



Programming at the Ringling Museum

Serving Children and Families

The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art introduces an expanded menu of family-friendly programs designed to offer families an opportunity to explore the Ringling Museum in a fun, interactive and educational manner. The family-friendly programs are designed around a special exhibition or theme and will change on a quarterly basis. Included in the new family-friendly programs are new family guides, a new Family Discovery Center and Saturday Family Days. Participation in Saturday Family Days activities and the Family Discovery Center are included in the price of regular Museum admission. The program is appropriate for children four and up.



Family Discovery Center

The center offers families a place to learn in a relaxed setting and includes interactive activities such as games, short videos, and hands-on art-making materials. Families self-guide themselves through the center and can enter and leave at their own pace. The center is set-up in select special exhibition galleries or a Museum venue and are offered daily for a pre-determined period of time.

Family Guides

Complimentary family guides corresponding to select exhibitions or themes are available daily in the Family Discovery Center.

Saturday Family Days

Family Days offers a new way for families to spend their Saturday's at the Museum. The day will include a story time, family-friendly tours of the special exhibition and an activity cart with hands-on art-making activities for the entire family in the Family Discovery Center.

Renaissance Kids

Renaissance Kids! is an outreach program that targets children of low income families and at risk youth ages 3-14. The Ringling Museum After School Coordinator, visits select elementary schools in Sarasota and Manatee counties. This program introduces underserved youth to the legacy of John and Mable Ringling through the Museum of Art, The *Cà d' Zan*, The Circus Museum, The Historic Asolo Theater, Tibbals Learning Center and the Estate Grounds.

Schools Out Day Camps

Children grades one through five are invited to explore culture in these new "School's Out" day camps. The day-long camp dates correspond to select dates that Sarasota County and Manatee County Public Schools have scheduled days off. Each day is designed around a specific special exhibition or theme in the Ringling collection. The camps integrates visual arts, performing arts,



games and stories. Camps are offered from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on the selected days. Aftercare will be available until 5:30 p.m. for an additional price.

Cool Summer Investigations (CSI) for community youth groups and summer camps is a self-guided activity designed to make the Museum’s collections accessible and relevant to youth. Community youth groups use activity booklets to guide themselves through galleries and venues. Each program takes one hour to complete and is recommended for youth age six and older. The activity is free to both Florida students and their chaperones.

Ringling Museum Summer Culture Camps

The Museum’s new weeklong summer Culture Camps invite children to journey across continents and through time. Integrating visual arts, performing arts, language, food, games, and stories, camps will serve as a gateway for children to explore the cultures represented in the Ringling Collection. The program is designed for children at least 7 years old and entering either the 2nd or 3rd grades.

Engaging Tours



The iPod custom audio tour of the Museum of Art’s 21-gallery permanent collection incorporates sound and images to enhance the visitor’s experience. The audio tours provide the visitor with a comprehensive overview of the Museum of Art’s best works. The state-of-the-art 60-stop tour is set with period music, character voices, and high-resolution digital images of all of the included artworks.

School Tours

School groups have a menu of tour options to choose from enabling Ringling Museum Docents to tailor each tour to a teacher’s specifications. Free pre- and post-visit materials are also available according to the Sunshine State Standards for core subjects. School tours are provided free of charge for Florida students and teachers.

In the Classroom – Supporting Teachers

The *Educator Institute* is a multi-day summer session that showcases nationally recognized speakers, regional experts, and current strategies designed to place the arts at the center of learning and teaching. The session features National and Sunshine State Standards-based programming and curriculum; teachers receive in-service credit for attending.

Saturday for Educators is series of Sunshine State Standards-based workshops designed to serve K-12 classroom, specialists, administrators, arts teachers, and non-traditional educators. These innovative hands-on workshops include an introduction to an



exhibition or area of the Ringling collection, a gallery talk or lecture, and a hands-on activity. We provide free classroom resource materials and a forum for discussion and reflection. Teachers receive in-service credit towards re-certification for participating in these workshops, which are free of charge to Florida educators.

The Ringling Museum *Educator Open House* is presented in the fall in time for back to school. This free program for Florida educators introduces new and returning educators to the treasures of the Museum complex and expedites field trip planning. The focus of the program is to highlight the upcoming year of exhibitions, promote all of the professional development programs and touring opportunities available to K-20 educators and administrators.

Curriculum writers, Education Division staff and art historians link up each year to design and produce an annual Teaching Poster that adheres to Sunshine State Standards. In fiscal year 2008 (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008) the area of curriculum focus will be on Florida History with special emphasis on the Estate's architecture. Art and art history are the jumping off points that link the schools' core curriculum subjects to objects from the collection. With the Museum's first Education Fellow, the Education Division has the ability to create strong art-infused materials that are relevant to and enhance the teaching of language arts, math, science, and history.

Serving graduate-level students



Summer Internships

The Ringling Museum of Art is dedicated to sharing its resources and experience with future museum and non-profit organization professionals interested in a career in the museum field. The Museum Internship Program introduces interns to different departments of a major museum complex. It provides insight into museum careers through practical work experience not available in most academic settings. Each year the Museum selects a varied group of talented graduate students from a highly competitive national and international group of applicants.

Year-long Fellowships

The Ringling Museum of Art has established two fellowships to provide recent graduates with an opportunity to begin their career in museums. The two 12-month, post-graduate fellowships are designed to enable recent recipients of a master's or doctoral degree in the arts, arts administration, museum studies, or other related fields prepare for careers in museum management and administration, or museum education and curatorial careers. These one-year non-renewable positions will provide each fellow with a challenging and comprehensive work experience. Toward the end of the year, we assume an active role in helping each fellow find a permanent position.

Summer Practicum Course in Museum Administration

During the summer a course on Museum Administration that combines classroom instruction and hands-on experience is offered through Florida State University at the Ringling Museum in

Sarasota. This 8-week course offers graduate-level credit. Students are guaranteed exposure in all areas of Museum business.

Serving Adults

The Ringling Museum/FSU Institute for Cultural Learning

University level, specialized seminars on a spectrum of broad cultural topics are available for life-long learners. The seminars are taught in small groups enhancing the personalized learning experience and creating ample opportunities for students to bond with fellow classmates with similar interests. The student does not sit behind a



desk all day, he or she is actively involved in the learning process through a blend of lectures, field trips, films, and in-gallery study sessions. Although when needed, the Museum classrooms available in the new Education/Conservation building (opened in December 2006) will be used. The seminars are taught by recognized authorities, university professors, curators, artistic directors, performers, and historians.

Spotlight Series

The Ringling *Spotlight* Series provides a menu of enlightening learning opportunities. This series offers regularly scheduled interactive programs with Museum curators and specialists in art, the circus, historic homes and gardens. *Spotlights* explore special exhibitions at the Museum as well as the treasures in the Ringling permanent collection, including the Art Museum, The Historic Asolo Theater, *Cà d'Zan* Mansion and Circus Museum.

Docent Training



To support audience development, training programs for docents are made available at the Ringling Museum. The goal of the program is to have a corps of well-trained Docents who provide a daily menu of exemplary tour options for our visitors in all venues and to deliver those tours as scheduled. Additional specialty training is presented for Accessibility Docents who deliver targeted tours for the blind and visually impaired and for School Docents who focus on school and school age children.

Collaborations with Area Education Resources

Partner Programs is a collaborative project between the Ringling College of Art and Design and the Ringling Museum of Art to offer a comprehensive adult educational experience. Fiscal year 2007, *Drawing with the Masters* featured gallery presentations and lectures by Ringling Museum staff and drawing sessions taught by Ringling College of Art and Design faculty; two new offerings will be presented in FY2008.

The Historic Asolo Theater

The Historic Asolo Theater serves as a performance venue and cultural resource for the Ringling Museum and the Florida State University Center for the Performing Arts by presenting a diverse roster of performances staged in partnership with area performing arts organizations, guest artists, and artist presenters.