a GUIDE to family fun at the mfa

Museum of Fine Arts Boston
WELCOME!

The MFA is a great place to explore. You’ll see paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, photographs, videos, and more! This guide can help you fill your visit today with fun.

Before you begin, some quick tips

➤ Don’t feel like you need to see the entire Museum in one day. It’s a big place and worth many visits!

➤ Help us keep the artwork safe by not touching or climbing on objects.

➤ Please don’t eat in the galleries; take a snack break in one of our dining areas.
look closely

Take your time and look closely at just a few things during your visit. As you look at paintings, imagine the sights, sounds, and smells you would experience if you stepped inside. Try striking a pose like the sculptures you see.

create an adventure

Create a family adventure plan. Search for faces, crowns, or animals; choose a culture to explore (Ancient Egypt, colonial America); or look for a specific kind of art (paintings, photographs). Not sure where to start? Pick up an Art Connections Card at Sharf Visitor Center and search for objects by theme.
Using paper and pencils, sketch what you see in the galleries. If you don’t have sketching supplies, stop by Sharf Visitor Center and ask for a pencil and paper or a tote bag with drawing materials and activities. Or pick up a My MFA Sketchbook.
Search for specific shapes, lines, colors, or animals in different galleries. For example, look for zigzag lines or find all the things that are yellow in each gallery.

Play a gallery game. You can play “I Spy” in one of your favorite galleries. Or pick two similar works of art and compare them. Discuss how they are the same and how they are different. Or try playing the Memory Game together. Look at a work of art for a few minutes. Then, turn around and describe what you saw. Take turns. Does each person remember the same details or different parts?
VISITING BASICS

HOURS The Museum is open daily! 10 am–5 pm Monday, Tuesday, Saturday, and Sunday; 10 am–10 pm Wednesday–Friday. CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY, PATRIOTS' DAY, INDEPENDENCE DAY, THANKSGIVING, AND CHRISTMAS DAY.

ADMISSION Kids ages 17 and under visit for free during non-school hours (weekdays after 3 pm, weekends, and Boston Public Schools holidays). Kids 7 and under are always free.

BABY-CHANGING AREAS are located in restrooms throughout the Museum.

DINING in the Garden Cafeteria features inexpensive, kid-friendly options; open daily from 10 am to 4 pm. Located on Level G in the Linde Family Wing for Contemporary Art.

MEMBERS enjoy free and faster admission; discounts on dining, shopping, and parking; and a full calendar of events. Join today—visit www.mfa.org/join or speak with a Museum representative.

NURSING ROOM is located off the Hemicycle Gallery (148).

STROLLERS are available to borrow from coat check and are allowed in all galleries; however, there may be restrictions in the Gund Gallery if crowds are large.

WHEELCHAIRS are available on a first-come, first-served basis at each Museum entrance, without reservations.

Flip through these pages for more!
MORE FUN ACTIVITIES!
The Museum offers programs for children of all ages. Most are free with Museum admission unless otherwise noted. We hope that you will join us for one or more of these exciting activities.

Gallery Interactives
Visit engaging and informative interactive stations throughout the Museum. See a video showing how furniture is made in Gallery 138, or watch how an artist makes pottery in Gallery 179. Go behind the scenes in Galleries 125 and 225. Visit Gallery 208 to see conservators at work!

Family Art Cart
October through June, Sat and Sun, 10 am–4 pm
July and August, Wed, Sat, Sun, 10 am–4 pm
Explore the MFA’s galleries with fun, educational activities designed for children ages 4 and older to enjoy with adults. Piece together puzzles, uncover ancient Egyptian mysteries, or create your own work of contemporary art.

Junior Artists
Every Saturday, 10:30 am–12:30 pm
Enjoy a weekly free drop-in creative morning for families with children ages 5 to 8. Look closely at art, make art, and have fun! Free with Museum admission.

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Generously supported in part by Uniqlo USA.
MFA Playdates
First Monday and third Saturday of each month, 10:15–11 am
Recommended for children ages 4 and younger with adults.
A time for toddlers and caregivers to enjoy stories in the galleries, looking activities, and making art.

Vacation Weeks
February, April, and December
All ages and abilities are welcome with an accompanying adult.
Enjoy free drop-in art activities especially designed for families. Celebrate with a week of making art, performances, tours, and more.

FEBRUARY AND APRIL VACATION WEEKS ARE THE COGAN FAMILY FOUNDATION VACATION WEEK ADVENTURES.
After Your Visit

On your way home discuss your visit. What was each person’s favorite object or gallery? Create a work of art together when you get home. Sketch a favorite object from memory, create a sculpture using found objects or clay, or paint a picture of your home, neighborhood, or something special to you.

Come back for more

Don’t forget—kids and members always visit free! See back cover for details.

Visit often at www.mfa.org!

Stay tuned for upcoming programs and events and check out online Art Connections Cards.

We hope to see you again—and soon!

MFA Guide 🎧

Available at any ticket desk and Sharf Visitor Center. Members $5, nonmembers $6, kids 17 and under $4, free for visitors who are Deaf or blind.

Look deeper into the art you love with a mobile MFA Guide. The Kids’ Tour introduces young visitors ages 6 to 10 to the Art of the Americas collections. The galleries are brought to life with the help of three quirky animated characters: Lucia, a high school reporter; Steve, an adventurous 10-year-old; and Malone, an art detective. Together they help kids look at art in new, creative ways.

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Lucia, from the MFA Guide Kids’ Tour

Page 2: Peacock Weather Vane (Detail), about 1860–75. Copper; painted gold; iron rod. Gift of Maxim Karolik.
Page 3, Right: Reverse of Dekadrachm (Demareteion) of Syracuse with Quadriga, Greek, Early Classical Period, about 470–465 BC. Silver. Theodora Wilbour Fund in Memory of Zoe Wilbour (1864–1885).
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