

Calendar of Events and Activities



500 Museum Road
Reading, PA 19611-1425

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Planetarium

Star Shows

EVERY SUNDAY (July – September)

- 1 p.m. – *One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure*
- 2 p.m. – *Perfect Little Planet*
- 3 p.m. – *Phantom of the Universe*
- 4 p.m. – *Distant Worlds: Alien Life?*

WEEKDAYS Mon. – Fri.,

2 p.m., 3 p.m. & 4 p.m.

See website for schedule.

Floyd Final Friday Music Shows

Friday, August 31 & September 28

- 7 p.m. – *Sonic Vision*
- 8 p.m. – *Pink Floyd: Dark Side of The Moon*
- 9 p.m. – *Pink Floyd: The Wall*
- 10 p.m. – *Pink Floyd: Wish You Were Here*

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Gary Erbe: 50 Year Retrospective

Through – August 5, 2018

Coney Island: Visions of an American Dreamland

Through – August 12, 2018

Alien Worlds and Androids

Through – September 4, 2018

Northern Lights: Scandinavian Art

August 25, 2018 – January 13, 2019

Sign of the Times:

The Great American Political Poster, 1844-2012

September 1, 2018 – January 19, 2019

Across the Atlantic: American Impressionism through the French Lens

September 8, 2018 – January 20, 2019

Dinosaurs in Motion

September 21, 2018 – January 6, 2019

Events

New Member Breakfast

Saturday, July 7 • 9:30 – 11 a.m.

Have you joined RPM recently? Take advantage of your Membership with an early morning visit to explore the exhibitions and enjoy breakfast with other Museum Members!

RSVP by July 2 to Amanda+

RPM Business Breakfast

July 17, August 21 & September 18 • 7:30 a.m.

Members chat and network with John Graydon Smith and other Museum Supporters about what is happening at The Museum while enjoying breakfast.

If you are interested in having your business featured at a marketing spotlight table at an upcoming Business Breakfast contact Lindsay.

Reservations are strongly encouraged. +

Sponsored by Weidenhammer Systems, Inc.

Night at The Museum

Saturday, September 8 • 6 p.m.

See details on page 6.

Wedding Showcase

Sunday, September 30 • 12-3 p.m.

See details on page 6.

Adult Programs

Arboretum Education

Join us for a variety of learning opportunities presented by Master Gardeners, avid horticulturists, and other industry specialists. Program begins at 1:30 p.m. FREE for Members / \$5 for Non-Members.

August 28 - Butterflies

September 25 - Reptiles and Amphibians in the Backyard and Garden

Senior Series (all are welcome)

Come to The Museum for this senior-friendly program which runs on the 4th Friday of every month beginning at 1:30 p.m., *unless otherwise noted. Senior Series is FREE for Members and FREE with Museum admission. All documentary screenings are held in The Neag Planetarium. Guests of all ages are welcome.

August 24 - Documentary – *American Experience Coney Island*

September 28 - Lecture – *Across the Atlantic: American Impressionism through the French Lens*

Uncorked Creativity

Grab some friends (21 and over) and come to The Museum for a night of desserts and handmade art! Feel free to bring a bottle of wine to share with your friends as you create your own unique masterpiece. No experience is necessary! Programs run 6-9 p.m. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.*

September 25 - Paint a pumpkin – *Monet's Waterlilies*

Cost: \$35 per Member/ \$45 per Non-Member

Family-Friendly Programs

Sensory Morning

July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 10 & Sept. 16

NEW! — *Beginning Summer 2018, special hands on activities will run from 9-10 a.m.*

Geared toward our friends with special needs, this program provides a quieter environment to explore The Museum before it opens to the public. Regular Museum Admission applies. Program runs 9-11 a.m. RESERVATIONS SUGGESTED.*

Drop In and Draw

July 21, August 18 & September 15

Grab some friends and swing by the galleries for our Drop In and Draw program. We provide the paper and pencils, you do the rest! 11 a.m.-5 p.m., with experienced artist on hand from 1-3 p.m.

Full Steam Ahead

Enjoy a day of learning while having fun at The Museum with your little one. A variety of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) based topics will be explored each month. Programs run 9:30-11:30 a.m. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.*

September 13 - Growing Monet's Garden

Homeschool Days

Join The Museum for an exciting morning filled with special tours and hands-on projects that the whole family can enjoy! For descriptions and pricing, see website. Programs run 10 a.m.-12 p.m. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.*

September 12 - Monet's Scientific Garden

Kids' Night Out

Featuring a different topic each month, kids enjoy gallery time, crafts, and more! Pizza dinner and an evening snack are included. Programs run from 6-9:30 p.m. and are for kids ages 6-12. For descriptions and pricing, see website. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.*

September 8 - The Wonderful World of Water

Museum Discovery Camp

Summer is near and camp is here — BCIU Camp days are in June and Museum Discovery Camp begins in July!

July 9-13 – Carnival Camp

July 16-20 – Our Magic Planet

July 23-27 – Arty Party

July 30-August 3 – Revenge of the Slime

August 6-10 – Build and Thrill

August 13-17 – Where in the World

New! Half day pre-school camps

August 20-24 – Full STEAM

August 27-31 – Fairy Tales Myths and Legends

To register, contact Coleen Mikucki at 610.371.5850 x227. Spots fill up quickly and are limited!

Information subject to change, including cancellations and/or new programming added to the schedule. Check readingpublicmuseum.org for the latest details.

+ Contact Amanda Machik at 610.371.5850 x257 or email amanda.machik@readingpublicmuseum.org

* Contact Wendy Koller at 610.371.5850 x223 or email wendy.koller@readingpublicmuseum.org



MUSEUM ROAD

SUMMER 2018

A publication of Reading Public Museum • Planetarium • Arboretum



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The Great American Political Poster, 1844-2012

Across the Atlantic: American Impressionism through the French Lens

September 8, 2018 – January 20, 2019



Claude Monet (French, 1840–1926), *Path in the Wheat Fields at Pourville (Chemin dans les blés à Pourville)*, 1882, oil on canvas, Denver Art Museum Collection; Collection of Frederic C. Hamilton, 2016.365. Photography courtesy of Denver Art Museum.

This extraordinary exhibition, drawn mostly from the collection of the Reading Public Museum, explores the path to Impressionism through the nineteenth century in France. The show examines the sometimes complex relationship between French Impressionism of the 1870s and 80s and the American interpretation of the style in the decades that followed.

More than sixty-five paintings and works on paper help tell the story of the “new style” of painting which developed at the end of the nineteenth century—one that emphasized light and atmospheric conditions, rapid or loose brushstrokes, and a focus on brightly colored scenes from everyday life, including both urban and rural settings. The artists began to paint outdoors and capture the different effects of light during different times of day and seasons of the year.

Across the Atlantic will also feature works by artists whose paintings helped pave the pathway to Impressionism such as members of the Barbizon School including Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot and Narcisse Diaz de la Peña. Other French painters whose techniques and subjects paralleled those of the Impressionists like Charles-François Daubigny, Leon-Augustin Lhermitte, and Jean-Charles Cazin will also be examined. Many of these artists practiced painting outdoors, en plein air, a new freedom that the commercial availability of tubed paint and portable easels afforded them.



John Singer Sargent (American, 1856–1925), *Man Reading (Nicola d'Inverno)*, c. 1905–10, oil on canvas, Museum Purchase, 1948.35.1

COVER: Edgar Degas (French, 1834 – 1917), *The Singer (La Chanteuse)*, c. 1877–1878, pastel over monotype on paper, Gift, Miss Martha Elizabeth Dick Estate, 1976.46.1

Some of the artists featured in the exhibition in Reading include Claude Monet — **which will be the first time his work is displayed in Berks County!** — Edgar Degas, Mary Cassatt, and Victor Vignon, among others, who exhibited in the official Impressionist exhibitions in Paris in the 1870s and 80s. Although familiar and beloved by modern audiences, in their own time, the Impressionists were thought of as a rather radical alternative to the traditions of academic painting. The progressive group of artists eschewed the official, state-funded Salon in Paris and instead decided to exhibit their works in unconventional displays.

Among the earliest American artists to embrace the style were John Singer Sargent, William Merritt Chase, John Henry Twachtman, Willard Metcalf, Childe Hassam, and Frank W. Benson, among others, whose works are included in the current exhibition.

American collectors and taste-makers were among the first to begin collecting Impressionists paintings. By the 19-teens, the Reading Public Museum was collecting works by American Impressionists, a genre that would later become one of its greatest strengths.

A host of American artists, many of whom traveled to France around the turn of the century to continue their studies in fine art, embraced the style including: Daniel Garber, Edward Redfield, Robert Spencer, Arthur Watson Sparks, Robert Lewis Reid, William Paxton, Chauncey Ryder, Frederick John Mulhaupt, and Guy Wiggins, are highlighted.

After its debut in Reading, *Across the Atlantic* will travel on a national tour to venues throughout the United States including: the Louisiana State University Museum of Art in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; The Polk Museum of Art in Lakeland, Florida; the Appleton Museum of Art at the College of Central Florida in Ocala, Florida; the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and the Art Museum of South Texas in Corpus Christi, Texas. The touring sponsor for the exhibition is Pook & Pook, Inc.

This exhibition is sponsored locally by the Marlin and Ginger Miller Exhibition Endowment.



Richard Blossom Farley (American, 1875–1951), *Blue and Gold*, 1912, oil on canvas, Museum Purchase, 1917.3.1

RPM's Collection is Expanding



Peter Reginato (American, b. 1945), *Untitled*, c. 1970, steel, Gift, Seth and Lynn Abraham in memory of Fay and Mayer Rubenstein.

The Museum's permanent collection is ever expanding thanks to generous gifts made by donors year-round. Donations come from near and far, and occasionally two previously unrelated works of art will present a shared commonality beyond the Reading Public Museum becoming their new home. Works by abstract artists Larry Poons (b. 1937) and Peter Reginato (b. 1945) entered the collection this spring, and have a connection outside Berks County – both artists currently live and work in New York City, and teach at The Art Students League of New York.

The Art Students League has, for over 130 years, offered art classes for both professional artists and amateurs in Manhattan. The League has counted among its attendees and instructors many historically important artists who have made contributions to major artistic movements and schools in the art world. Larry Poons and Peter Reginato join the list of artists in The Museum's collection who have acted as teachers at The League over the course of its history, including: George Bellows, Raphael Soyer, John Henry Twachtman, J. Alden Weir, William Merritt Chase, Childe Hassam, and Hans Hofmann, among others.

Luther W. Brady, M.D. has made The Museum the recipient of *Momentum*, a colossal 256" (21.3') long painting by Larry Poons. The painting was the namesake for a 2017 exhibition of 12 of the artist's recent and historically important works at Yares Art in New York. The painting will be transported on a large roll from New York City to Reading where it will be restretched and hung in the Cohen Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art.

New donors to The Museum, Seth and Lynn Abraham, in memory of Fay and Mayer Rubenstein, have donated an abstract steel outdoor sculpture, *Untitled*, by Peter Reginato. This early work (1970), was part of a group of sculptures that earned Reginato his first major gallery exhibition in New York City in 1971. The sculpture has been placed on a pad on the south side of Wyomissing Creek, near the red bridge before Trudy's Garden.

Keep an eye out for these works by notable Art Students League instructors in The Museum and Arboretum in the coming months as we eagerly welcome them to Reading.



Larry Poons (American, b. 1937), *Momentum*, 2017, acrylic on canvas, Gift, Luther W. Brady, M.D.

Sign of the Times: The Great American Political Poster, 1844 – 2012

September 1, 2018 – January 19, 2019

Historically, the American political poster has been sorely neglected as an art form and has played a minor cultural role, despite its effectiveness in conveying a political message to millions of voters often through the skillful use of visual communication. *Sign of the Times*, which features 50 posters from the nineteenth through the twenty-first century, has made every effort to bring the alluring, eye-popping political graphics to the forefront and positions the “great American political poster” as art.

The political campaign poster had its humble beginnings in the 1840s when the new lithographic printing process, largely developed in Germany, was employed to satisfy a growing demand for attractive printed material. Hand-colored portraits of presidential and vice-presidential candidates were first produced for the 1844 race between Whig Party candidate Henry Clay and the eventual winner, James K. Polk of the Democratic Party. Technological innovation and the lithographic process in the 1880s ushered in a golden age of lithography, roughly 1890-1912, which produced some of the most intricate and colorful posters in the exhibition. The exhibition examines the styles of political posters through two World Wars and into the mid-century. The influence of the counter-culture of the 1960s and 70s, and more recent trends into the twenty-first century are also explored.

The exhibition was organized as a Program of ExhibitsUSA, a national division of the Mid-America Arts Alliance and The National Endowment for the Arts.



Unidentified artist, Republican Party candidate William L. McKinley, c.1896–1900; lithograph on paper; 17 x 11 3/16 inches; Courtesy of Library of Congress.



Dinosaurs in Motion

September 21, 2018 – January 6, 2019

Visit the exhibition where Art & Science meet!

Dinosaurs in Motion blends science, art, and innovation with 14 magnificent, fully interactive, recycled life-size metal dinosaur sculptures created by North Carolina artist John Payne.

Journey through Payne's four studios, *Beginner*, *Intermediate*, *Advanced*, and *Master*, to showcase how technological, artistic, and scientific advances all contributed to the creation of these amazing sculptures.

The sculptures weave the principles of kinetics, biomechanics, and robotics in their exposed mechanics and movable features. Visitors will have the ability to manipulate the dinosaurs via lever and pulley systems, as well as with remote controls, offering large-scale dinosaur interaction unprecedented in a museum setting. Principles of innovation, observation and experimentation are also linked throughout the exhibition and are reinforced as visitors take on the roll of an “apprentice” in Payne's studio.



Crane

DINO DISCOVERY BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Get ready to party prehistoric-style with a Dinosaur Discovery Party at The Museum! Take a thrilling apprentice's journey through our newest exhibition, *Dinosaurs in Motion*, as you explore science, art, and robotics with life-size interactive dinosaur sculptures. Continue the adventure with your fellow paleontologists by embarking on a hands-on fossil exploration and creating your own dinosaur robot. Book your party today before they become extinct!

Dinosaur Discovery Parties are offered Saturdays and Sundays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. between 9/22/18 and 1/6/19. Contact Laura Culp at 610.371.5850 x235 or email laura.culp@readingpublicmuseum.org for details and availability.

Meet Me at The Museum

Say hello to Anne Mumma, a Reading School District 5th Grade Teacher at 13th and Green Elementary. Anne is a supporter of The Museum and brings her students on a school field trip every year with the assistance of our **Feed Their Imagination Program** (FTI).

Our FTI program helps schools in need of funds to bring students to The Museum — thanks to the community! We had a conversation with Anne about the importance of hands-on learning in education.



How long have you been an educator?

I have been in the field of education for twelve-and-a-half years and have been with the Reading School District for ten-and-a-half years.

Why is it important for students to have hands-on experiences?

It is extremely important for all students to go out and have hands-on experiences. It is especially relevant to students that are kinesthetic learners or English language learners to make those essential connections to learning and subjects they may have learned about in class, and then to be able to put those concepts into real life contexts.



Why do you enjoy bringing students to The Museum?

I love bringing the students to The Museum because they really enjoy it. It is wonderful to see them interested and engaged in learning new things and asking questions while making connections to things they have already learned. The experience of being able to ask questions and explore the ideas more in depth is really beneficial to their educational experience.

What are the benefits of schools in need using FTI funding?

The FTI funding has been an excellent program offered to me as a teacher that facilitates this trip for 5th graders annually on behalf of 13th and Green Elementary. It is fantastic to be able to offer the same experience to all of the students regardless of their ability to cover the cost financially. It also allows the school to put the money they would have used for transportation and admission towards another potential experience or program for our students.

Do you recall a certain student being moved or excited by something at The Museum?

I have had so many students over the years that have become very interested in a certain topic (like mummies or fossils) after visiting The Museum. Most students in general really find the Planetarium to be exciting and interesting which leads them to explore their curiosity about space and astronomy.

More about Feed Their Imagination

Since the founding of The Museum in 1907, school students have always been an integral part of the Reading Public Museum's audience. Unfortunately, district budgetary cuts mean that schools are finding it increasingly difficult to provide educational field trips to their students.

Since the program's inception in 2012, the number of students visiting with the help of *Feed Their Imagination* funding has dramatically increased thanks to Museum Members, business supporters and other donors who believe in this program. Every year it is the mission of the education department to reach as many students as possible. This year we hit a new record, funding trips for over 6,500 students from 17 school districts and three other alternative schools!

To find out how you can help us reach our new goal of 7,000 students this coming school year, please contact the Finance Department at 610.371.5850 x228.



6th Annual

Masterpiece Weddings

The Museum Wedding Showcase

Sunday, September 30
12 – 3 p.m.

Join us under the Stone Terrace Tent for Berks County's first autumn wedding showcase!

Highlights of this year's Showcase include a chance to win a FREE honeymoon, courtesy of CK Tours & Cruises, a fashion show presented by Sweethearts Bridal & Formalwear and United Artists Salon & Spa, showcasing beautiful wedding gowns and accessories and the latest trends in bridal hair and makeup; and tours of The Museum's one-of-a-kind wedding venues including our Art Galleries and Planetarium, all gorgeously decorated by LEO Design Gallery. The nuptial fun continues with delicious hors d'oeuvres created by The Museum's preferred caterers, complimentary champagne for all couples and a free swag bag for the first 150 couples, filled with fantastic goodies and giveaways from our featured exhibitors.

The Showcase is free for all couples (2 guests). Contact The Museum's Event Rental Department at 610.371.5850 x235 for more information.

Pre-registration is encouraged. To pre-register please visit:

readingpublicmuseum.org/showcase.



THE SIXTH ANNUAL

Night AT THE Museum

Saturday, September 8 | 6 p.m.

Join us for a Night in Monet's Gardens!

Celebrate the unveiling of the fall exhibition season with a spectacular show highlighting history's most monumental Impressionist artists at the Sixth Annual Night at The Museum!

The event will mark the opening of *Across the Atlantic: American Impressionism through the French Lens*, which showcases original works by renowned artists including Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, Mary Cassatt, and more.

Join all the friends of The Museum as the galleries are transformed into Monet's Gardens. Floral attire is encouraged! Keep an eye out for your invitation in the mail soon. To reserve your tickets now, contact Lindsay Crist at 610.371.5850 x230.



From the Director



John Graydon Smith-
Director and CEO

In the museum world there only are a couple of “blockbusters” that you know will help drive attendance through the turnstiles without fail. If you’re an art museum, your blockbusters include famous French Impressionist painters like Claude Monet and Edgar Degas, whose works are instantly recognizable to even the most novice art fan. For a natural history or children’s museum, your blockbuster goes by one name only – dinosaurs! Of course, the Reading Public Museum is ALL of these museums (and more) under one roof, and this fall we’re going all-in with a pair of blockbusters to prove it.

One of the most frequent comments I get from happy visitors to The Museum is that they came to see something specific – maybe a favorite work or a traveling exhibition – and then discovered something else totally unexpected in a different part of our galleries. Kids come for the latest hands-on experience and then find themselves awed in the art galleries, while adults keep strolling past the mummy and suddenly discover the new Animal Habitats Galleries. With the upcoming pairing of our impressionism and dinosaur exhibitions, we’re excited for the tens of thousands of visitors who might come for one and stay for the other, as well as you regulars who will plan multiple trips to take it all in!

Across the Atlantic: American Impressionism through the French Lens is a tremendous exhibition of artwork, mainly drawn from our collection, which has been several years in the making. As most of our American Impressionism has been traveling to other institutions since *The Lure of the Artists’ Colony* back in 2011, this is a chance to bring it back to Berks and pair it with some French works that helped inspire their American counterparts. We’ve been adding French Impressionism to the collection in advance of this show, and some old favorites like our famous works by Edgar Degas will also be on display. Perhaps the most exciting feature, however, will be a work on loan from the Denver Art Museum — Claude Monet’s *Path in the Wheat Fields at Pourville* (*Chemin dans les blés à Pourville*) — which will mark the first time his work has been displayed in Berks County. The exhibition will debut during our “Night at The Museum” party on September 8.

Opening just a couple of weeks after *Across the Atlantic* will be **Dinosaurs in Motion**, an interactive recreation of fossilized dinosaur skeletons that combines science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics, or S.T.E.A.M., as it is known in the education world. This exhibition is certain to delight our visitors of all ages as they use simple machines to manipulate the “skeletons” and see science at work through the exposed machinery that makes it happen. Opening just in time for the fall field trip season for our school visitors, this exhibition will continue our history of educating about the planet’s biggest and most fascinating extinction story.

So whether you come for the art and stay for the science, or vice-versa, this fall at the Reading Public Museum is certain have the blockbuster appeal you and your family are looking for. No matter what draws you in, please be sure to look around while you’re here – you just might discover the next surprise that will keep you coming back again and again!



Hilaire-Germain-Edgar Degas (French, 1834–1917),
La Baigneuse (The Bather), c. 1895, pastel on paper, Bequest,
Henry K. Dick, 1954.36.1



Plésiosaur from *Dinosaurs in Motion*

Join Your Museum Today!

The Reading Public Museum is dynamic and ever-changing, offering diverse exhibitions all year long! Temporary exhibitions featuring science and art combine with our permanent galleries to offer you an engaging experience every time you visit. As a Member, every visit to The Museum and Neag Planetarium is FREE! Plus, there are even more benefits.

Please visit readingpublicmuseum.org and click on “Join and Support” for complete details and to join securely online.

The Museum Shop

Looking for a unique gift? You’ll find handmade gifts, toys and games for children, exquisite jewelry, and more. Our stock is always changing, so stop in often to see our new items! Open during regular Museum hours (no admission required). Members receive 10% off every day!

Book a Group Visit

We’re thrilled to welcome eager and attentive learners from Pre-K to Seniors on a daily basis. Group rates apply to 10 or more people. For more information or to book a group, contact wendy.koller@readingpublicmuseum.org.

Book Your Event

The Museum is home to Berks County’s most treasured and distinctive wedding and event venues. Among our Fine Art Galleries, Neag Planetarium, and Stone Terrace Tent, we have a venue to accommodate every size and budget. For more information, please contact stephanie.shaak@readingpublicmuseum.org.

Museum Address/Phone

500 Museum Rd., Reading, PA 19611
610.371.5850

Museum Hours

Daily: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
For Holiday hours, please check our website.

Museum Admission

\$10 Adult (18-64); \$6 Seniors/Children/
College Students (w/ID); Members and
Children 3 and under are free.

Planetarium Hours

Sun. 1, 2, 3 & 4 p.m. plus Weekday Shows at
2, 3, & 4 p.m. (Mon. – Fri. with some excep-
tions). Show Prices (for each show): \$8
Adults (18-64); \$6 Seniors/Children/College
Students (w/ID); Members and Children 3
and under are free.