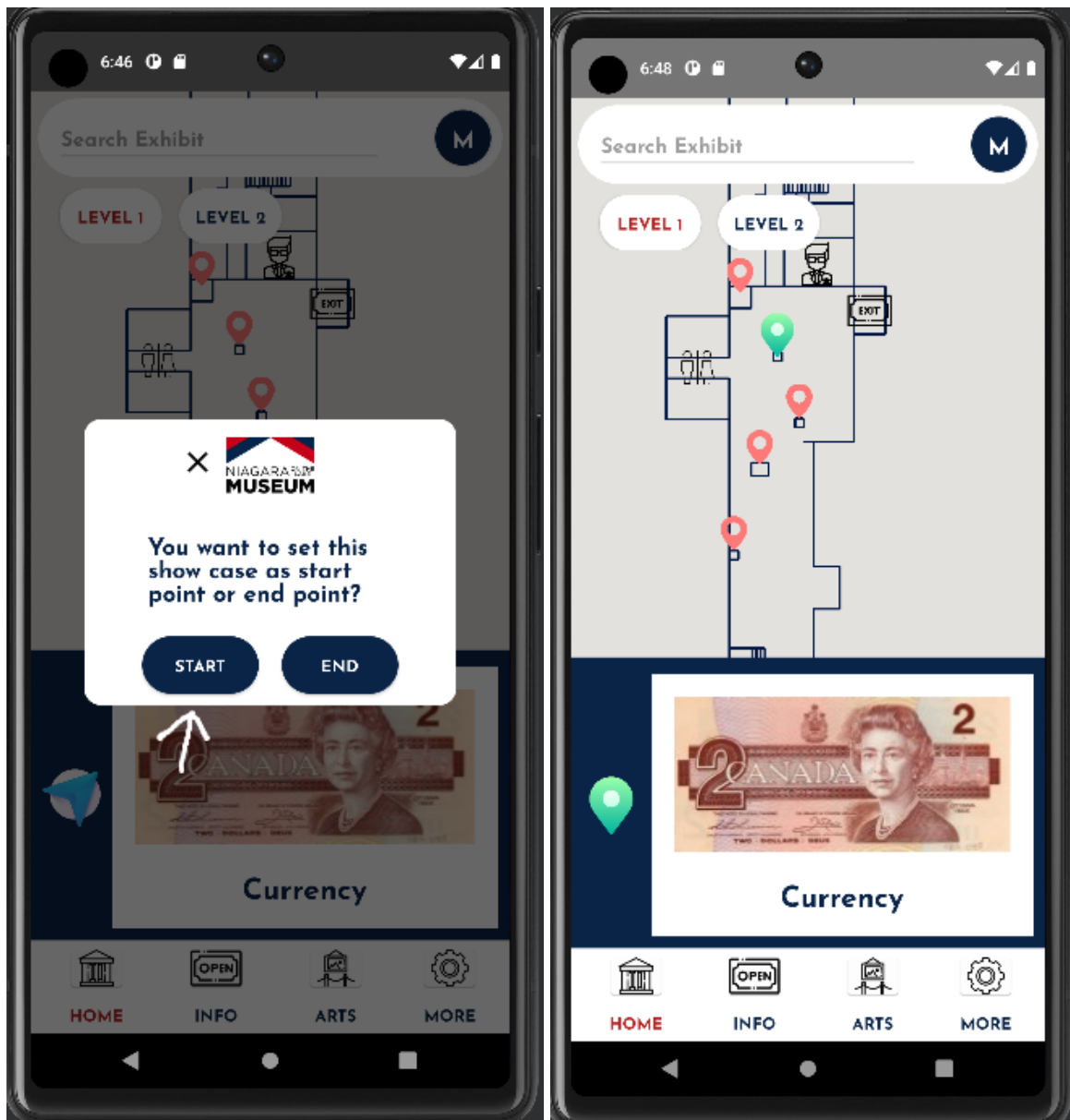
See below for how.

Advanced Features

Navigation Feature

In order to help you better navigate your way around the museum, we have included a navigation feature. This allows you to find the most efficient path between two locations. Although the museum is not very large allowing you to find your way around it easily, there are times where this might be helpful (e.g., when you don't know where the exhibits are located). Thus, we have added the ability to generate a path to help solve this problem. Navigation involves two things. Setting the **start** point and **end** point. After selecting them, it will generate the path for you. Let's start by selecting the starting point:



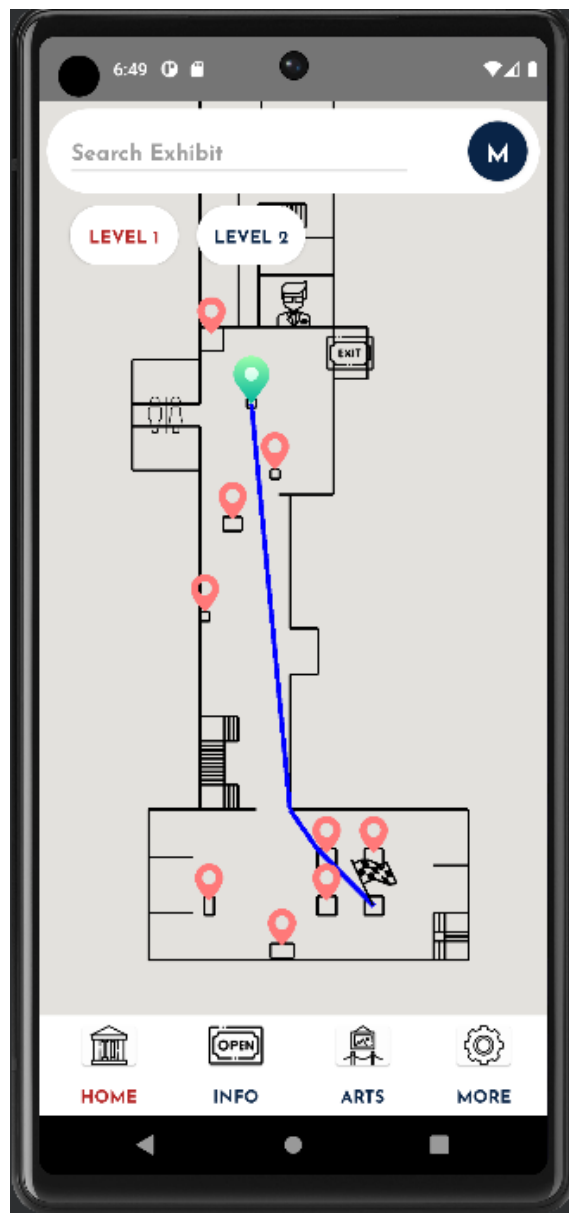


After doing so, the pin's colour will change to green to indicate that the starting point has been selected.

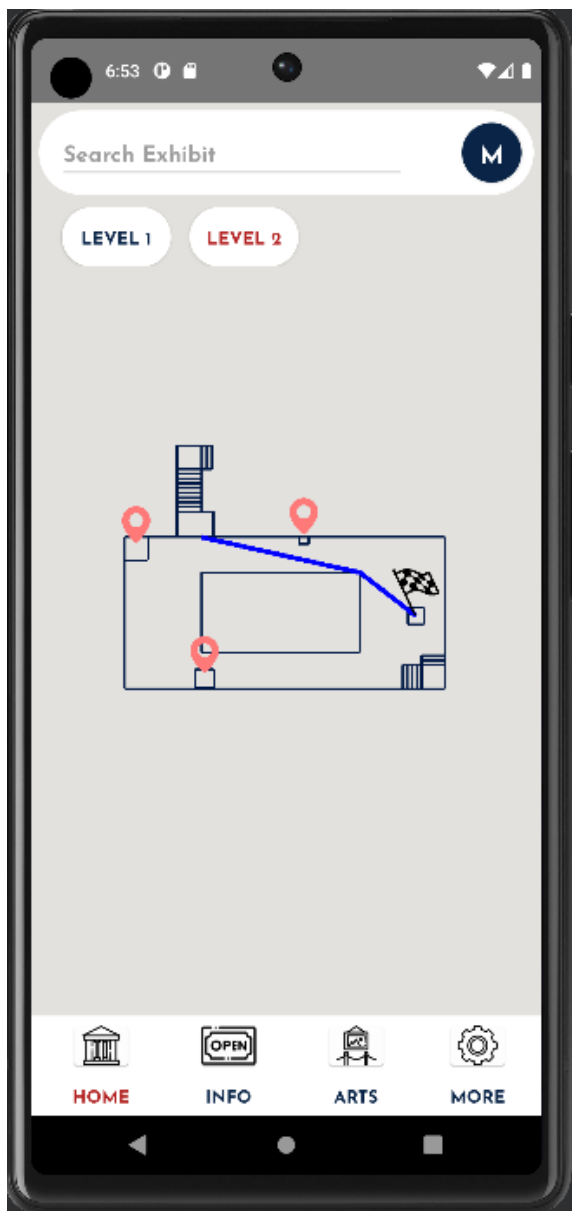
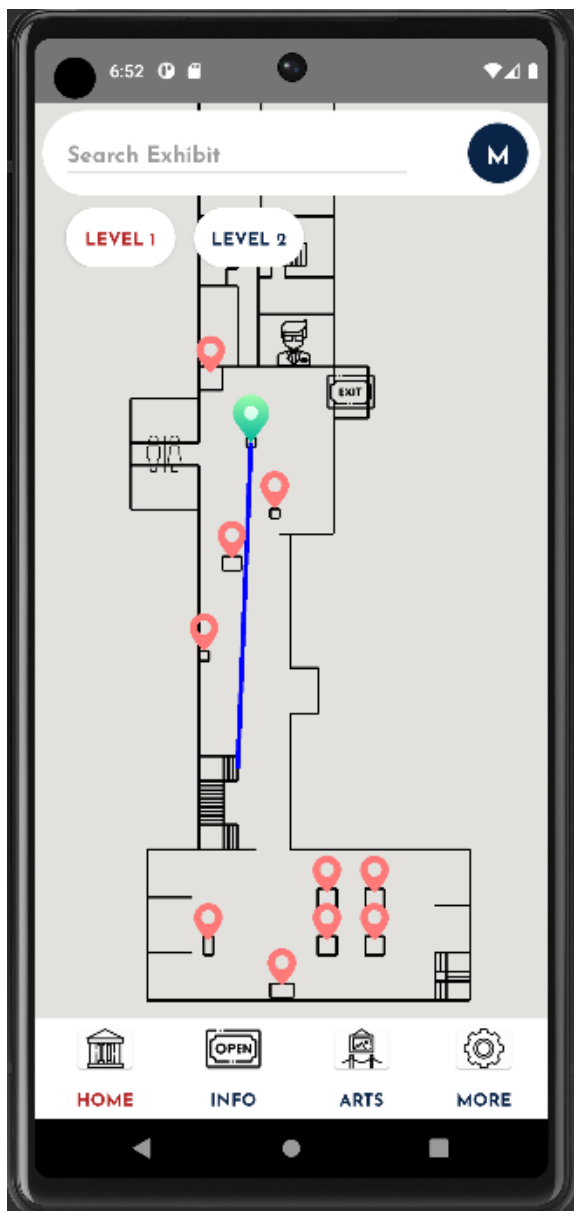
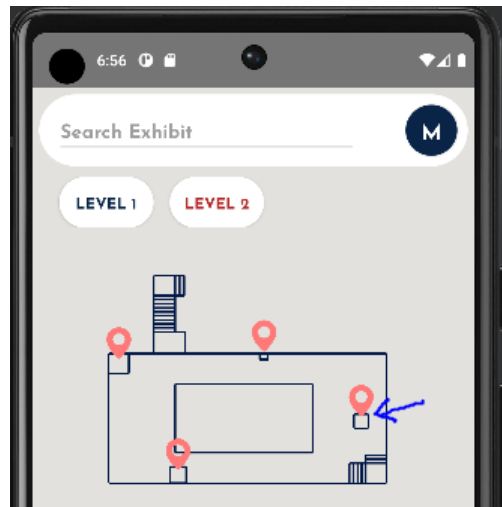
Now select the end point using the same steps as before but clicking on “End” instead of “Start” when the popup comes up:



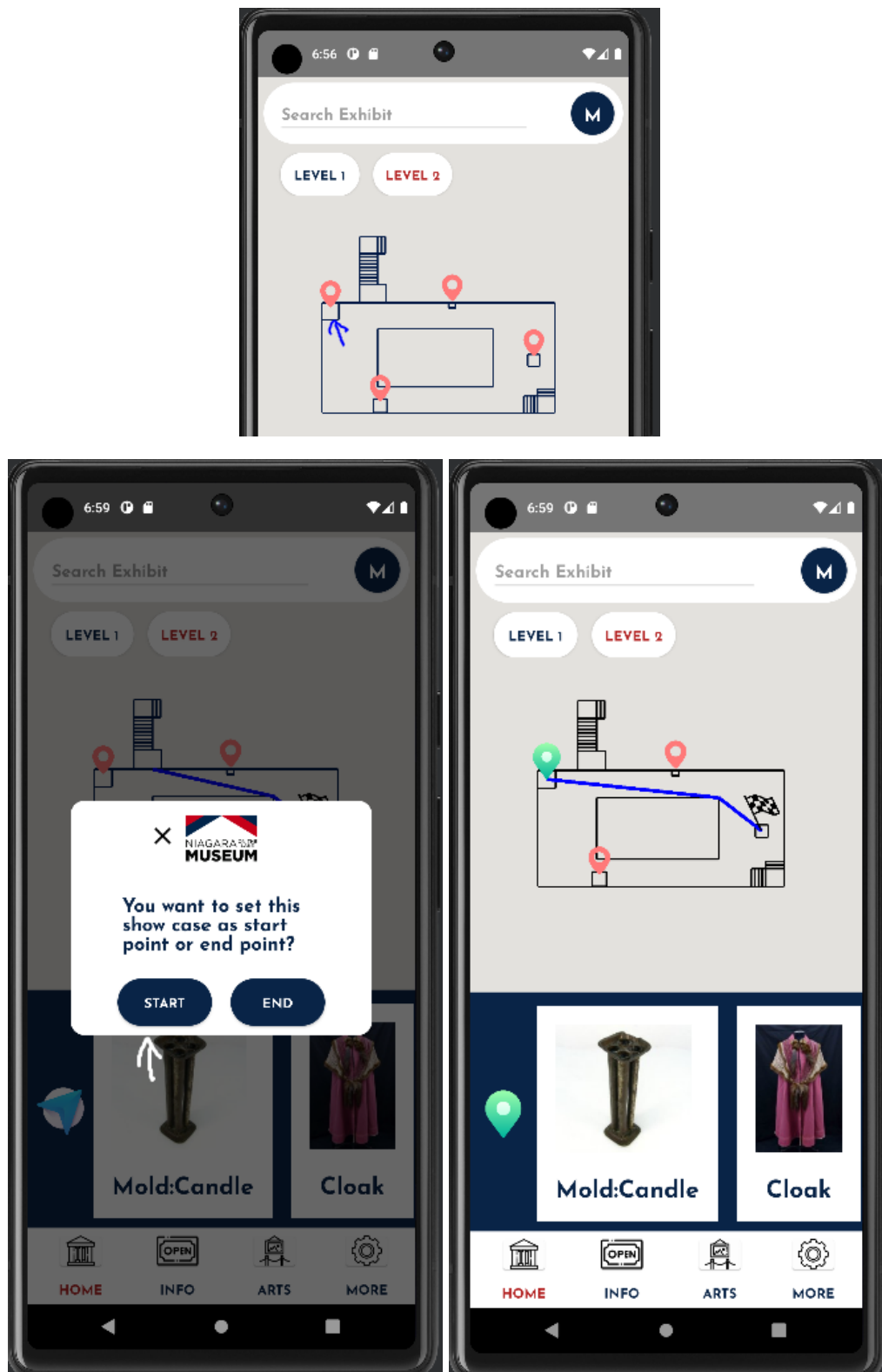
Here is the final result:



The navigation also works for features on a separate floor as seen below (e.g., keeping the starting point the same but changing the destination to the second floor).



You may also change the starting point by following the same process but clicking on “start” when the pop-up comes up:



Do note that clicking on the navigation icon (default, green, or flag) in the list will all bring up the menu allowing you to set existing points to new starting/end points.

Changing the Font Size

Font size can be found under the “More” tab at the bottom bar.



Here is a comparison of the font sizes from smallest to largest using a section of our “info” page. The default font size is the middle one.

Hours of Operation:

Open every day from 1 pm - 5 pm November through April
(10 am - 5 pm May through October)
The Museum is closed on the following holidays:
Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving Day, and
during the Christmas season between December 18th
and January 1st.

Hours of Operation:

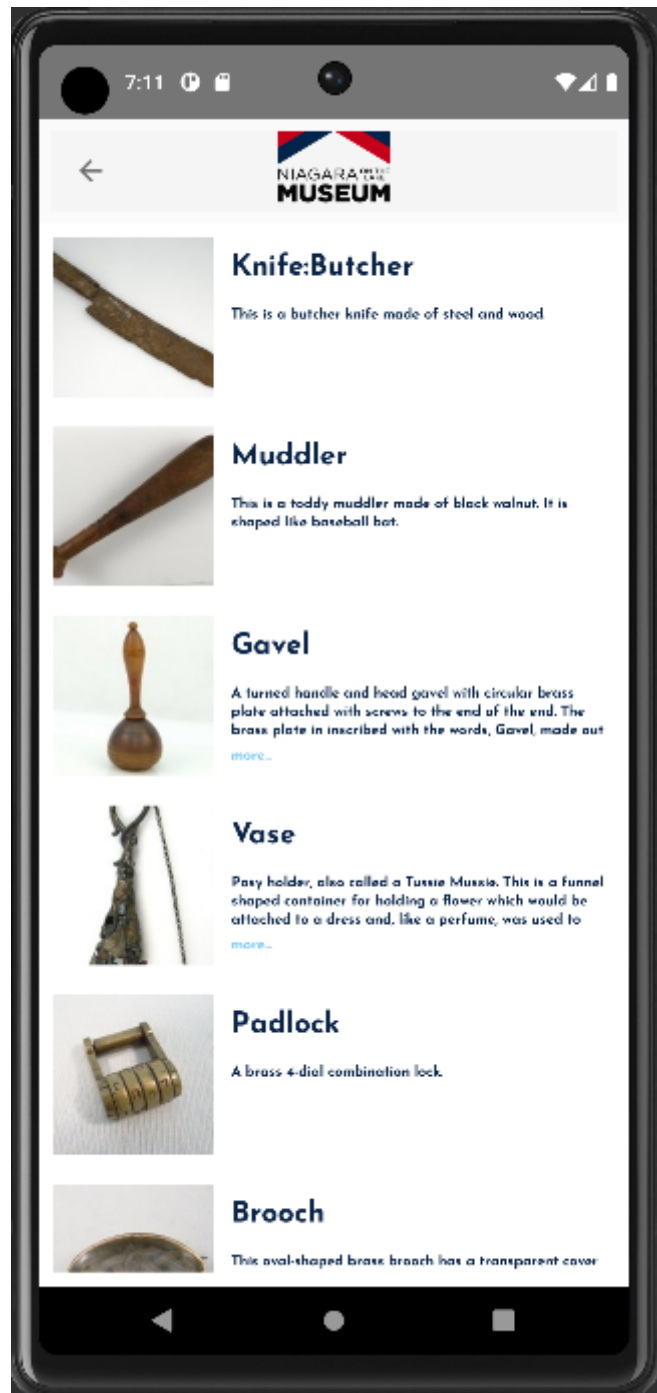
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Arts Tab

In the arts tab, you will be able to view all of the exhibits documented by our museum.



This is primarily just for browsing purposes. If you wish to locate or search for a specific item within the museum, please use the search bar at the top of the home screen to look for that item.

Offline Mode

Once downloaded, the app is also available in offline mode. However, the navigation, the arts section, and the searching functions will not be available. In offline mode, the exit, toilet, and staff location are shown as static images on the map. You will not have access to the exhibits as a connection is required to access the relevant information. Nevertheless, you will still be able to switch floors, access the info tab and change fonts in the “more section”.

