EXHIBIT CALENDAR

Patrick McGrath Muñiz: Recolecciones / Recollections May 31—August 24, 2025

Toytopia June 14—September 7, 2025

Her Brush, Her Story: Women Watercolorists June 21—August 17, 2025

2025 112th Annual Exhibition: Allied Artists of America, Inc. September 13, 2025—January 11, 2026

The Pigeon Comes to Reading: The Mo Willems Exhibit September 20, 2025—January 4, 2026

Dressing the Abbey September 27, 2025—January 18, 2026

Family programing in RED Adult programming in BLUE Scout and Camp programming in GREEN * = Requires registration/tickets

For more information and topics/themes, visit our website or call the Education Department at 610-371-5850 x255.

JUNE

Summer Camp Week 1: Paws, Prints, & Powers: The Ultimate Animal Adventure* • June 9-13 | 9am-4pm

Toytopia Member Preview* • June 14 | 9-11am

Summer Camp Week 2: Where in the World is Dr. Levi Mengel?* • June 16-20 | 9am-4pm

Arboretum Education* • June 17 | 10-11am

Sensory Inclusive Hour* • June 22 | 10-11am

Summer Camp Week 3: Our Magic Planet: Exploring the Wonders of Earth* • June 23-27 | 9am-4pm

Sensory Inclusive Hour*

• June 23 | 5-6pm



Address Service Requested



Senior Series* • June 27 | 1-2pm

JULY

Sensory Fireworks * • July 2 | 5:30, 7pm

Sensory Fireworks * • July 3 | 4, 5:30, 7pm

Sensory Inclusive Hour* • July 14 | 5-6pm

Sensory Inclusive Hour* • July 18 | 5-6pm

In Nature's Studio presented by Reading Theater Project • July 27 | 4pm

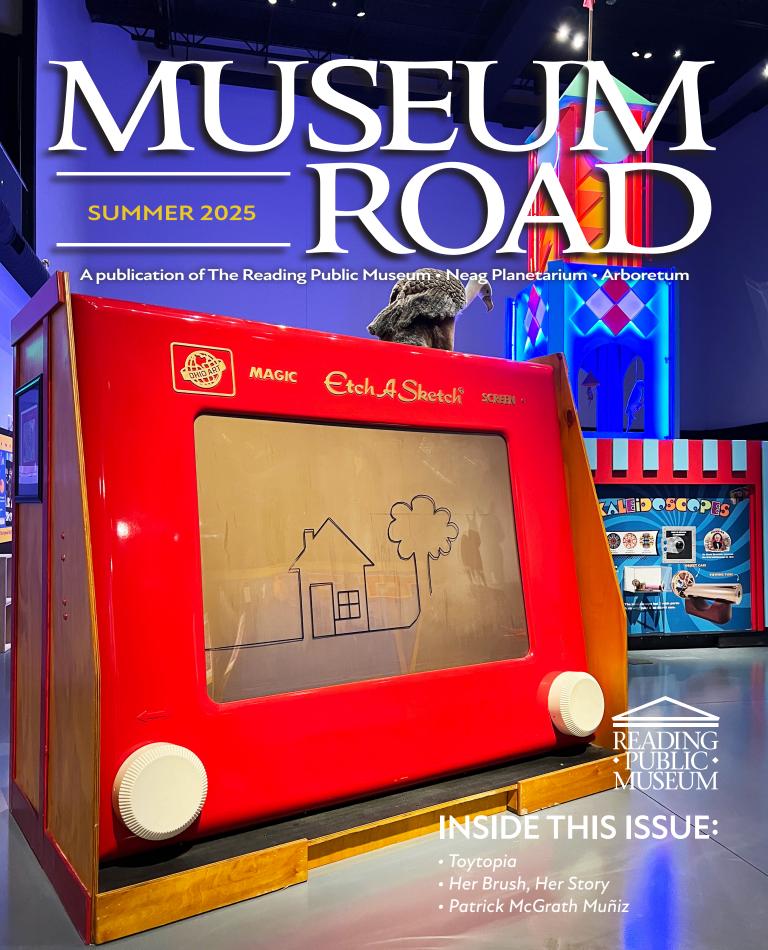
AUGUST

Arboretum Education* • August 19 | 10-11am

Senior Series* • August 29 | 1-2pm

Looking ahead: Save these dates in 2025 to attend our most popular annual events and programs!

Dogs and Brews 5/25 • Night at The Museum 9/27 • Trick or Treat 10/25 • Pictures with Santa 12/6 • Noon Year's Eve 12/31





June 14 – September 7, 2025

What was your childhood passion? Jumping rope? *Star Wars*[®] collectibles? Baking in an *Easy Bake Oven*[®]? Whatever your favorite toy was, then and now, you will be sure to find it in the *TOYTOPIA* exhibition!



TOYTOPIA highlights include:

- The World's Largest Etch-A-Sketch®
- A retro 80s arcade with full-size cabinet video games
- LEGO[®] Play Area/LEGO[®] Wall
- A Giant Road Play Surface
- A 'Kinetic Toys' area for exploring the science of toys
- Schylling[®] Tin Toys See how tin toys are created out of simple sheets of tin
- Keva Planks[®], Lincoln Logs[®] and brain teasers
- Large-scale versions of vintage games such as Battleship® and Connect 4®.
- Video game music quiz
- Giant electronic floor piano

TOYTOPIA was created by Stage Nine Design and distributed by Exhibits Development Group.

TOYTOPIA is presented locally with the support of the Berks County Community Foundation and WEEU 830 AM. Take a stroll down memory lane to see some of the world's most classic toys and games dating from the early 1900s to the year 2000 and beyond. Nostalgic toys such as *Atari*[®], *Erector Set*[®], and classic board games are featured. These engaging displays use interactive games, trivia, and video to bring old toys back to life.

TOYTOPIA will rekindle the wonder and delight of your favorite childhood moments through an interactive journey through the history of toys! With a footprint of over 5,000 square feet, TOYTOPIA will showcase interactive displays from cherished toymakers, including Hasbro[®], Duncan Yo-Yo[®], Schleich[®], Breyer[®], Crayola[®], KNEX[®] and many more.





Patrick McGrath Muñiz: Recolecciones/Recollections May 31 – August 24, 2025

The title of this project, *Recolecciones / Recollections*, immediately invokes the bilingual realm in which these works live. In English, "Recollections" often refers to the personal act of remembering—memories plucked from the past and brought into the present. The Spanish term "Recolecciones," however, can also imply a process of gathering or harvesting, suggesting a more collective, deliberate effort to retrieve what has been sown over time. This subtle linguistic difference reflects the layered themes Muñiz explores: the interplay between personal and cultural memory, the yearning for a lost past, and the ongoing process of reassembling meaning from fragments.

The exhibition includes over 20 painted altarpieces, canvases and drawings which are testaments not only to the resilience of memory, but also to the fragility of what we hold dear. In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, Muñiz lost both his studio and the childhood home that had sheltered so many of his earliest creative impulses. The storm underscored the impermanence of physical structures, just as it forced him to confront the ephemeral nature of memory



Patrick McGrath Muñíz (American, b. 1975), *Apotheosis*, 2024, oil and gold leaf on panel, 42 x 26 inches, Loan, courtesy of the artist

and history. In these works, the artist looks both within—through the intimate recollection of a past life on an analog island, as well as his lost works—and outside, grappling with the collective challenges of a global era shaped by climate change, shifting political fault lines, and rampant consumer culture.

About the Artist

Patrick McGrath Muñiz is a Puerto Rican artist currently based in Texas. His artistic practice primarily focuses on drawings, retablo paintings, and tarot cards, inspired profoundly by a personal deck of tarot recovered from his childhood home and studio in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria in 2017. Muñiz's work integrates elements of Spanish colonial iconography, American pop culture, and tarot symbolism, layered intricately with personal narratives and collective memories. Through these compositions, he critically examines the enduring colonial legacies embedded within contemporary consumer culture.

Her Brush, Her Story: Women Watercolorists

June 21 - August 17, 2025



Cynthia W. lliff (American, 1907 – 1998), Arranging Flowers, watercolor on paper, 27 ½ × 31 ¾ inches, Museum Purchase, 1934.31.1

Drawn from the permanent collection of the Reading Public Museum, this exhibit gathers over forty watercolors from the late nineteenth century through contemporary times in the Works on Paper Gallery. The medium of watercolor was traditionally associated with women painters because it was clean, light, inexpensive, widely available, and could be taught as a pastime in the home or at school. However, the artists featured in this exhibition broke out of that traditional mold, becoming teachers in art schools and universities, exhibiting regularly in museum exhibitions, and building successful careers.

The exhibit features landscapes, still lifes, portraits, cityscapes, and industrial scenes. Works by women with national reputations like artist/ illustrator Cynthia Iliff (1907 – 1998), Ethelyn Pratt Cobb (1884 – 1973),

and Irene Aunio (1919 – 2013), as well as artists who have local ties to Reading and southeastern Pennsylvania like Mary Baer Hiester (1872 – 1946), Mary B. Leisz (1876 – 1935), Hazel Feltman (1916 – 1980), and Elizabeth Hurwitz (1903 –1975), among others, will be examined.

The Museum Receives Reaccreditation from the American Alliance of Museums



The Reading Public Museum (RPM) is thrilled to announce that it has again achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums, the highest national recognition afforded to our nation's museums. Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, to governments, funders, outside agencies, and to the museum-going public. RPM has been accredited since 1982. All museums must undergo a reaccreditation review at least every 10 years to maintain accredited status. Of the nation's estimated 33,000 museums, roughly 1,100 are currently accredited, only 3%.

Alliance Accreditation brings national recognition to a museum for its commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards, and continued institutional improvement. Developed and sustained by museum professionals for over fifty years, the Alliance's museum accreditation program is the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance, self-regulation, and public accountability. It strengthens the museum profession by promoting practices that enable leaders to make informed decisions, allocate resources wisely, and remain financially and ethically accountable to provide the best possible service to the public.

"It is an incredible privilege for The Museum to receive re-accreditation," remarked Geoffrey K. Fleming, RPM's Executive Director & CEO. "The Museum has been accredited by AAM for nearly a half century, and we, as a board and staff, are dedicated to maintaining the highest level of professional operation," he continued.

Accreditation is a very rigorous but highly rewarding process that examines all aspects of a museum's operations. To earn accreditation, a museum first must conduct a year of self-study, and then undergo a site visit by a team of peer reviewers. AAM's Accreditation Commission, an independent and autonomous body of museum professionals, considers the self-study and visiting committee report to determine whether a museum should receive accreditation.

"Accreditation is a monumental achievement," said Marilyn Jackson, AAM President & CEO. "The process demonstrates an institution's commitment to best practice and is flexible enough to be accomplished by museums of any size."

About the American Alliance of Museums

The American Alliance of Museums (AAM) is the only organization representing the entire museum field, from art and history museums to science centers and zoos. Since 1906, AAM has been championing museums through advocacy and providing museum professionals with the resources, knowledge, inspiration, and connections they need to move the field forward. For more information, visit aam-us.org.



Museum Appoints Ashley Houston as Director of Development

The Foundation for the Reading Public Museum is pleased to announce the appointment of Ashley J. Houston to the position of Director of Development. Houston, previously serving as Director of Collections and Exhibitions, made the transition from the Curatorial Department to Development on April 1, 2025.

As Director of Development, Houston will call upon her far-reaching knowledge of The Museum's collection and exhibitions, existing connections with Museum supporters, and extensive understanding of The Museum's operations to build, maintain, and strengthen The Museum's relations with corporate sponsors, individual donors, members, and the community. A team of staff in internal and external events, grant writing, and community relations roles will round out the newly created Development Department. With the goal of supporting and securing the financial and long-range feasibility of The Museum, Houston and her team will continue a rigorous schedule of community favorite events and fundraisers while exploring new opportunities to collaborate and share The Museum's mission with Berks County and beyond.



Ashley Houston, Director of Development

Houston commented: "Serving the community through my work at the Reading Public Museum is an honor beyond measure. The quality and importance of The Museum's collections and exhibitions, and the value that it adds to our community, cannot be overstated. I believe deeply in the enrichment of lives through art, and museums as a place of learning, growth, and enjoyment for all ages. As I step into my new role as Director of Development, I look forward to leading the charge to secure support for The Museum, allowing it to remain a cornerstone of our community for generations to come."

Ashley can be reached at ashley.houston@readingpublicmuseum.org or 610.371.5850 x228.

CHANGING JULY 1st MUSEUM

Museum Admission for Adults	\$14
Museum Admission for Children, Seniors, and College Students (w/ID)	\$8
Planetarium Admission for Adults	\$9
Planetarium Admission for Children, Seniors, and College Students (w/ID)	\$7
Children Under 3	FREE
Members	FREE

Admission Prices to Increase July 1

Like many institutions across the country, RPM has been hit with higher prices for everything we do, from the cost of exhibitions to art supplies. It has been more than a decade since our last admission price increase, and while we do not relish raising prices, it is time for us to do so. RPM has never received general tax support from Federal, State, County, or City governments. We rely on admissions, grants and donations to keep the doors open. In preparing our increase, we studied the admission prices of other institutions in our region were charging and spent a great deal of time debating internally on where we should land. We finally landed on a modest increase which still keeps us as one of the most affordable options for all visitors, but especially for families.

The cost of Museum Membership is not changing at this time, and Members will continue to enjoy free unlimited Museum and Neag Planetarium admission. Free admission passes can also be checked out from many local libraries

Summer Wedding BOOKING SPECIAL

\$80/person ++ Includes:

50 adult guest minimum

- Reception only-4-hour rental of Museum's Second Floor Galleries, Founders' Gallery, Atrium, Neag Planetarium, or Stone Terrace Tent
- All tables, chairs, and Museum-supplied furniture
- Catering by The Museum's preferred caterer, Special Occasions by Panevino, to include butlered hors d'oeuvres during cocktail hour, dinner stations with a choice of three pastas, two salads, two proteins to be carved, two fish, four desserts, and coffee/tea service
- Table linens in black, white, cream, charcoal, navy, or lavendar, and cloth napkins (color of your choice)
- · All china, glassware, flatware, and champagne flutes for the toast
- For inquiries, availability, or to schedule an appointment, contact Braden Stone at 610.371.5850 x230, or braden.stone@readingpublicmuseum.org.



Valid for new rental clients only. Applicable only for weddings occurring July 1 - August 31, 2025 and July 1 - August 31, 2026. Not valid on wedding ceremonies and associated fees. Dance floor and/or stage rental, Museum tours for guests, Planetarium specialized media work or star shows on the dome, or additional hours are not included in promotion, but may be added for an additional cost. Linens will be provided for the following tables only: food displays and buffets, bar, guest dinner tables, place card table, cake table, gift table, and up to four (4) high-top tables. Minimum of 50 adult guests required. May not be combined with any other Museum discount offer. \$3.95/person ++ for non-alcoholic beverages and bar setup is applicable. Bartender fees \$35/hour (\$140 for the 4-hour function). Price per child (ages 3-12) is \$50++. Price per wedding vendor is \$25++. Caterer will charge a 5% overtime fee per additional hour after the first four (4) included hours, as well as additional fees for bartenders and any overtime hours for the bartender. *The ++ signifies 6% sales tax, and 20% service charge on the catering portion of the per person charge. Coupon must accompany rental contract and deposit at time of booking. Duplicates or copies will not be accepted. Expires August 15, 2026.

MUSEUM ROAD SUMMER 2025 readingpublicmuseum.org | 6

SUMMER 2025 EDUCATION CALENDAR

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Museum Discovery Camp 2025 Starts June 9!

Attention parents! Are you starting to wonder what to do with your kids this summer? Send them on an unforgettable adventure at Museum Discovery Camp, where each week offers a thrilling new exploration of the world around us! From hands-on science experiments to deep dives into ancient civilizations, your child will ignite their curiosity and discover the wonders of history, nature, and beyond. Whether they are exploring the mysteries of space, uncovering the secrets of Earth, or creating their own masterpieces in art, every week brings something exciting and educational. With dynamic activities and focusing on cultural exploration, environmental conservation, and more, Museum Discovery Camp offers the perfect blend of fun and learning, sparking a lifelong love for discovery in every young explorer!

Museum Discovery Camp is for children entering grades 1-5 in the fall of 2025. Camp days are from 9am-4pm. All campers MUST be preregistered. Registration closes the Monday prior to the start of the camp week. FULL payment and completed registration form are due at registration. You will receive a confirmation of registration via email once payment has been received and processed. Please allow 10-15 business days for processing. Your child's admittance is NOT guaranteed until you receive your confirmation via email.

2025 Museum Discovery Camp Weeks:

- June 9 June 13: Paws, Prints, & Powers: The Ultimate Animal Adventure SOLD OUT
- June 16 June 20: Where in the World is Dr. Levi Mengel?
- June 23 June 27: Our Magic Planet: Exploring the Wonders of Earth
- July 7 July 11: Toytopia: FUN-geneering at Its Finest! SOLD OUT
- July 14 July 18: Tides & Traditions: Artistic Journey in Asia and the Pacific
- July 21 July 25: Wilderness Wonders: Nature Awaits! SOLD OUT
- July 28 August 1: Beyond the Canvas: Science, Art, & Illusion Unite! SOLD OUT
- August 4 August 8: The Mad Scientist Lab SOLD OUT
- August 11 August 15: Falling for Fall: Exploring the Season of Change SOLD OUT
- August 18 August 22: Design Masters: Crafting the Future SOLD OUT

Pricing:

- Museum Members (Family/Grandparent Membership or higher)
 Early Bird (March 1 April 30): \$165/week/child
 Full Price (May 1 Close): \$200/week/child
- Non-Members
 - ♦ Early Bird (April 1 April 30): \$240/week/child
 - ♦ Full Price (May 1 Close): \$275/week/child
- Reading School District Students Special Price (March 1 Close) \$165/week/child

Refund Policy:

Cancellations by May 1 will be refunded full amount less \$25 cancellation fee. Cancellations after May 1 will be refunded at the

discretion of The Museum. The Museum reserves the right to cancel sessions. Please email completed registration form and payment information to camp@readingpublicmuseum.org. You may also contact Rebeka Birch at rebeka.birch@readingpublicmuseum.org with questions.



Sensory Inclusive Hours

The Reading Public Museum strives to be a place of lifelong learning and enjoyment for guests of all ages and abilities. As a result, we will be hosting special sensoryinclusive hours for guests and their caretakers who require a quieter atmosphere to explore The Museum or the Planetarium. Guests who pre-register will receive a pre-visit packet with information to share with their dependent.

- June 22 | 10-11am at The Museum
- June 23 | 5-6pm at The Museum
- July 14 | 5-6pm at The Planetarium
- July 18 | 5-6pm at The Museum

Registration is suggested. Email Becky to sign up for this

program at becky.ruth@readingpublicmuseum.org. This





Toytopia Member Preview

Join us for an exclusive members-only morning preview of *Toytopia* on opening day, from 9–11am! Discover the magic of childhood through a whimsical journey of classic toys, rare collectibles, and interactive fun before the exhibit opens to the public. Don't miss this playful start to your day—only for Museum Members!

Registration is suggested. Email Wendy at wendy.koller@readingpublicmuseum.org to sign up for this program. This program is FREE for Members.

Arboretum Education

Join us for a variety of learning opportunities presented by Master Gardeners, avid horticulturists, and other industry specialists.

- June 17 | 10-11am
- August 19 | 10-11am

Contact Rebeka at rebeka.birch@readingpublicmuseum.org with questions or to reserve a seat!





10am

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Senior Series

You are never too old to learn! Come to The Museum for this senior-friendly program. The program runs on the 4th Friday of the month unless otherwise noted. Guests of all ages welcome.

- June 27 | 1-2pm
- August 29 | 1-2pm

Registration is suggested. Email Wendy to sign up for this program at wendy.koller@readingpublicmuseum.org. This program is FREE for Members and FREE with Museum admission.





Sensory Fireworks July 2 | 5:30, 7pm July 3 | 4, 5:30, 7pm

Back by popular demand is our annual Sensory Fireworks at The Neag Planetarium! As we celebrate Independence Day, the Neag Planetarium is proud to host this event which is great for people of all ages who may need a calmer firework experience. This indoor display will feature stunning graphics in the state-of-the-art planetarium dome accompanied by patriotic music. You can even bring your own blankets to sit on the floor of the Neag Planetarium dome! Crafts will also be provided for those who need a break at any point during the show. Each show runs about an hour in length.

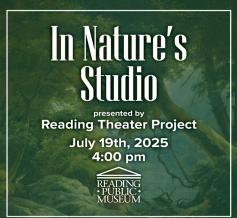
Sponsored by Learning Ladder Academy. Registration is REQUIRED! Please visit our website to sign up. **Pricing:**

\$5 per person for Museum Members and Non-Members (2 and Under FREE) For questions, please contact Becky at becky.ruth@readingpublicmuseum.org

In Nature's Studio presented by Reading Theater Project July 27 | 4pm

In Nature's Studio brings performing artists out from inside the theater to the beautiful Reading Public Museum Arboretum. Performers (music, dance, theater) will be stationed throughout the landscape areas along the accessible walking path, and the audience will walk to enjoy nature and art together. To learn more about this program or to reserve your free tickets, please visit https://readingtheaterproject.org/in-naturesstudio-2025/.

This performance is offered for free to all, but donations are welcome.





Golfin' in the Galleries: A Swinging Success

Once again, Golfin' in the Galleries was a hole-in-one success, marking our first signature event and fundraiser of 2025! On Valentine's Day, over 100 Museum Members and supporters took on the challenge of an 18-hole miniature golf course while enjoying The Museum's collection. The event raised funds to help RPM continue its mission of education, engagement, and enlightenment in our community.

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the event through donations and sponsorship: The Breidegam Family Foundation, The Stevens & Lee Companies, Berkshire Systems Group Inc., Masano Bradley, Tompkins Community Bank, The Haverford Trust Company, Securitas, Herbein, Brentwood Industries, Pagoda Electrical, CrossKeys Insurance, First National Bank, and Zerbe Photography.

Letter from the Director

It was quite nice to have such an easy winter this year, not too snowy and not too cold, with a few very warm days mixed in. But that is all now past as spring explodes across the Arboretum – blooms of every color and variety are starting to make themselves known to the world. Our incredible Arboretum Volunteers have returned for the season with several new members aboard – every Wednesday you will see them working hard to make the grounds look wonderful. If you encounter them on a visit, give them a big "thank you"! We could not keep the grounds up without them!



Geoffrey K. Fleming

We are currently getting ready to switch out our spring shows for the summer exhibitions. This year, we will feature *Toytopia* – a heartfelt look back at the toys and games that occupied our childhoods. It will be a fun stroll down memory lane for adults while also offering some entertaining and engaging aspects for children of all ages. We will also feature an important exhibition of artworks by the Puerto Rican-American artist, Patrick McGrath Muñiz. Entitled *Recolecciones/Recollections*, the show will include paintings and drawings based on 17th-19th century religious retablos popular in the Spanish colonial empire. In this case, Muñiz's works will feature many modern themes and popular culture references hidden within.

The final summer show, *Her Brush, Her Story: Women Watercolorists*, will include watercolor paintings by notable and regional American women painters associated with the Pennsylvania region. Unlike many other museums, RPM began collecting the works of women artists very early in its existence, adding pieces to its permanent collection from 1913 onward. Often, we purchased works directly from the major annual exhibitions at PAFA and the Philadelphia Watercolor Club, allowing The Museum to grow its holdings by women artists, something we have continued to this day. This exhibition will showcase approximately forty works from The Museum's collection, highlighting some of the best practitioners working in the field.

In addition to all of the above, please enjoy some of the new seasonal offerings at the Neag Planetarium and come take a look at two new, special additions to our grounds. The Robert W.F. Ciferri Sensory Garden, honors a long-time employee and volunteer at The Museum and features a beautiful kinetic sculpture by Pennsylvania artist Jeff Kahn. Second, the center bridge over Wyomissing Creek, which had been closed for years, has now been fully rebuilt. Many thanks to the County of Berks and its Commissioners for providing special grant funding to make its restoration possible!

See you at The Museum soon!

In the Neag Planetarium

Sunday Shows June

1pm - One World One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure 2pm - Satelix 3pm - From Earth to the Universe 4pm - One Sky Project

Weekday Shows June

2pm - Satelix 3pm - From Earth to the Universe 4pm - One Sky Project

Sunday Shows July-September

1pm - One World One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure 2pm - Dream to Fly 3pm - Big Astronomy 4pm - One Sky Project

Weekday Shows July-September

2pm - Dream to Fly 3pm - Big Astronomy 4pm - One Sky Project

Floyd Final Fridays:

6/27, 7/25, 8/29, 9/26 7pm - Pink Floyd: Wish You Were Here 8pm - Pink Floyd: Dark Side of the Moon 9pm - Pink Floyd: The Wall



The Reading Public Museum is a dynamic center of lifelong learning, that collects, preserves, and interprets objects of art, science, and civilization to engage, educate, and enlighten current and future generations from our diverse communities.

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 at

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 Kara Seawell at kara.seawell@readingpublicmuseum.org.

Museum Address/Phone

500 Museum Rd., Reading, PA 19611 610.371.5850

Museum Hours

Daily: 11am to 5pm 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, & 4pm plus Weekday Shows at 2, 3, & 4pm (Mon–Fri with some exceptions).

Star Show prices (for each show)*: \$8 Adults (18-64); \$6 Seniors/Children/College Students (w/ID); Members and Children 3 and under are free. Buy tickets at the Museum admission desk.

*Note: Starting July 1, 2025 Museum and Planetarium admission prices will increase. See page 5 for details.