In recent years, museums have increasingly turned to “open storage” techniques to display parts of their collection which would otherwise not be on public view. The foundations for this decades-long trend are found in the impulse to democratize museums with “visible” storage being touted as one way to make collections more accessible to their communities.

In this conversation on open and visible storage in museums, we will be guided by Susan Rowley and Bridget Callahan in an exploration of the history of “visible” collections storage and how technology and new considerations of democratized access have changed the design and use of museum holdings. Ethics, equity, standards of care, and programming will also be addressed.

This virtual panel discussion will be presented online via Zoom and will feature real time captioning. If you would like to request an ASL interpreter, please email ummsp@umich.edu by November 1.