



Contact: Karen Frascona
617.369.3442
kfrascona@mfa.org

Amelia Kantrovitz
617.369.3447
akantrovitz@mfa.org

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), is an education and community resource with a long history of offering a wide range of programs—inside and beyond its walls—for a variety of audiences, from children, teens, and college students to adults and people with disabilities. The Museum is a leader and innovator in arts education, offering tours for school groups, training for teachers, and free access for all Boston Public School student groups. Included among the Museum's extensive offerings are school vacation-week programs, free community days, partnerships with community organizations, lectures and courses, gallery activities, and art-making opportunities. Below, please find an overview of the MFA's programs:

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Approximately 55,000 students from throughout New England—kindergarten through high school—visit the MFA each year, including more than 4,000 from the Boston Public Schools. Additionally, nearly 800 students from the Lawrence Public Schools were given free access to the Museum through the Stevens Fund last year. Students of all ages from Maine and New Hampshire, as well as those from out of state attending school there, are also provided with free admission through the Lunder Maine Student Membership Program and the McLane Family New Hampshire Student Membership Program.

The MFA has had a special relationship with the Boston Public Schools for more than 40 years, providing free access for student groups, teacher workshops, and resource materials. The Museum also offers a program that trains teachers in the use of Visual Thinking Strategies to engage students with art. Participating schools include: Marguerita Muniz High School, Josiah Quincy School, William Henderson School, Hurley School, Sarah Greenwood School, and Jackson-Mann School.

The Museum also serves teachers around the world through its Educators Online initiative, a free learning tool from the MFA that enables teachers to create custom art galleries to share with students online or in the classroom. This rich resource draws on more than 150,000 works of art in the Museum, helping students to develop critical thinking skills and express themselves in new ways.

MFA IN THE COMMUNITY

Community Arts Initiative

The Community Arts Initiative introduces young people to the MFA's collections and the art-making process, while helping them understand how art can be part of their lives. Each year, students in after-school programs work on an art project with an artist, which is then displayed in the Linde Family Wing for Contemporary Art. Since 1988, the MFA has partnered with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, formalizing the relationship with the creation of the Community Arts Initiative in 2006, funded by the Linde Family Foundation. The program now has partnerships with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston in Blue Hill, Charlestown, Chelsea, Roxbury, and South Boston; West End House Boys & Girls Club of Allston-Brighton; United South End Settlement House; and Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center. The Museum also partners with the Vine Street Community Center in Roxbury. *The Community Arts Initiative is sponsored by the Linde Family Foundation.*

Artful Healing

In this nationally recognized initiative, the MFA partners with Children's Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Artful Healing workshops are a series of theme-based art-making activities for patients and families in a group setting or bedside—providing a respite for patients and their families. Workshops use images of art in the Museum's collection as inspiration or reference for art-making activities. Since its launch in 2007, the program has served some 1,500 patients and families. In addition, the MFA provides free Museum passes for patients and their families during their stay at these hospitals, and reproductions of works from the MFA's collections are made available to the hospitals to hang on their walls. *Artful Healing is generously supported by Carol and Terry Wall. Additional support for the program at MGH is provided by June N. and John C. Robinson.*

Workshops for Residents at Brigham and Women's Hospital

The MFA partners with Brigham and Women's Hospital to provide workshops for first-year residents, who come together in groups to discuss the challenging human issues of medical practice. Each group meets at the MFA for a two-hour workshop using a range of works of art, from ancient to contemporary, to stimulate a variety of discussions and interactions. For example, an Etruscan sarcophagus with an embracing couple pictured on the lid can help doctors to assist patients and families as they cope with death.

Community Group Visits

The MFA provides free admission for hundreds of nonprofit agencies and community organizations to visit the Museum, ensuring that its audiences are as inclusive as possible. *Made possible by The Lowell Institute.*

ACCESS PROGRAMS

Access to Art

Access to Art programs offer visitor-centered, interactive group tours for individuals with a wide range of disabilities, including physical, cognitive, or emotional disabilities as well as Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or memory loss. Free tours are scheduled upon request when the Museum is open and are also offered in American Sign Language (ASL) and Spanish. Pre-registration is required for this program.

A Feeling for Form

This free program allows visitors of all ages who are blind or have low vision to tour the collections. Trained Museum volunteers and staff lead tours that encompass and use selected sculpture and furniture for touch tours, and verbal description, tactile graphics, and other materials for artworks that cannot be touched. Feeling for Form tours visit all areas of the Museum's collections. The program's introductory series is available on the first Sunday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required. A sighted guide who can provide description for visitors who are blind attending other events in the Museum may be requested as well.

A Hand's Reach to Art

Through this program, visitors who are Deaf or hard of hearing are given access to MFA collections, programs, and events. Every second Wednesday of the month a tour in American Sign Language visits part of the collection. These tours, and other tours throughout the year focusing on special exhibitions and during Open Houses, are led by a guide who is Deaf. A Hand's Reach to Art also provides American Sign Language interpretation for a number of gallery tours, performances, and demonstrations. In addition to providing ASL, an assistive listening system is available for gallery tours and talks that depart from the Sharf Visitor Center. To further enhance the appreciation of the Museum's works of art, the MFA Guide has ASL as one of the language tours, and text transcripts of all stops for those who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS (Ages 2-12)

MFA Playdates

First and third Monday of every month

10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

Free with Museum admission

MFA Playdates is designed for parents with toddlers, ages 4 and younger. Playdates offers families an educational environment in which to create art and view the galleries through a series of fun activities. Toddlers enjoy story time, followed by a short art tour that engages both children and their parents. Each month, the program focuses on a new theme. Playdates participants meet in the Sharf Visitor Center.

Cogan Family Foundation School Vacation Week Adventures

Monday – Friday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., and Wednesday until 8 p.m.

Free with Museum admission

Each vacation week focuses on a new theme, where families with children of all ages and abilities are invited to enjoy art-making activities in the galleries, workshops, family-friendly tours, and story hours. Past themes have included “Beasts and Beauties,” “Journey up the Nile,” and “Travels through Time.” Through these activities and programs, families learn about the Museum’s collections and special exhibitions.

Studio Art Classes for Children (Ages 4 and up)

Saturday and Sunday classes and workshops, as well as school vacation week and summer classes, are offered through **Weekly Journeys through Art**. Groups of up to 12 children (grouped by age) discover new places and cultures, visit the MFA’s galleries, then draw, paint, sculpt, collage, or print a work of art. Also available is a **Preschool Program**, designed for children ages 4 to 5, accompanied by an adult. Preschool sessions meet once a week for five weeks. Advance registration and fee required.

Artful Adventures (Ages 3 and up)

Artful Adventures provides opportunities for groups of children ages 3–18 to connect with the art and cultures of Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas through engagement with the MFA collections. Participants are often associated with after school, community, preschool, home school, special needs, and off-site programs, as well as summer camps and Scouting. Teachers and group leaders work closely with Museum educators to design customized adventures that fit the interests and needs of each group. Each visit lasts an hour and a half and combines gallery exploration with an art-making activity. The MFA also offers Artful Adventures to bilingual groups (English/Spanish). Advance registration and fee required. *Support provided by: Michael D. Dingman Fund; Pamela D. Adams Fund for Artful Adventures; Richard W. and Marjorie S. Dammann fund; Mrs. Charles H. Taylor fund; William O. and Sally Taylor Fund; Rieka, Samuel and Renée Rapaport Fund for Education Outreach for Youth and Families; Bramhall Fund; Estate of Charlotte Brayton.*

Family Art Cart

Saturday and Sunday, September – June

Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, July – August

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Free with Museum admission

Children ages 4 and up can participate in fun and educational activities to enjoy with adults in the galleries. They can choose from a variety of interactive activities that rotate monthly, which are available at the Family Art Cart in the Shapiro Family Courtyard. Included among them are puzzles, books, and scavenger hunts. Also available are Art Connection Cards, which allow children and families to explore the MFA through a scavenger hunt. Each activity focuses on a specific theme, linking intriguing objects from many cultures. Children of all ages can search for objects and images—from cats and flowers to mythical creatures to arms and armor—to learn interesting facts and get ideas for art-making activities. Art Connection cards are available in the Sharf Visitor Center, as well as at the Family Art Cart. They are also offered in Spanish and in Braille with large print.

In addition to the Art Cart hours, during their visit children can borrow a free Family Activity Tote bag equipped with a variety of self-guided gallery activities, a sketchpad, and colored pencils to enhance one's visit to the MFA. These are available in the Sharf Visitor Center. *The Family Art Cart is made possible with endowment support from the Germeshausen Foundation Fund for Youth and Family Learning, and the John and Dorothy Wilson Fund. Additional support for self-guiding materials, such as Art Connections Cards, is provided by The Lowell Institute.*

TEEN PROGRAMS (Ages 13-18)

Teen Arts Council

The Teen Arts Council (TAC) is a leadership development program for selected teenagers that uses the apprenticeship model and serves to connect the MFA with Greater Boston's teens, families, and communities. In paid positions, the TAC members are introduced to a range of museum professions and learning opportunities while also gaining valuable work experience. Throughout the year, TAC members have the opportunity to work on a variety of activities such as creating and producing teen-focused events, greeting and giving information to Museum visitors, and creating wall labels to accompany the Museum's art collections. They also attend workshops and training sessions designed to develop their creative and critical thinking skills. *Teen Arts Council is funded by the Yawkey Foundations, the Pamela D. and Robert W. Adams Fund, the Dorothy B. and Owen W. Robbins Teen Arts Council Fund, the Dean Welfare Trust, the William E. Schrafft and Bertha E. Schrafft Charitable Trust, the Endowment for the Teen Arts Council, the Adelaide Breed Bayrd Foundation, and the Paul and Edith Babson Foundation. With special thanks to Richard and Priscilla Hunt for their generous support. Sponsored by John Hancock Financial Services.*

Teen Visitor Aides

Teen Visitor Aides (TVA) play a vital role in welcoming MFA visitors during the summer, providing information to make each visitor's experience enriching and memorable. The aides split their time between the MFA lobbies, the Sharf Visitor Center, and Museum galleries. Teens also have the opportunity to attend professional development workshops facilitated by Museum staff with other teens that are involved with the Museum.

Studio Art Classes for Teens

The MFA and its partner institutions—Diablo Glass School, Eliot School, and Stonybrook Fine Arts—offer one-day workshops, four-day intensives, and multi-week courses for teens ranging from painting, sculpting, and making jewelry to creating one's own comic book. Through the Museum's Teen Placement Program or "TPSquared," scholarship funds are available for select students to take studio art classes at the MFA.

UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

University Student Membership Program

The MFA's University Student Membership Program provides free access to the Museum for students at more than 40 colleges and universities in Massachusetts. Memberships for another 40 institutions in Maine and New Hampshire have been sponsored by the Lunder Maine Student Membership Program and the McLane Family New Hampshire Student Membership Program, respectively, which also provide free admission to the MFA for students of ages from these states, enabling the Museum to be a resource for thousands of New England students.

Ambassador Program

The MFA Ambassador Program is an opportunity for work-study-eligible students at participating universities. Ambassadors help visitors plan and navigate the Museum and offer guidance and interpretation. These year-long positions begin in the fall semester. *Made possible by the Susan and Digger Donahue Fund for the Ambassador Program and the Elisabeth K. Davis Communication Fund.*

The Lunder Summer Internship Program

Funded by the Lunder Foundation, the Lunder Summer Internship Program provides paid internships to Maine college and university students, allowing them to gain valuable work experience in the art world.

ADULT PROGRAMS (Ages 18 and up)

Gallery Tours

Offered seven days a week (except Monday holidays), the MFA's guided tours are free with Museum admission and explore many different collections. They are offered in English, Spanish, French, Russian, and American Sign Language. All tours meet at the Sharf Visitor Center, last approximately one hour, and are free with Museum admission.

Gallery Talks

Museum curators, conservators, educators, independent scholars, artists, and graduate students offer weekly gallery talks. Visitors can learn about art, culture, and history in the MFA's collection. Talks focus on special exhibitions and the MFA's encyclopedic collection. Select gallery talks offer a "behind-the-scenes" look at the work of conservators, exhibition designers, and other staff at the MFA. One-hour gallery talks, which are geared to adults, are free with Museum admission and start in the Sharf Visitor Center.

Spotlight Talks

Visitors can learn more about a specific work of art during these 15-minute talks with Museum educators and curators, who shed light on stories, techniques, and histories of fascinating objects in the Museum. All Spotlight Talks are free with Museum admission. *Made possible by The Wallace Foundation.*

Artist Demonstrations

Visual artists, dancers, and musicians discuss and demonstrate their work, allowing visitors to discover the stories and inspirations behind their art and ask questions of the artists. Select programs are hands-on. This drop-in program for all ages is free with Museum admission. *Made possible by The Lowell Institute.*

Contemporary Conversations

Curious about Contemporary art? Contemporary art can generate great discussions and questions. How was it made? What events in our lifetime inspired the artist? What do you think the artist meant to say? Participants join MFA staff for a 15-minute discussion about some of the key works of art in the contemporary galleries in the Linde Family Wing. Each conversation focuses on one object. This drop-in program is free with Museum admission, and no registration required.

Drawing in the Galleries

Every Wednesday, 6-9 p.m.

Visitors of all ages can drop-in and sketch from live models and objects in the Museum's galleries. All ranges of experience are welcome, including visitors who are picking up a sketchbook for the first time. An instructor offers insights on drawing technique and how the artist-model relationship can inspire the sketching process. Materials are provided. This drop-in program for all ages is free with Museum admission. *Made possible by The Lowell Institute.*

Artist Toolbox Cart

Most Wednesday evenings and weekend afternoons

Visitors in the galleries can explore the tools and materials that artists use during this weekly drop-in program. Artists' tools and demonstration pieces can be examined, revealing the process behind the creation of objects in the Museum's collection. Learn about painting, mosaics, marble sculpture, furniture design, and Japanese woodblock prints. Staff are available to answer questions and discuss techniques. Free with Museum admission. *Made possible by The Wallace Foundation.*

Lectures and Courses

Intriguing lectures related to the Museum's exhibitions and timely art topics are presented through the MFA's lectures and courses. Speakers include artists and art experts from around the world. Single or multi-session offerings are available, designed to complement the latest MFA exhibition or explore art-related themes. Sundays feature special events celebrating holidays, music, writers, and technology. The **Looking Together** program encounters the MFA's collections in small groups led by knowledgeable, enthusiastic instructors that engage in discussion, conversation, and activity.

Studio Art Classes for Adults

The MFA offers year-round studio art classes and workshops taught by experienced educators and professional artists. Access to the Museum's world-class collection of art provides inspiration for studio exploration. Studio art classes and workshops include day, evening, and weekend classes. The adult program includes weekly classes, one- and two-day workshops in drawing, figure drawing, acrylic painting, oil painting, watercolor, printmaking, mixed media, sculpture, and stone carving.

###