

Dear Administrator,

Thank you for considering a field trip to Tacoma Art Museum for your students! TAM field trips are grounded in research and best practices for arts education. Students engage directly with original works of art in our galleries and make some art of their own. This experience is guided by specially-trained Museum Educators and Teaching Artists.

Research shows that arts education has a marked impact on student learning. A recently completed national study found increases in students' critical and creative thinking abilities after only one field trip to an art museum. Students could transfer those skills to scientific analysis and come to better conclusions than students who had not experienced a field trip. Visual art education has also been shown to increase students' literacy and writing abilities and correlates with higher standardized test scores.

Arts education also has a significant impact on students' social-emotional development. One art museum study found leaps in students' empathy and tolerance after a single field trip. Engagement with the arts is predictive of a person's overall civic engagement and tolerance of others.

At TAM, we believe in helping students discover their own talents for art-making and art analysis. Research-based pedagogy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Project Zero informs the curriculum for all our programs. Gallery tours employ Project Zero's Artful Thinking Routines; art-making activities emphasize student choice and voice through the use of Studio Habits of Mind. These gallery activities and art-making processes help students think deeply about art. They also allow students to practice necessary skills for other content areas such as English language arts, science, and math.

Each program is aligned with state content-area standards and focused around an essential question, learning targets, and success criteria. The programs' standards alignment and curriculum focus are available on our website. Teachers can also use our pre-visit and post-visit curriculum in their classrooms to extend students' learning beyond the day of their field trip.

Please see the attached information about TAM's facilities and expectations. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us by emailing tours@tacomaartmuseum.org.

Sincerely,

The Education Department at Tacoma Art Museum

General Information: Facilities and Expectations

School Field Trips

Standards of Conduct:

Be Safe:

- Use walking feet in the museum.
- Stay with your group.

Be Respectful:

- Use inside voices.
- Be polite listeners and active participants in conversation.
- Be respectful of the building and facilities. This includes: not jumping in the elevator, leaving areas clean, etc.

Be Responsible:

- Touching harms the art. Do not touch art.

Facilities and Accessibility:

TAM has multi-stall men's and women's restrooms and two single-stall family/gender-neutral restrooms located in the lobby. Multi-stall men's and women's restrooms can also be found on the third floor, near the art-making classrooms.

All areas of TAM are wheelchair-accessible. The galleries are on two levels, accessed by ramp or elevator. The third-floor art-making classrooms are reached via stairs or elevator. The front entrance from Pacific Avenue is on the same level as most of the galleries; the main parking lot is located underneath the building. Entrance to TAM from the main parking lot is via elevator or several flights of stairs. All public entrances are equipped with door-activation push buttons for accessibility.

With advanced notice, TAM can provide some standard accommodations, including touch tours for low-vision students, fidgets, and gallery seating. For specific accessibility requests, please email us at tours@tacomaartmuseum.org.

Lunch spaces are available at TAM. Depending on availability, weather, and size of class, classes may eat lunch on the third floor in an art classroom, the atrium, or the outdoor patio; on the main level in the event space; or in the lobby. Classes may also eat lunch outside in Tollefson Plaza, across Pacific Avenue from the museum.

Chaperones

To help protect the art, TAM requires at least 1 chaperone per 10 students. If you are struggling to meet these requirements, please let us know – we may be able to provide a few additional chaperones for your group with advanced notice.

Potential Hazards:

If students eat lunch outside, TAM suggests that you eat in Tollefson Plaza. Students must cross Pacific Avenue to access the plaza. The plaza is open to the public and is not fenced or restricted in any way.

Some art-making tools could be dangerous if used incorrectly. TAM provides developmentally-appropriate tools, such as safety scissors, dependent on students' age and needs. Teaching Artists provide supervision during art-making activities with the help of chaperones.

Financial Assistance

TAM offers a scholarship rate of \$5 per student for schools with at least 50% of students receiving free or reduced lunch.

Transportation reimbursement (including bus rental, mileage, or Pierce Transit Class Passes) is available on a first-come, first-served basis.