

May 27, 2026

Mr. Nicholas Ariniello
Commissioner, Assessing Department Boston City Hall Room 301
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Mr. Ariniello:

It is my pleasure to write to you about the many ways that the Museum of Fine Arts provided benefits and opportunities to the City of Boston, its citizens and community in fiscal year 2025.

The Museum of Fine Arts is a Massachusetts charitable corporation with a mission to advance the arts and education in our community. The City of Boston is one of the original incorporators of the MFA, and the Mayor, Superintendent of Schools, and a delegate from the Boston Public Library Foundation are all Trustees of the Museum.

The Museum is a leading cultural institution that contributes to the vibrancy, diversity, and dynamic energy that defines Boston and fuels its long-term growth. The MFA not only enriches Boston's cultural fabric but also generates significant economic benefits, making it indispensable to a thriving urban environment. In addition to its educational and social contributions, the Museum attracts tourism, stimulates the local economy, and strengthens the City's cultural and scholarly identity. The influx of visitors supports local businesses, from restaurants to hotels, and creates jobs in sectors such as retail, hospitality, and event planning.

We are honored to serve Boston's community and appreciate our longstanding ties to the City of Boston's government. If you have any questions about the Museum's programs or would like the opportunity to attend any of our events or cultural celebrations, please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Sincerely,



Kelly Hays
Chief of Institutional Strategy
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Programs and Benefits for the Boston Community July 2024–June 2025

Boston Family Days

In partnership with the City, the Museum provides students who live in Boston and their families with free access to the Museum on the first and second Sundays of each month. Between January and May 2025, the program welcomed 1,178 young people and their families to the MFA. The MFA enthusiastically embraces the opportunity to welcome students and their families with a wide range of specially designed gallery activities, including:

- Gallery Explorations: 30-minute themed tours and activities for all ages
- Drop-in Art Making: Art supplies are provided for these free art-making activities inspired by works in the collection.
- Discovery Cart: Pop-up demonstrations by knowledgeable staff allow families to explore the materials and techniques that artists use.
- Teen Sundays: A variety of activities geared toward teens and in partnership with the MFA Teens Program.
- Uniqlo Story Hour: Drop-in interactive children's story programs in the galleries.

Cultural Access: Free and Discounted Admission

Although the MFA depends on admission revenue for over one-third of its operating budget, we also provide free and reduced admission to many special constituencies as a benefit to the community.

- Third Thursdays: The Museum offers reduced admission prices with \$5 minimum, pay-what-you-wish admission on every third Thursday of the month after 5 pm.
- Open Houses: Admission is free to all Massachusetts residents for our Open House celebrations such as Martin Luther King Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, and Indigenous Peoples' Day.
- Military Access Program: All active-duty military and veterans and up to five guests receive free general admission year-round.
- Community Colleges: Through the Pozen Community College Access Program the Museum offers free admission to 15 schools, in 24 locations, which comprise the Massachusetts Community College System, including Bunker Hill and Roxbury Community Colleges.
- Card to Culture: The Museum participates in the Card to Culture program offering any Boston or Massachusetts residents who present Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards at a ticket desk may receive up to four \$3 tickets.
- Wonderfund Access: All Wonderfund Access cardholders can receive up to four \$3 tickets to the Museum per card.
- Institutional Pass Program: Discounted tickets are available through a network of public libraries, schools, and nonprofit organizations in the Boston area.
- K-12 teachers: The Museum actively supports access for public school teachers in New England. Teachers in a school, after-school, or community setting in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine,

New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont receive one discounted MFA admission ticket each year. The Museum also offers discounted memberships to K-12 teachers.

- Youth Admission: Through a variety of programs, the Museum provided free admission to over 33,000 children aged 17 and under in Fiscal Year 2025.

Education and Community Engagement

- Boston Public Schools: The Museum has had a multi-year free partnership with the Boston Public Schools, where school children visit the Museum during the academic year, free of charge. The Museum has established partnerships with several public schools in the City through the Thinking Through Art Partnership Program, working with these schools to engage students in the Visual Thinking Strategies program, utilizing art as a tool to enhance critical thinking by students.
- School Programs: The MFA's K–12 programs activate the Museum's global art collection as inspiration for creativity and learning through school group visits, distance learning, educator professional development, and digital resources for classroom teaching.
- Public Programs: The Museum provides a series of other continuing educational opportunities through free talks, tours, and artist demonstrations. The Museum has continued to expand its existing City Talks program, a series of open public discussions with Boston area thinkers, entrepreneurs, activists, and artists on current Museum exhibitions' prevalent themes that relate to the City culturally, socially and politically.
- Teen Programs: The Museum's Teen Arts Council (TAC), a leadership development program for Boston teens, has been in place for more than twenty years. TAC offers participants the opportunity to learn about art, culture and history, develop workplace skills, and gain exposure to a variety of career paths. TAC creates programs for their teen peers and the public, and includes the Curatorial Study Hall, a project-based opportunity where students explore and dive deeper into exhibition creation, interpretation, and design. This program is in partnership with local youth empowerment organizations Becoming a Man (BAM) and The BASE.
- Community Arts Initiative: Celebrating its 20th year in 2025, the Community Arts Initiative works with twelve community organizations to introduce youth to the Museum's collections and the art-making process, while also helping them understand how art can be an important part of their lives. The Museum partners with six of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, as well as the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC), the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester, Sociedad Latina, United South End Settlements (USES), West End House Boys & Girls Club of Allston-Brighton, and Vine Street Community Center. The program engages nearly 200 young people each year in creating the annual Artist's Project, a collaboration with an experienced artist resulting in an exhibition of the students' work at the MFA. The Community Arts Initiative is generously supported by the Linde Family Foundation.
- Cultural Celebrations: The Museum hosted various cultural celebrations throughout FY25. Partnering with a variety of cultural groups in the City of Boston, the Museum hosted events to celebrate Lunar New Year, Diwali, Nowruz, Juneteenth, Latinx Heritage Night, and Hanukkah.

- Hospitals: The Museum collaborates with several local hospitals through its Artful Healing program. The program brings art-making workshops to patients and their families, providing fun and creative experience for patients undergoing medical treatment.

Accessibility Programs

The Museum provides a series of free programs including visitor centered, interactive tours designed for groups with physical or cognitive disabilities.

- Access to Art tours are designed for groups with disabilities, which may include physical disabilities, cognitive disabilities, people with dementia, or those undergoing medical treatment, among others.
- Museum Moments offers monthly in-person and virtual interactive tours for visitors with memory loss and their care partners, with guided conversations that encourage participation.
- Feeling for Form is a tour program designed for all ages of visitors who are blind or have low vision, providing an opportunity to tour the collection via tactile exploration of selected art objects, verbal description, and tactile graphics and teaching tools.
- Beyond the Spectrum is a specially designed program for children and teens with autism spectrum disorders. Each class combines close looking and discussion with an art-making activity.

Built Environment

The Museum maintains landscaping, including tree maintenance, and snow removal on a variety of properties near the Museum which are owned by the City of Boston. These properties include land between The Fenway and the Museum, the park on which the Endicott Memorial is located, and the White Memorial at the Public Gardens. Additionally, the Museum has donated annually to the Avenue of the Arts beautification projects to maintain the green space along the avenue.