



**MUSEUM
OF FINE ARTS
ST. PETERSBURG**

MY TRIP TO THE MFA

NOTE TO CAREGIVERS

This guide is intended to be read before you visit the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg. On the following pages, you'll be shown the rooms and experiences visitors typically encounter when they visit our museum. There will be sensory icons to help quickly mark specific sensory challenges or instances you and your loved one(s) may encounter at the museum. If you have specific inquiries or special needs, please contact info@mfastpete.org before your visit.

Masks are optional but not required inside the museum; Security and Visitor Services staff will have masks, sanitizer wipes, and hand-sanitizing gel. All staff at the Museum of Fine Arts are encouraged to be or are vaccinated against COVID-19. We encourage all guests to socially distance 6ft apart, but we do not enforce this recommendation.

While our museum is typically a low sensory environment, we do offer a program called Sensory Saturdays where all controllable sensory triggers are turned off, such as our Resonance Program and our music in the Conservatory. Sensory regulating items can be found with our Security staff and a schedule for the Resonance Program can be followed every 15-20 minutes starting 15 minutes after we open. This program plays in six rooms within the MFA Collection galleries, including Ancient, Baroque, Rococo, 19-20th Century European and American, and Contemporary. These areas can be found on our map.

We ask that backpacks or large bags are not worn on your back but are instead slung on one shoulder or across your front to ensure the safety of our pieces. Security is located in the Conservatory, the only room where drinking or eating is allowed. We ask that all food and drink breaks be taken in this the Conservatory, where we have tables, benches, and an outside area where you and your loved one(s) can eat and drink.



255 Beach Dr NE
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

PHONE
(727) 896-2667

EMAIL
Info@mfastpete.org

ACCESSIBILITY

The MFA offers complimentary wheelchairs, gallery stools, color correcting glasses, sensory friendly earphones and stim toys, as well as other accommodations to you and your loved one(s). The building has two ADA accessible ramps, one at each entrance, as well as one handicap accessible parking spot. If you have any questions of accessibility or accommodation, feel free to call or ask the front desk upon your visit.

HOURS

Sunday

12:00-5:00 pm

Monday

CLOSED

Tuesday-Wednesday

10:00 am-5:00 pm

Thursday

10:00 am-8:00 pm,
with discounted prices
after 5:00 pm

Friday-Saturday

10:00 am-5:00 pm

Café Clementine

9:00 am-3:00 pm
Thursday through
Sunday

PARKING

We have Museum-monitored parking along Bayshore Drive adjacent to our building, as well as a one-way lot accessible from Beach Drive. Parking is \$10 for four hours, and available at a discounted price to our members.

MUSEUM RESONANCE PROGRAM

If you would like an exact schedule of the museum's Resonance program, as mentioned later in the guide, the Visitor Services desk has physical copies you can follow as your visit progresses.

LEGEND FOR SENSORY ICONOGRAPHY

Hearing



Seeing



Touching



Smelling



Crowds



Restrooms



Benches



**MUSEUM
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**OUR BUSIEST DAYS
ARE SATURDAYS
AND SUNDAYS, WITH
OUR QUIETEST DAYS
BEING TUESDAYS
AND WEDNESDAYS.**

ENTERING THE MUSEUM



When we arrive, we enter a big open room called the **Conservatory**, where we can find one desk for security, three for ticketing, and a long counter for the museum's café. If we have bags or backpacks we don't want to carry, security will give us a green ticket while they hold our things. We will see the ticket desks next, and either show them our tickets or get tickets from them at the desk. They'll give us stickers to show that we are allowed inside the museum anytime all day today—if we don't want to wear the sticker on our shirt, we can put it on our bottoms or hat, or even have our caretaker hold it.

In this room, next to security, are the restrooms and water fountains. There's no family restroom in this room.



CAFÉ CLEMENTINE

Café Clementine has free water if we are thirsty, and plenty of tables to sit at outside or inside. The water is only available when they are open and is served in plastic cups that we can fill ourselves. Café Clementine will smell very sweet, like the cookies and croissants they bake all day. If the smell is overwhelming, we can eat on the other side of the Conservatory or outside. We don't have to eat with them to enjoy their tables, so we can take a break at the Café Clementine anytime we want.

café
CLEMENTINE



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THE WELCOME GALLERY



The first room we may enter is the museum's **welcome gallery**. This has a big map on a table, as well as a timeline on the wall with lots of words. This can be a lot to see at once, so I don't need to read everything on the walls. The museum has many paper tours with information and can give us a structured routine to follow on our trip today. I may take one of these and do the activities inside, or just keep it for the poster. We can take as many as we'd like, and write whatever we'd like inside, as long as it's in pencil since pens or markers aren't allowed in the gallery. The paper is smooth and grainy, so if we don't like how it feels, we don't have to take any.



THE WELCOME GALLERY

If we brought a sketchbook today, we could draw our own picture of whichever painting or sculpture we'd like. As long as we are using pencils, we can sit on the floor or sit on a bench and draw as much as we want to. If we didn't bring a pencil but want one, we can ask at the ticket desk for one or see if there are any by the paper guides.

The map we see on the table shows the **MFA Collection galleries** and gardens.

There is more to art to see in the **special exhibition galleries** and upstairs! This map will just help us get to know the first place we walk into.





A LOT TO HEAR



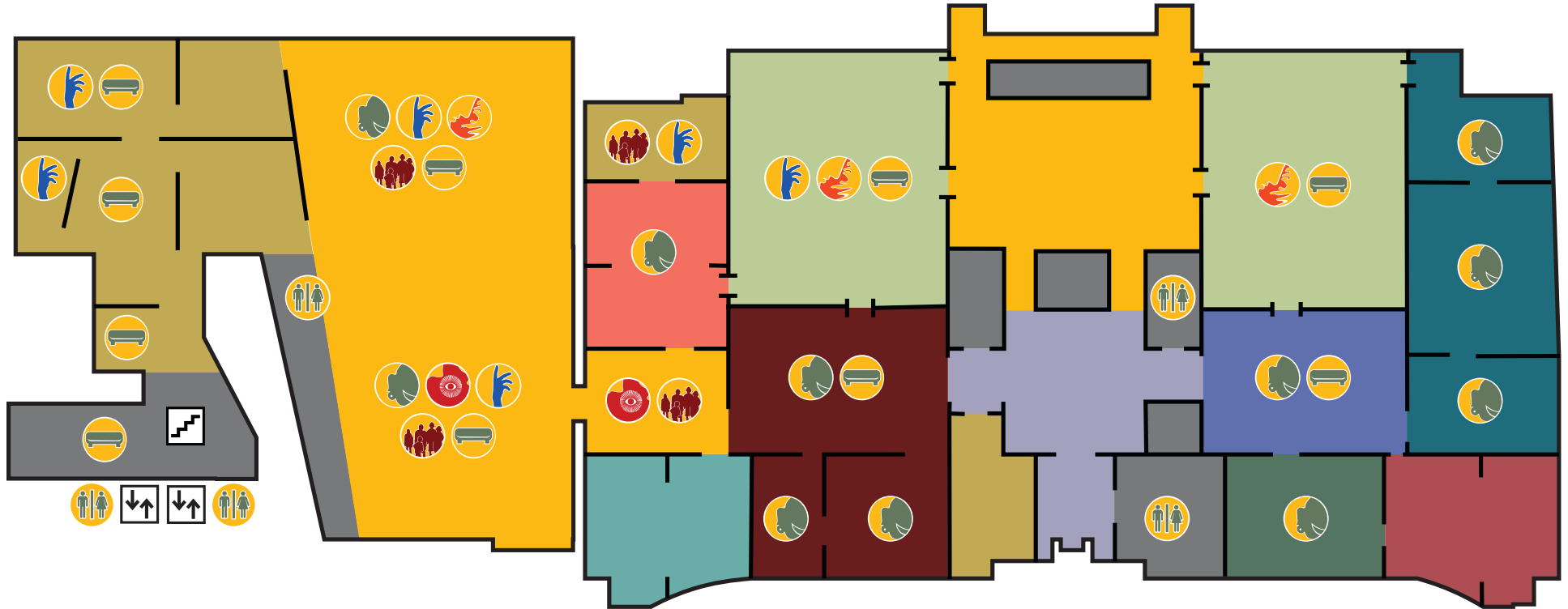
A LOT TO SEE



A LOT TO TOUCH



COMMON SPACES



**MUSEUM
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RESTROOMS



BENCHES

DOCENTS AND STAFF



Some days, people with name tags or yellow buttons will walk around and answer any questions about the artwork we may have. These people are called **Docents**. If they are able, they can give a structured tour for us as well.

If a Docent isn't walking around today, we can ask the people from **Visitor Services**, or at the ticket desk, any questions we might have about directions, paintings and sculptures, or anything in-between.



PREPARATORS IN THE GALLERIES

Sometimes, we'll see people hard at work with large carts, frames, delicate paintings and pieces, and power tools. They don't show up too often, but when they're around we keep a good distance from them. Sometimes their power tools are too loud, so we can always leave the room and come back when they're done with the artwork. These people work hard to keep the museum beautiful, so it's always good to be respectful of their space.



BENCHES



This museum has a few **benches** in the biggest rooms, and if we see one, we can sit at any time. Sometimes the artwork can be a lot to see at once, and it's nice to sit still and just look at one. This is also a comfortable spot to sit and draw, write, or read.



THE MEMBERSHIP GARDEN

The museum has four outdoor areas, the two closest ones being their gardens. **The membership garden** has a few metal chairs and is quiet, with no sculptures or sound playing, and a few quiet slow fans on the ceiling. This area is great if I need to see less, hear less, and just be outside in the quiet for a little bit. If I have a lot of extra energy too, this is the safest garden to run around or stretch in.



SCULPTURE GARDEN



The other garden is called the **sculpture garden**. There we can see art and be in a quiet space outside at the same time. We can't run around or touch anything in this garden, and there's fewer places to sit, but it can still be a nice break on busier days or if we need a break later in our visit.



BOMBAX TREE

If we want to sit outside and see the Pier or **Bombax tree**, we can do that too and come back inside the museum at any time before they close. The terrace outside that overlooks the Pier is also where Café Clementine guests sit, so some days might have more people outside. We can touch the Bombax tree and its flowers or leaves, and even read about it to learn more of its history.



BEES AT THE MFA



The museum's gardens are great resting points, and the plants nurture many of the animals in the area. On the museum's roof are beehives where **bees** make honey. They also pollinate the museum's flowers and trees. They may come down into the garden to visit the plants, and if we don't like them, we don't have to stick around too long—there are plenty of other outdoor places to rest if we don't like bees.




THE RESONANCE PROGRAM

In some of the museum galleries, we might hear music being played or voices over speakers. This is a part of the museum's **Resonance Program**, where the Florida Orchestra plays music for a few minutes to help us feel more connected with the paintings. Sometimes there are voices that speak about a painting or an artist so that we can learn more. If it's too loud for us, or we don't want to hear it, we can always walk to a different room. The music will play about every 20 minutes, while the other audio may be activated by motion, so there's always time for a quiet experience. If we never want to hear it in our visit, we can visit the museum on Sensory Saturdays, which are certain days when the music and sounds are all turned off while we visit.



RESONANCE

During your visit, you'll hear music in select collection galleries. These brief performances will last 3-5 minutes and will play at specific times throughout the day. They were selected to amplify the experience of the art presented in that gallery, providing additional context to that time period, culture, or historical moment.

With performances and selections rotating throughout the year, Resonance allows you to explore connections through the interplay of art and music, poetry, classic prose, and artists' writings each time you visit. This season features performances from the archives of The Florida Orchestra under a range of conductors and early music specialists. We extend our gratitude to The Florida Orchestra for this ongoing collaboration and their generosity in curating and sharing these musical performances with the museum's members and visitors. Please look for the  symbol in select galleries as you enjoy this amplified exploration of our collection.



EXPLORE THE VAULTS



The museum has a special installation within the collection galleries called ‘**Explore The Vaults.**’ In this room, we can go through and pull out drawers and see smaller pieces from the collection. There are a few different drawers we can touch and explore, and each one has different works of art inside we can enjoy. Throughout the rest of the museum, we can’t touch anything—even if a painting or sculpture sticks out or looks interesting, we can only look and enjoy the artwork with our eyes.



Sometimes we’ll see these symbols on displays; these are reminders to not touch the artworks, especially if it looks like we can.



THE GREAT HALL

In the **Great Hall**, a large painting takes up the entire wall. This artwork is by a contemporary artist named Kehinde Wiley. On either side, we'll see large panels with names on them. This may be a lot to look at, especially with the mirrors in the room. In this area, we can find a gender-neutral restroom and a family restroom if we need them. There are also some regular stall restrooms, but if they feel too busy we don't have to go in.



THE AFRICAN GALLERY



In the **African Gallery**, we can find sculptures, special garments and clothing, as well as a video that plays on a large table-TV. This video does not stop and does not turn off regularly, but on Sensory Saturdays and upon request it can be turned off. If we want to see the African art but don't want to hear the video, we can ask a security guard or someone at the ticket desk to turn it off and they will.



THE UPSTAIRS GALLERY & SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS AT THE MFA

We don't have to see the MFA Collection galleries first, especially if they look busy. The museum has three special exhibition spaces that are usually on view. One is on the second floor and accessible by the stairs or elevators. It is called the **Upstairs Gallery**. In this exhibition space, there are usually photographs or other artworks and there may be a short info pamphlet with more information. There are benches we can rest on and it is quiet in this space, so it offers a great opportunity to see art in a peaceful environment. The artwork in this room will change often throughout the year, as photography and paper can be affected by light if they are left out too long.

Also located on the second floor are offices for the staff, restrooms if we need to use them, and a classroom if we have signed up for a program that uses it.



FIRST FLOOR SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS THE HOUGH WING



On the first floor, next to Café Clementine, is our special exhibition space. There are usually one or two bigger special exhibitions in this space that rotate throughout the year. These rooms won't always have a tour or guide. Since they're so big, they will always have a few places to sit as well as some extra books to read that we cannot take. This is a great place to sit and read or draw if we want, and we can read books that are chosen from the museum's private library. There is also audio that can be played on a phone or iPad by scanning a QR code in each special exhibition.

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ENDING OUR VISIT AT THE MFA

When we are done seeing all the beautiful art, or if we are tired and want to go, we can leave at any time. If the museum isn't closed, we can always come back before the day ends. Before we leave to go home though, we must make sure we get anything back from security we may have given them. If they gave us a green ticket, we would give it back to them and get our belongings. There are two exits we can take if we want, but we must go back to the Conservatory first. The exit towards Café Clementine leads to the Pier and Bayshore Drive. There's a ramp immediately on this side and will lead us to street parking. If we leave towards the other side of the Conservatory, a ramp will be a short walk from the left side of the exit. There are a shorter set of stairs and fewer people this way, and we can see Beach Drive from this side. Thanks for a great visit, we hope you can enjoy our museum again!

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