

MFA HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR VISIT

School Tours Pre-visit Materials

schooltours@mfa.org | 713-639-7835 | mfa.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.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

Contact the Museum at schooltours@mfah.org or **713-639-7835**.

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 at least two weeks in advance. Advance registration provides access to the MFAH Permanent Collections and special exhibitions. Some exhibitions may not be suitable for groups; please contact us before your visit for details.

How long will my visit last?

Both guided and self-guided tours are booked for one hour in the Museum within a specific time frame, e.g., 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

What if I need to cancel my visit?

In the event that you must cancel your visit, please email schooltours@mfah.org or call **713-639-7835** 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, you will be asked to self-guide for your visit.

How many chaperones should I bring?

One adult chaperone per 12 students is required. Chaperones receive free admission and must remain with their group for the entire visit. Please review and share the information regarding Museum guidelines with all chaperones before the visit.

A maximum of two chaperones per every 12 students may shadow a docent-guided group. Extra chaperones will need to pay for general admission tickets at the admissions desk at the door. Please let us know in advance the need to make special accommodations for any participant in the group.

Where can we eat lunch?

CULLEN SCULPTURE GARDEN

School groups may bring sack lunches to eat in the Cullen Sculpture Garden, located on the campus of the Museum. We do not have an alternate venue for lunch in the event of inclement weather.

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.

Can we touch the art?

Please do not touch the art!

We love our collection as much as you do. We spend a lot of time making sure the objects last for generations to come, and touching shortens the lifespan of the artwork. Oil on fingers and hands transfers onto the objects and can permanently change the appearance of the surface. As the objects age, even very sturdy objects turn brittle and the lightest touch can cause irreparable damage.





WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE MUSEUM

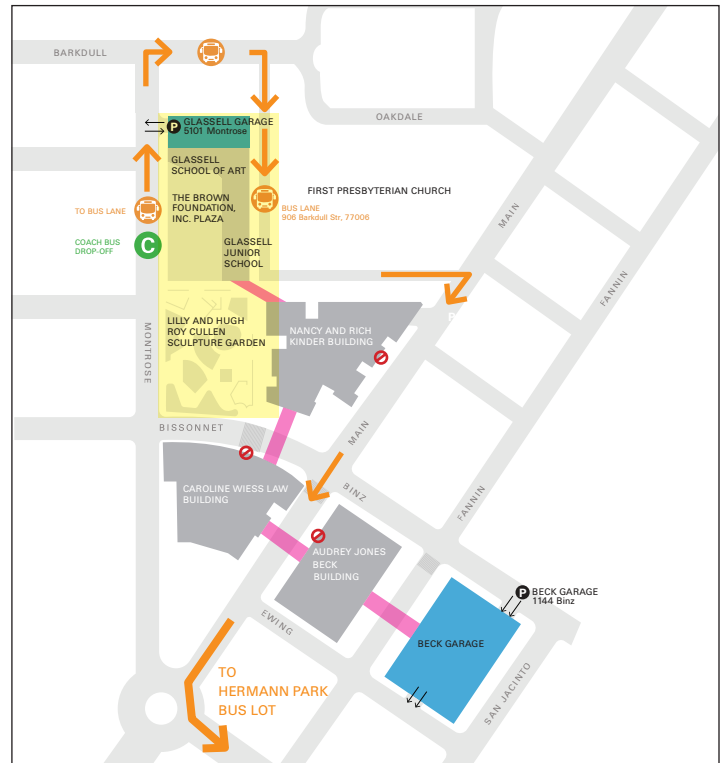
Arrival and Parking

CHAPERONE PARKING








The most convenient parking for chaperones is now available in the Glassell Garage, a new underground facility at 5101 Montrose Boulevard, just north of Bissonnet. Look for signage that will direct you to the entry off of Montrose.

UPDATED! BUS DROP-OFF AND PARKING

-  • *Yellow school buses and mini school buses* drop off in the bus lane located at 906 Barkdull Street, Houston, TX 77006, behind the Glassell School of Art. Going north on Montrose from Bissonnet, turn right on Barkdull and take the first immediate right into the bus lane behind the Glassell Building. See orange route on map.
-  • *Large coach buses* do not fit in the bus lane. Instead, please unload students in front of The Brown Foundation, Inc. Plaza, 5101 Montrose Blvd. Then proceed to Barkdull Street (do not enter bus lane), then to Oakdale Street and on to Main Street to Hermann Park Bus Lot.
- *Docent-guided tours* will be greeted by Museum staff at the school tour entrance. *Self-guided groups* will check in with guest services located in the Kinder Building, lower level. Before exiting the bus, please exchange phone numbers with the bus driver.
- Please do not leave unattended buses in the drop-off and pickup lanes. Buses are not permitted to park in any of the Museum parking lots.
- Once students have exited their buses, drivers will continue in the bus lane, then turn left between First Presbyterian Church and the Kinder Building, exiting onto Main Street. Overflow parking is located at Hermann Park immediately past the Mecom Fountain.



The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
The Susan and Faye S. Sarofim Campus

-  Bus Drop-Off/Parking
-  Coach Bus Drop-Off
-  Parking Garages
-  Tour Staging Area
-  Museum Buildings
-  Not a School Tour Drop-Off
-  Tunnels

- After parking buses, drivers are permitted to return to the Museum free of charge to join their school groups for the tour. All guided tours last approximately one hour.
- When the buses return for pickup, they must reenter the bus lane as they did for drop-off.

Check-In

GUIDED TOURS

Students should remain on the bus until the lead teacher has checked in with a staff member, who will ask for the number of students and chaperones in the group. After checking in, students may exit buses and enter the Museum, continuing either by stairs or elevator to the lower-level McNair Education Court. A staff member will confirm the number of students and chaperones before dividing them evenly among available docents.

SELF-GUIDED TOURS

Once you pick up your self-guided tour packet from the Glassell School drop-off point, the lead teacher will check in with guest services staff or the admissions desk in the lower level of the Kinder Building. Museum staff will ask for the number of students and chaperones in the group.

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 silence cell phones during the tour.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS AND CHAPERONES

- We ask that backpacks, heavy coats, and umbrellas remain on the bus. If bringing backpacks for medical reasons, please keep the backpack in front of your body at all times while walking in the galleries.
- All Museum buildings are connected via a network of underground tunnels. Please use these tunnels to ensure student safety.
- 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 encourages students to approach ambiguous and complex ideas, and fosters critical thinking. The Museum offers a democratic space where students and teachers can develop, practice, and articulate these habits of mind.

MFA TOUR EVALUATION K–12

Art Resource Tour for Schools Program

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS!

Tell us about your tour experience today so that we can plan future opportunities for educators and students. All completed evaluations will be entered to win a \$25 Amazon gift card. Use this QR code:



MFA H GUIDELINES FOR TOUR CHAPERONES

Art Resource Tour for Schools Program


Welcome to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston!

Thank you for accompanying your class to the Museum today. We are happy you are here and request the following:

- Please stay with your group and help keep the students together. Addressing any students who need extra attention and providing escorts to the bathroom, etc., will help the docent provide the best possible experience to everyone.
- Do not touch any works of art.
- Please refrain from using a cell phone during the tour; it is distracting to the students and their docent (museum educator/tour guide).
- Assist the docent however you can, but please be as discreet as possible during discussions.

Again, thank you very much for your participation. We hope you enjoy your Museum experience.

Come back soon!

Art Resource Tour for Schools Program is sponsored by: 

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MFA GUÍA PARA EL/LA CHAPERÓN

Programa de Guías Escolar


¡Bienvenidos al Museo de Bellas Artes de Houston!

Gracias por acompañar a su clase al museo hoy. Nos complace que se encuentre aquí y le pedimos lo siguiente:

- Permanezca siempre con la clase que se le asigna, manteniendo al grupo unido. Para mejor ayudarlo al guía, por favor ayude a cualquier estudiante que necesite atención adicional como acompañante al baño, etc. Esto mejorará la experiencia de todos.
- Por favor mantengase a dos pies de distancia del arte.
- Mantenga su celular desconectado a lo largo del recorrido; distrae a los estudiantes y el/la guía.
- Ayude al guía como pueda, pero sea prudente durante discusiones.

Muchas gracias por su participación. Esperamos que disfrute su experiencia en el Museo.

¡Regrese pronto!

El programa Art Resource Tour for Schools está patrocinado por: 

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MFA **H** WHY VISIT THE ART MUSEUM?

A SCHOOL VISIT AT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON, is a fun, enriching experience. It also represents a critical step in 21st-century learning, fostering innovation and academic achievement.

Studies demonstrate correlations between engagement in the arts and

- academic achievement in students
- SAT scores
- scientific accomplishment and innovation

A recent study has shown that a single school visit to an art museum results in students who

- have stronger critical-thinking skills
- demonstrate increased capacity for historical empathy
- display higher levels of tolerance
- have greater knowledge about art, and higher interest in art and culture

The Art Resource Tour for Schools Program at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

- opens doors for students and teachers
- integrates the visual arts into classroom curriculum
- produces measurable improvement in 21st-century student skills



Docent-guided visits

- allow students to form meaningful connections with works of art through close looking and interactive gallery experiences
- are led by trained volunteers
- encourage critical and creative thinking while addressing multiple learning styles

[VIEW THESE VIDEOS](#) to find out what teachers and students can expect from MFAH School Tours, and additional opportunities that the Museum supports for learning through art.

[ENGLISH VERSION](#)

[SPANISH VERSION](#)

