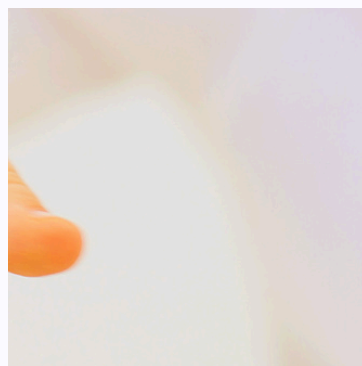
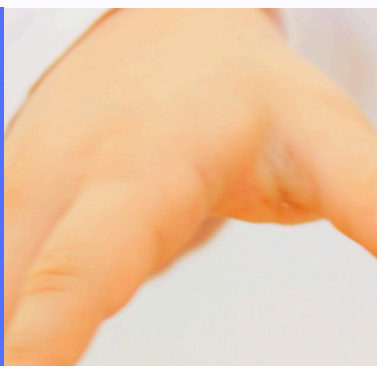


Sensory Map and Guide

*The Museum covers a broad range of subjects, and can be overwhelming when preparing to visit.
We have compiled this guide to help make your visit to The Museum more enjoyable*



Tips for Visiting The Museum:

- It can feel chilly in The Museum. Temperatures vary from gallery to gallery. We recommend dressing in layers or bringing a sweater along.
- The Museum does not have a cafe; snacks and drinks are available for purchase in The Museum Gift Shop.
- If you don't see an accommodation you need, please reach out to a staff member or contact: wendy.koller@readingpublicmuseum.org.



Sensory Map

Museum Map Symbols & Meanings

Please look for these symbols on The Museum Map provided to help you determine which galleries in The Museum are the best for you to visit. Please ask any staff member if you have any questions.



Hands-On Component

There may be objects or activities in this gallery that your child can touch.



Scary Component

There may be an object in this gallery that your child might find scary.



Video Component

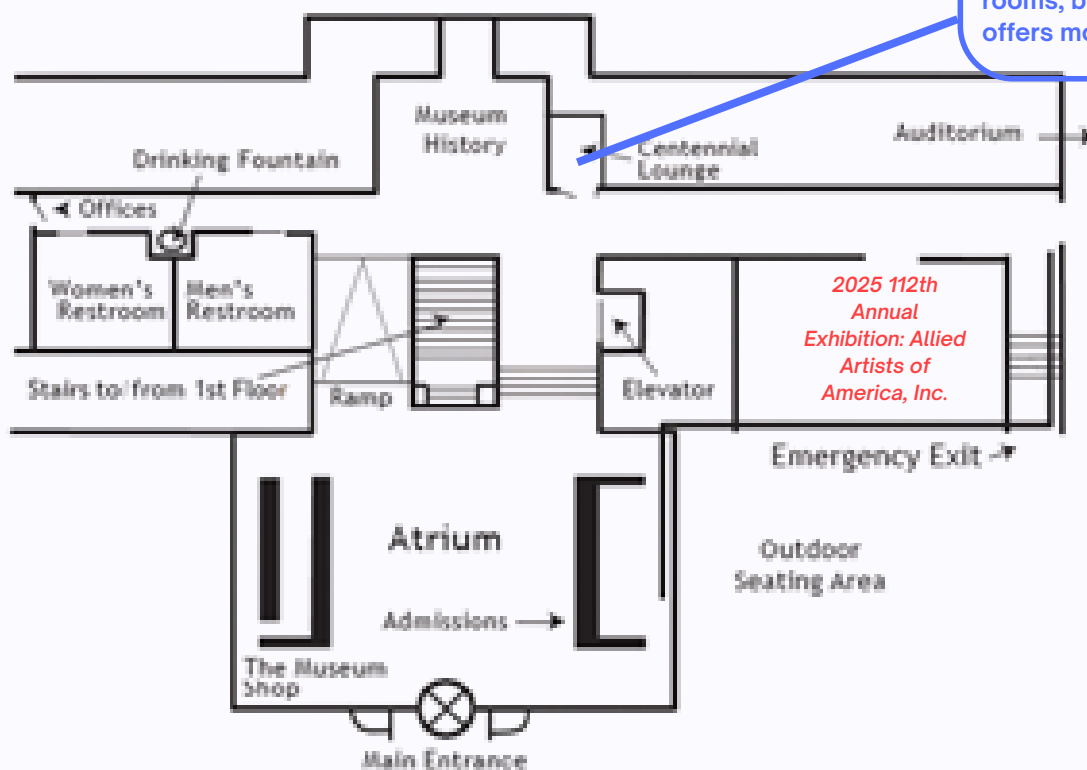
There may be a video in this gallery that might overstimulate your child.



Noise Component

There may be a noise component in this gallery that might be too loud for your child.

GROUND FLOOR

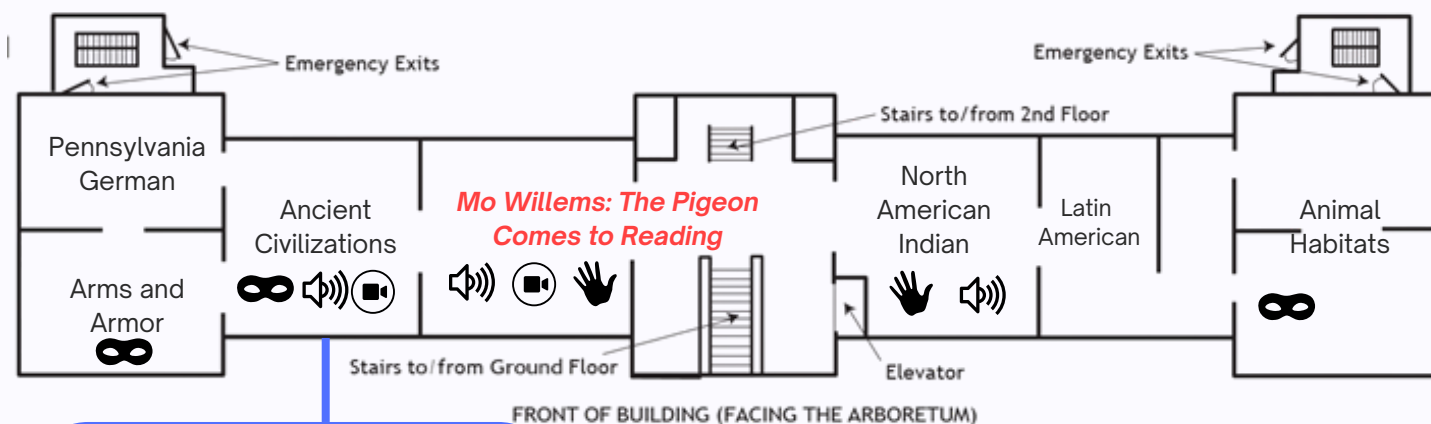


The Centennial Lounge can be opened upon request for your hygienic needs. There are changing stations available in both the ladies' and the mens' rooms, but the Centennial Lounge offers more privacy for older guests.

FRONT OF BUILDING (FACING THE ARBORETUM)

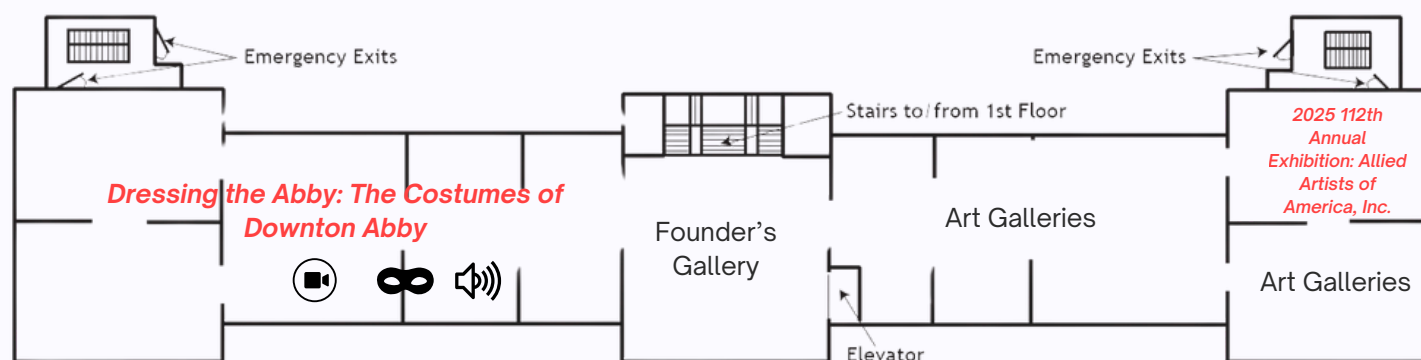


FIRST FLOOR



Please be aware that we do have a mummy in the Ancient Civilizations Gallery, and her face is exposed. There is also a hologram projection in this gallery.

SECOND FLOOR





Museum Story

Soon, I will visit The Museum! This is a story about what I will see and who I will meet.

Museums are special places where people can learn about art, science, history, animals, and many other things.

Many people go to museums. There may be a line of people going inside when I get there. I will wait with my adult while we check in.

Inside The Museum, I will see many special things on display. These things are important and delicate. I can look at them carefully with my eyes. I do not touch them unless there is a sign or activity that says I can.

There are many ways to keep people in the right place at a museum. A “right place” is any place that is safe for people and the special things on display.

Museums use barriers to help keep me and the special things on display safe. A barrier may be a railing, a low wall, or a rope as this picture shows:



Or, it may be a glass case that has a sign. The sign always says, “Please Do Not Touch.” What the sign and the rail mean is, “Please do not touch the special things you see!” The sign and the rail help keep people in the right place.

There are lots of people who work in a museum! I will recognize these people because they will be wearing BLUE shirts that say Reading Public Museum or an ID tag.

I will also see security guards.

The security guards do not wear museum shirts; they wear a different type of uniform. They help to keep me and the museum safe!

I can ask my friends who work at The Museum any questions I have. I will explore the Reading Public Museum with my adult. There will be activities that have me touch and feel things, and activities that have me move my body.

Knowing what to expect helps me know what to do.



Planetarium Story

Sometimes, I go to new places. The Planetarium is a special place where I can learn about the night sky, stars, planets, and space.

When I visit The Planetarium, I may see a large building. There may be other families, children, and teachers there, too. That is okay, many people like to learn about space.

Inside, The Planetarium may be quiet. I can use a calm voice and listen carefully. Tickets may be needed, and someone will help us get them.

Sometimes there are exhibits with pictures, rocks, models of planets, or telescopes. I can look at them and learn new things.

When it is time for the show, we will go into a big dark room with many seats. The ceiling looks like the night sky. The lights will get dim or dark. This might feel different, but it is safe.

The show will begin, and stars and planets may be projected above me. I might hear a person talking about space and see things move across the dome. It may feel exciting and amazing.

If I feel unsure, I can hold a hand, take a breath, or ask for help.

When the show is finished, the lights will come back on. Everyone may clap. Then we can leave the theater together.

Visiting The Planetarium is fun. I can enjoy learning about space, watching the stars, and being with my family or friends.

Knowing what to expect helps me know what to do.





Arboretum Story

Sometimes, I go to new places. The Arboretum is a special park where many trees, flowers, and plants grow.

When I visit The Arboretum, I may walk on paths or trails. There may be other people enjoying the plants, too. I can use a calm voice and walk safely.

Sometimes people in the arboretum are walking their dogs. Dogs are usually friendly, but it is safest to stay calm, give them space, and keep walking unless an adult says it is okay to stop.

At The Arboretum, I will see a creek. The water can look interesting. But the water is only for looking, not for touching, playing, or going in.

It is very important to stay out of the water. Water in the arboretum is for the plants, animals, and birds. Staying out of the water helps keep everyone safe and dry.

There will also be sculptures in The Arboretum. Sculptures are special works of art. They are for looking, not climbing or touching. I can use my eyes to enjoy them, just like I enjoy the plants and trees. This keeps the artwork safe and helps everyone enjoy it.

I can use my eyes to enjoy the plants and trees, my nose to smell flowers, and my ears to listen for birds. There are many safe ways to explore nature and art in The Arboretum.

When it is time to leave, I will walk back with my family, friends, or group. I may feel happy that I saw beautiful plants, enjoyed the sculptures with my eyes, stayed safe by giving the dogs space, and remembered to stay out of the water.

Visiting the arboretum is a fun way to enjoy both nature and art!



Knowing what to expect helps me know what to do.





Sensory Inclusive Hours At The Museum

SEPTEMBER

21st 10-11 a.m.
22nd 5-6 p.m.

OCTOBER

19th 10-11 a.m.
20th 5-6 p.m.

NOVEMBER

25th 10-11 a.m.
28th 5-6 p.m.

DECEMBER

7th 10-11 a.m.
8th 5-6 p.m.
30th 10-11 a.m.

Family Programs At The Museum

SEPTEMBER

9/11 & 9/25

Homeschool Days
at The Museum

OCTOBER

10/9 & 10/23

Homeschool Days
at The Museum

NOVEMBER

11/6 & 11/20

Homeschool Days
at The Museum

DECEMBER

12/4

Homeschool Day at
The Museum

9/20

*Mo Willems: The
Pigeon Comes To
Reading Member
Preview
&
Character Brunch*

10/25

Trick or Treat
at The Museum

11/23

Stem Sunday

12/6

Trick or Treat
at The Museum



We Welcome.....

- Learners of all ages and abilities
- Kids being kids
- Fidgets and other sensory devices
- YOU!

Don't Forget to visit The Planetarium

Public star shows M-F at 2., 3., and 4p.m. Sundays at 1, 2, 3, and 4p.m.

Tickets available at The Museum admission desk

Sensory kits available at The Planetarium.

We Encourage...

- Exploration
- Asking before touching
- Trying to use walking feet
- Curiosity & questions
- YOU!

Visit The Museum Gift Shop

Open Daily 11am-5pm

Museum Members always save 10%.

We Love...

- to help - if you have a need that is not being met, please let a staff member know.
- Curiosity & questions
- YOU!

Sensory kits

Can be checked out at The Museum admission desk
for use during your visit.

Reading Public Museum
500 Museum Rd., Reading, PA 19611
readingpublicmuseum.org
610-371-5850



Open DAILY 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visit website for Planetarium shows schedule!

For questions or more information about accessibility at The Museum,
contact Wendy at wendy.koller@readingpublicmuseum.org