



THE BUNNY MUSEUM

The USA is full of the weird, wacky and wonderful places and The Bunny Museum in Pasadena, California is no exception. Opened in 1998, the famously odd museum is a world-record holder, owning the most bunny items in the world (more than 28,000 bunny-related items, to be exact). Run by Candace Frazee and Steve Lubanski, the tradition of giving each other new bunny gifts everyday has grown into something of a legend.

"I have always wanted a bunny and I'll always have a rabbit the rest of my life" - Amy Sedaris

Introduction by [Jessica Cooper](#)
 Interviewed by [Stephanie Summers](#)
 Portrait of Candace and Steve courtesy of [The Bunny Museum](#)

You are in the Guinness World Records for your ever-growing rabbit themed collectibles. What was the total at the last count and have you thought about limiting yourself at some point? In other words, to stop?

Currently 32,723 bunny artifacts.

Candace & Steve will never stop giving each other bunny gifts. However, when one of them dies, the collection is complete.

Do you see your house as a live-in museum, or more of an extensive collection of bunny-themed items in a private house?

The Bunny Museum is the #2 living museum in the world. The White House is #1. There are thousands of home museums, private homes converted into museums like Elvis Presley's home or Beatrix Potter's home.

There are living history museums where actors dress up in period clothes and re-enact previous dwellers. But, a contemporary living museum is quite rare. There are art colony museums with occupants, but they have limited staying times. In The Bunny Museum you are walking through Candace & Steve's kitchen, their dining room, and their TV room, etc. The only room you don't see is their bedroom which is all bunny-themed, too.

You have been dubbed the happiest couple in the world; how did this all start?

Candace called her boyfriend, Steve, her "honey bunny". He liked that and on their first Valentine's Day he gave her a plush white bunny holding a big red heart with "I Love You This Much" written on it. They started to give each other bunny gifts on holidays, but it soon became a daily happening because Steve couldn't wait for the holidays. That was 23 years ago.

Your dedication to the theme of bunnies, would you call an obsession?

The daily bunny gift giving is a love story. It doesn't matter how big or expensive the gift, it just is a loving thing to do. Together. Steve likes to mail Candace bunny greeting cards.

Your unique fascination with the logomorpha species, or rabbit, to the lay person, has by the look of it occupied your entire house to the last corner; do you have plans to expand or move?

The Bunny Museum opened to the public on March 20, 1998 and soon it became clear that the museum had to move to a bigger location because of its popularity and the need for public restrooms. The museum received its 501(c) 3 non-profit status in 2014 and then the focus on moving became a reality.

A property has been found 5 minutes from their current site, a gorgeous mid-century modern building with high-end finishes. Formerly an art gallery. Property features skylights throughout, 22' ceilings, two floors, two showrooms, eight

rooms, kitchen, three restrooms, outdoor patio, 10'x14' loading door, basement storage, and underground parking. The Grand Opening of the new location of The Bunny Museum is Monday, March 20, 2017. Check their website for updates. www.thebunnymuseum.com

Your house is dedicated to the love of all things bunny-related; have you ever found something bunny-themed and not bought it for your collection?

Yes. Many bunny items such as this 18k yellow gold rabbit pin with diamond accents and ruby eyes.

It's much more practical to put money into paying the electricity bill, water bill, and trash removal bill than one high-end item.

Regarding the freeze-dried pet bunnies, do visitors to the museum find those a little creepy?

Some visitors are surprised to find our deceased pet bunnies taxidermied. But, when we explain that all natural history museums have preserved animals in their collections from dinosaur bones to stuffed coyotes, they then understand why we have preserved bunnies on display, too. One visitor from New York went home and mailed us a taxidermied bunny she did herself with pearls glued all over its fur.

We call it the Blinged Bunny. We also educate the public that having preserved animals in private homes, squirrels, cats, rabbits, birds, butterflies, and skeletons, rocks, shells, was normal for the rich and they called their collections "cabinets of curiosity". These types of collections were before photographs.

Is there a logical order or layout to the bunnies inside the museum?

Have you ever moved everything around in a big spring-cleaning session? If so how long did it take?

Bunny artifacts are grouped into categories such as Bunnies with Carrots, Pretenders (humans or animals dressed up as bunnies), Salt & Pepper Shakers, Cookie Jars, Holidays, Famous Bunny Characters, Chocolate Bunnies, Carousels, Jackalopes, Tribal Masks, and Rose Parade Float Bunnies. Over a 100 categories.

We clean daily, but dust bunnies do live at The Bunny Museum! When a category becomes too big, it's put in a larger cabinet.

What is the nicest comment anyone has ever left on your social media about the museum?

1) "Best museum in the world and I've been to many!"
 2) "I want to be buried there."
 3) Aubrey Plaza, actress and comedian tweeted: "Best. Day. Ever. Just went to the terrifying, wonderful Bunny Museum."

"We only collect cute bunnies. Trust us, there are some nasty bunnies out there."

The Bunny Museum has been voted Best Weird museum in Los Angeles; how did this make you feel? Did you take it as a compliment?

Yes. We get voted many odd titles because The Bunny Museum is so unique and unusual. Museums all start with private collections. The difference with The Bunny Museum is that Candace and Steve have shared their collection with the public almost from the start. Usually a collection is donated after the collector's death or when the collector can no longer manage it.

Have you ever surprised each other by wearing a bunny costume in the bedroom?

No clothes necessary in the bedroom! Steve dressed up as a bunny at their wedding reception and surprised Candace. Then they and their guests danced congo-line style to The Bunny Hop.

If you could take only 3 bunny themed items in an emergency, what would they be?

The first bunny. The second bunny. Elvis Parsley.

Describe the strangest, weirdest or scariest bunny item ever entering your bunny kingdom?

The visitors! Every week someone is brought as a surprise. They don't know where they have been taken. Some come via scavenger hunt or blind folded! Visitors often come in full bunny costumes, bunny masks, or wearing bunny ears. Several Lolita Groups have hopped over in full Lolita fashion with everything they wore was bunny themed from the shoes to the bows in their hair.

Strangest: Bunny Figurine made of Mt. St. Helens's ash.

Weirdest: Bunny Figurine made of cow poop, garden fertilizer called "Poo-Doo".

Scariest: Tiki Totem Pole.

What type of bunny would you say no to? Or is that a stupid question because all bunnies are welcome?

We only collect cute bunnies. Trust us, there are some nasty bunnies out there. That said, we do have a category called "Chamber of Hop Horrors" which includes real photographs of bunnies being experimented on, real lucky rabbit foot key chains, real rabbit fur coats, etc. which demonstrate the abuse of rabbits throughout history.