



THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO EXPERIENCE ART

BY BRENDA C. MCCASKILL (BRENDA@ABOUTGREATERCINCINNATI.COM)
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM

It's not broadly known that the Cincinnati Art Museum, which offers a wide variety of tours, exhibitions, and programs, makes their extensive and impressive art collection accessible to everyone and for FREE!

Did you know the Cincinnati Art Museum is also an accessible venue with specific programming designed for individuals with special needs?

On a mission to welcome everyone, the Art Museum, located in scenic Eden Park and home to an art collection of more than 65,000 works spanning 6,000 years, offers monthly programs designed for visitors with special needs and encourages their full participation in their art experience.

"We feel very strongly about making the Art Museum accessible to everyone." shared Shannon Karol, Assistant Director of Interpretive Programming at the Cincinnati Art Museum.

The Accessibility Program, engaging and multisensory, provides individuals an environment in which they can feel comfortable expressing themselves and their opinions about art.

A powerful way of evoking expression as well as providing an opportunity to connect with others and experience art, the docent led Touch Tours for the Blind and Visually Impaired; ASL Tours for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired; Connect, for Adults with Developmental Disabilities;



(right) Emily Holtrop, Director of Learning + Interpretation at the Cincinnati Art Museum, leading a Touch Tour. (Photo | Cincinnati Art Museum)

ties; and Memories in the Museums have creatively engaged visitors and their companions into the world of art at the Art Museum.

"We enjoy this program more and more each time we come." said a participant in the Connect, for Adults with Developmental Disabilities program, one of the art experiences.

According to Shannon Karol, who manages the program, 300 visitors to the Art Museum have participated in the Accessibility Program since 2012 when the program began.

The Art Museum is looking to spread the word about its' exceptional

program so that more individuals and their families, caregivers can engage in the exploration of art and the tangible benefits the program offers.

"... finding a way to share the experience of art in the language that our visitor speaks....be it through memories, the sense of touch, the use of American Sign Language or connecting as individuals." shared an Art Museum docent, "... hopefully multiplies the joy and love of art for that person as she/he shares their experience."

The free, monthly programs offered to enhance the visitor experience:

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THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO EXPERIENCE ART (CONT'D)

- ***Touch Tours for the Blind and Visually Impaired***

On the second Saturday of every month from 11 a.m. - 12 noon, visitors with visual impairments tour the Art Museum through touch! Participants are given special gloves to wear to protect the art pieces they are allowed to touch while specially trained docents provide verbal descriptions and guide participants through the process of seeing art with their fingertips. Participants even touch artist tools like paint brushes. Each month features a different theme and focuses on 3 – 5 objects from the Art Museum's permanent collection.

- ***ASL Tours for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired***

A certified American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter joins an Art Museum docent each month on the third Saturday, 11 a.m. - 12 noon for a tour of one of the Art Museum's special exhibitions.

- ***Connect, for Adults with Developmental Disabilities***

On the fourth Saturday of each month from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., adults with developmental disabilities and their caregivers, join museum educators for a multisensory exploration of art from the museum's permanent collection and special exhibitions. Each monthly session, which features a different theme, is followed by art making projects; and

- ***Memories in the Museums***



Participants in Memories in the Museum program at the Cincinnati Art Museum sharing a drawing with a docent.

(Photo | Cincinnati Art Museum)

On the first Wednesday of every month from 10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m., visitors with memory loss and their guests can join the Taft Museum of Art, the Contemporary Arts Center, and the Cincinnati Art Museum for Memories in the Museum. Participants observe and engage in conversation about artwork. This program, in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati, rotates between the three Cincinnati historic art institutions and includes a tour, light refreshments, and an opportunity to participate in onsite art making.

"Our visitors in this program remember and share past life experiences," shared a Cincinnati Art Museum docent, "they trust us to guide them in getting to know the art and sometimes

they are moved to sing."

Admission to the Art Museum and participation in these programs is FREE. Parking is \$4 but if you spend money in the Art Museum's gift shop or café, you might just get parking waived. If you are a member of the Art Museum, parking is FREE.

In addition, the Cincinnati Art Museum, an ADA friendly environment, is equipped with an accessible entrance, provides a limited number of wheelchairs for use free of charge, and welcomes service animals.

Now you know about this special opportunity to create memories, foster engagement, and promote art. Spread the word!

Interested in Touch Tours for the Blind and Visually Impaired; ASL Tours for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired; and/or Connect, for Adults with Developmental Disabilities? Reservations are required and can be made online or by calling (513) 721.ARTS.

Interested in Memories in the Museums? Reservations are required. Space is limited. Contact the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati at 1-800-272-3900.

To learn more about the Cincinnati Art Museum's Accessibility Program including access the calendar of tour topics, related details, and online registration, click [here](#).

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