

Come One, Come All!

ACM is all about inclusion.



“INCLUSION” rather than “exclusion” is at the heart of ACM’s mission and vision. AMERICA’S CAR MUSEUM is about cars—all manner and type: large and small, new and old, foreign and domestic, the exotic and the plebian. Granted, to gain entry into the ranks of the Museum’s collection, a car must represent—in some fashion—historical and cultural significance, recognized aesthetic quality or ‘break-out’ technical achievement. No such qualifications will be applied to our members, visitors or their cars!

We’ve all been there when a 60 something hot rodder sneers at the 20 something in the winged and blown ‘rice burner or when Harley riders snub anything Japanese. Silly isn’t it? In truth, we all can ‘just get along.’ All it takes is a common bond with sufficient adhesive strength to overpower our compulsion to form ever more tightly focused and exclusionary sub-cultures.

It also helps to realize that what motivated that duck-tailed, grease covered kid busting his knuckles back in 1956 is the very same thing that keeps today’s buzz-domed “tuner dude” bolting on the latest power enhancing ‘gizmajig.’ In truth, we’re the same person—brothers and sisters—united by a shared love of cars, separated only by time and the superficial trappings of popular fashion.

AMERICA’S CAR MUSEUM is blessed with an endless supply of this powerful bonding agent—our shared love affair with the Car! That’s “Car” in a plural and encompassing sense—not “classic car, sports car, tuner car, European car, muscle car, etc., etc.” The love blanket covers all of these and more. The last thing AMERICA’S CAR MUSEUM will ever become is a private club for prestige marque collectors. Nor will we be a ‘true-believers only’ hangout for the ‘rat-rod’ set, or the hot-rod set— or any “ set.” In fact, ACM is designed to accommodate multiple enthusiast sectors from the upper level clubroom suites to the meeting rooms and banquet facilities available to all membership levels.

An institution of this caliber can’t legitimately position itself as “the center of car culture” and then post a bouncer at the door. We certainly don’t expect someone who bleeds ‘Ford Blue’ or has dedicated their life to the ‘prancing horse’ to suddenly fall in love with say, 50s vintage European micro-cars. But what we will attempt to do is present each automotive variant in such a way as to establish its place in history, its social and cultural context and the “why” and “how” of its appeal to aficionados. If “love” doesn’t necessarily bloom from the encounter, perhaps a deeper understanding and some degree of respect will. “Understanding” and “Respect”—not bad precepts for any museum to foster and promote.

You—and your car—are always welcome at ACM.