**Bullock Texas State History Museum**

**1800 N. Congress Ave.**

**Austin, TX  78701**

**(512) 936-8746**

**Exhibition Background Information**

***Roller Derby***

* On View 03/14/2015 - 08/09/2015 in the third-floor Rotunda Gallery
* Organized by the Bullock Texas State History Museum
* Approx. 60 artifacts
* Guest Curator: Erin McClelland

*Roller Derby* at the Bullock Texas State History Museum will examine contemporary popular culture and the role of women in contact sports through artifacts, historical photographs, and personal stories. Visitors will see dynamic large-scale graphics, immersing them in a roller derby "bout." Uniforms, posters, and other items from both flat track and banked track leagues will be featured. *Roller Derby* will be in the museum's third-floor Rotunda Gallery, which includes a newly renovated exhibition space. In this new space, the earliest roller derby artifacts, images, and uniforms dating to the 1930s will be displayed, along with media footage from that era. Modern roller derby and its resurgence that began in 2001 will be highlighted through artifacts, uniforms, photos and more in the rotunda space. Visitors will be immersed in a roller rink environment with life-sized images of skaters and fans so they can experience first-hand the fierce rivalries, the thrill of the bout, and the speed of a whip. *Roller Derby* is presented in collaboration with Texas leagues.

* ***Why  this exhibition is exciting?***

**Quote from Dr. Victoria Ramirez, Bullock Museum Director**

*"Roller derby* is about hard-hitting action and big personalities, and this exhibition really gives people a sense of that. They'll get to see one-of-a-kind, customized boutfits up-close, see life-size photos of roller derby action, and even create their own roller derby names. This is an opportunity for people to immerse themselves in the roller derby experience and learn what the sport and culture are all about."

* ***What makes it significant/important?***

**Quotes from Erin McClelland, Guest Curator**

"Austin is the epicenter of modern roller derby — it was founded here in 2001. Juliana Gonzales, executive director of the Women's Flat Track Derby Association who skates as 'Bloody Mary' for the Texas Rollergirls, pointed out to me that she meets people from all over the world who know the role Austin played in the roller derby revival, but often locals don't have any idea. This exhibition gives Texans a chance to learn about the city's significance in the recent history of the sport."

"If people walk away learning only one thing, I hope it's that the women who play roller derby are, without a doubt, athletes. They may put on costumes and adopt alter egos, but the bouts aren't scripted and the players train incredibly hard. These women are fierce and powerful."

**Photo Credits and Cutlines**

**Exhibition Artifacts**

**Artifact\_Bout Poster 2005**

*Courtesy Dyan Rice, “CheapSkate”*In 2005, Texas Roller Derby (TXRD) hosted the first banked track, interstate roller derby bout in Austin. TXRD’s all-star team, the All Scar Army, skated against the Renegade Rebels of Phoenix, Ariz.

**Artifact\_Holy Rollers Uniform**

*Courtesy Eryn Moris, “Axle Rosie”*Eryn Moris, also known “Axle Rosie” of the Holy Rollers, skated in this uniform in 2005 during her first season. While everyone on the team wears the same plaid skirt and a white shirt, each skater customizes the rest of their uniform. Moris added a rose patch to the pocket along with her name and number on the back.

**Artifact\_Skates worn by Sandy Ravage**

*Courtesy Cristen Perks, "Sandy Ravage"*

**Artifact\_Texas Rollergirls Trophy**

*Courtesy Texas Rollergirls*Sherry Cardino, who skated with the Hotrod Honeys as “Riff Scandell,” made the first Texas Rollergirls championship trophy from a skate she painted gold. After many years on display at the Austin bar Longbranch Inn, a league sponsor, Texas Rollergirls created this new trophy featuring a homemade golden skate as well as the names of previous winners.

**General Roller Derby Photos**

**At the bout**

*Courtesy Jennifer M. Ramo*s

**Banked Track**

*Courtesy Dave Idemoto*

**Flat Track**

*Courtesy Dave Idemoto*

**Moves**

*Courtesy Jennifer M. Ramos*

**On the Move**

*Courtesy Jennifer M. Ramos*