

MFA H HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR VISIT

ExxonMobil School Tour Program

tours@mfaah.org | 713-639-7858 | mfaah.org/studentvisits

Thank you for booking a visit to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. In this packet you will find resources designed to help you, your chaperones, and your students prepare for their visit to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If I have questions before my visit, whom can I ask?

Contact the Museum at tours@mfah.org or **713-639-7858**.

How much does my visit cost?

Guided tours are free for school groups with registration four weeks in advance. Self-guided visits are free for school groups with registration two weeks in advance. Admission fees apply to ticketed exhibitions.

How long will my visit last?

Guided tours last for one hour. Schools groups are welcome to continue exploring the Museum on their own after the tour.

What if I need to cancel my visit?

In the event that you must cancel your visit, please contact tours@mfah.org or call **713-639-7858** as soon as possible.

What happens if our group is late?

If your group arrives late for a guided tour, your tour will be shortened and will finish at the originally designated time. If your group arrives more than 30 minutes late, your tour will be canceled.

How many chaperones should I bring?

One adult chaperone per ten students is required. Chaperones receive free admission and must remain with their group for the entire visit. Please share the information regarding Museum guidelines with all chaperones before the visit.

Will students be able to work on an assignment during our visit?

Yes, but after the tour. Tours at the Museum involve student participation. To help students remain focused, please allow time after the tour for students to complete any handouts, written assignments, or sketching. Please use pencils to write and sketch in the galleries.

Where can we eat lunch?

CULLEN SCULPTURE GARDEN

School groups may bring sack lunches in the Cullen Sculpture Garden, located across the street from the Museum. To reserve space for your group, please call **713-639-7858** or e-mail tours@mfah.org at least two weeks in advance and let us know what date and time you plan to use the Sculpture Garden. We do not have an alternate venue for lunch in the event of inclement weather.

MFA CAFÉ

Food and beverages are available for purchase at the MFA Café, located on the lower level of the Museum's Audrey Jones Beck Building. No outside food is permitted in the café.

Can we take photographs?

Video and still photography, without flash, is permitted at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, solely for private, noncommercial use, and only in Museum galleries that are devoted to its permanent collections, including The Lillie and Hugh Roy Cullen Sculpture Garden. If your group is interested in taking pictures, please allow additional time for photography after your guided tour is complete.

Will there be time to visit the Museum Shop?

Students are welcome to visit the MFA Shop after their guided tour or at any point during their self-guided visit. Ten students accompanied by an adult chaperone may enter the shop at one time.



WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE MUSEUM

Arrival and Parking

CHECK-IN

Guided Tours: Students should remain on the bus until the lead teacher has checked in with a docent or Museum staff, who will ask for the number of students and chaperones in the group. After check-in, students may exit buses and line up single file to the left of the museum entrance. A docent or museum staff will confirm the number of students and chaperones before dividing them evenly among available docents.

Self-Guided Tours: Students should remain on the bus until the lead teacher has checked in with the guest services desk. At the desk, museum staff will ask for the number of students and chaperones in the group and provide chaperone badges for the adults. After check-in, students may exit buses and line up single file to the right of the museum entrance to prepare to begin the tour. If the school arrives early, they must wait for their scheduled tour time to enter.

BUS PARKING

Park buses in the north parking lot, access from Main Street. School buses are not permitted to park in the south lot. Overflow parking is located at Hermann Park immediately past the Mecom fountain (see enclosed Museum campus map). After parking buses, drivers are permitted to return to the Museum free of charge to join their school groups for the tour. Guided tours last approximately one hour.



Museum Guidelines

We hope that your Museum visit will be an enriching learning experience. Please help us keep everyone safe and engaged by reviewing the following guidelines with students and chaperones before your scheduled visit.

NOTES FOR EVERYONE

- Please do not touch the works of art. Help the Museum protect the art by looking closely with your eyes but refraining from touching art in the Museum and Sculpture Garden. Please avoid leaning on cases and walls in the galleries.
- Students should remain with their chaperones at all times.
- Food, drinks, and gum are not permitted inside the Museum galleries. If your group plans to have lunch in the Cullen Sculpture Garden, please leave the lunches on the bus until your scheduled lunch time.
- Please turn off or silence cell phones during the tour.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS AND CHAPERONES

- We recommend that backpacks, heavy coats, and umbrellas remain on the bus. Groups are welcome to check these items into the coat check areas located in the lobby if needed.
- Please wear the museum chaperone badges while at the Museum. You will receive a chaperone badge during check-in.
- On guided tours, students will see three to five works of art. Tours are designed for discovery and careful observation. Discussion through works of art encourage how to approach ambiguous and complex ideas, and foster critical thinking. The Museum offers a democratic space where students and teachers can develop, practice, and articulate these habits of mind.

All Learning and Interpretation programs at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, receive endowment income from funds provided by the Louise Jarrett Moran Bequest; Caroline Wiess Law; the William Randolph Hearst Foundation; The National Endowment for the Humanities; the Fondren Foundation; BMC Software, Inc.; the Wallace Foundation; the Neal Myers and Ken Black Children's Art Fund; the Favrot Fund; and Gifts in honor of Beth Schneider.

The MFAH School Tour program receives generous funding from:

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