MUSEUM ROAD

FALL 2023

A publication of the Reading Public Museum • Planetarium • Arboretum

READING • PUBLIC • MUSEUM

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CURRENT EXHIBITS

The Art of Collecting: The Luther W. Brady Bequest

Through—January 7, 2024

In celebration of his recent, landmark bequest of more than 100 works of art — including several masterworks by members of the New York Abstract Expressionist school of painting — *The Art of Collecting: The Luther W. Brady Bequest* is on view in the Jerome I. Marcus American Gallery and the Irvin and Lois E. Cohen Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art through January 7, 2024. The exhibit features more than fifty paintings, sculptures, and works on paper by some of the leading artists of the twentieth century. The exhibit is generously sponsored by the Marlin and Ginger Miller Exhibition Endowment.

The Art of Collecting Bus Trip – Washington DC – October 4, 2023.

William A. Smith (American, 1918-1989), Portrait of Dr. Luther Brady, 1980, oil on canvas, 64x30 inches, Bequest, Luther W. Brady MD, 2023.105.1.

Cartography in the Age of Enlightenment

Through – December 31, 2023

Made up entirely of works from The Museum's permanent collection, *Cartography in the Age of Enlightenment* explores the art and science of mapmaking during the Age of Enlightenment (1685 – 1815). Featuring over 30 maps and supplemented with cartographical instruments, this exhibition includes maps picturing both the Old World and the New, and includes views of Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Russia, and the Americas.

Senior Series on December 22 - presented by Rebeka Birch, Summer Camp and Scout Program Coordinator and Arboretum Liaison.

Cartographer Alexis-Hubert Jaillot (French, c. 1632 – 1712), published by Pierre Mortier (Dutch, 1661 – 1711), *North America Divided into its Main Parts...*, 1692, ink on paper, 29 1/4 x 41 1/2 inches, Gift, Carpenter Technology Corporation, 1998.20.24.

Voyage to the Deep

Through – January 7, 2024

Voyage to the Deep brings to life the deep-sea adventures of Captain Nemo, his fantastical Nautilus submarine, and the mythical world he inhabited. Inspired by Jules Verne's *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, the exhibition is designed to provide a range of interactive experiences as visitors join in the undersea odyssey, exploring deep sea environments and life on a submarine.

Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood®: A Grr-ific Exhibit

Through – January 14, 2024

Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood®: A Grr-ific Exhibit brings to life the themes presented in the award-winning PBS Kids television series created by The Fred Rogers Company that follows the adventures of 4-year-old Daniel Tiger and his friends. Step into Daniel Tiger's world and explore the Neighborhood School, Post Office, and Clock Factory while working together to solve problems.

Join us for *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood®: A Grr-ific Exhibit* - Helpers in Your Neighborhood Day on November 11. Details on page 6.

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

October 27 | shows at 5, 7, 9, and 11pm
Let's Do The Time Warp Again at the Neag Planetarium! Grab a seat in the region's most unique theater, to participate in The Rocky Horror Picture Show. The showings will be held under the dome in the Planetarium chamber. There is limited seating. Please keep in mind, NO WATER, GLITTER, LIGHTERS, WET FOOD, or ANIMALS will be allowed in The Planetarium. There will be kits available for sale at the door.

Registration is required for this event. Please visit our website for ticket details and to register or email sydney.ernst@readingpublicmuseum.org.

Trick or Treat at The Museum
October 29 | 9-11am

Join Museum Educators and other community partners as we celebrate the Halloween season with a safe trick or treating event at The Museum. Children will receive Halloween and Fall themed crafts to take home in addition to coupons and snacks provided by our sponsors as they travel to the various treat stations throughout our galleries. Families will also have an opportunity to meet Daniel Tiger at this event!

Registration is required for this event. Please visit our website for ticket details and to register.

Purchase Party
November 16 | 5:30-8pm

November is for casting votes! RPM is hosting its 9th annual Purchase Party on Thursday, November 16, from 5:30 until 8pm. This popular event encourages attendees to vote for their favorite candidate among a group of artwork for The Museum to purchase for its permanent collection. This year's theme is Women Artists and is sure to create some stiff competition among RPM's Collections Committee and Museum members as they cast their votes using Mengel Dollars. This year's event will offer opportunities to add enhancements to your experience including premium wine selections.

Spread the word and be sure to RSVP to Sydney Ernst at sydney.ernst@readingpublicmuseum.org.

Birthday Parties at The Museum

Celebrating a Fall birthday? Let the Reading Public Museum help you plan a unique and memorable party for your birthday child!

We offer several party themes that feature our permanent galleries: explore history with a Mummy Mania or Knights and Princesses party, indulge your child's artistic skills with an Arty Party, or head to the Neag Planetarium and venture into space with a planetarium party. You can even get gooey with our Get Slimed! theme.

This Fall, we will also be offering parties that feature two of our temporary exhibitions: *Voyage to the Deep* and *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood®: A Grr-ific Exhibit*. All parties will include themed crafts and activities as well as a trip to the special exhibition it features.

Our parties are available Saturdays and Sundays. Permanent gallery parties occur year round and our Fall special exhibition parties can be scheduled from October 7, 2023 through January 7, 2024. Choose the date and let us do the rest! Opt for our pizza package upgrade, and we'll even take care of the food.

Contact us today to start planning your party! For details and pricing please contact Jennifer at 610-371-5850 x255 or email at birthdayparty@readingpublicmuseum.

Employee Spotlight: Mary Johnson

Mary Johnson, Manager of STEM and Family Education

Meet Mary Johnson, the Manager of STEM and Family Education here at The Museum. Mary assists in the planning and execution of the lifelong learning mission of the Reading Public Museum in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (S.T.E.M.). We asked Mary some questions about her career, goals, and being part of the Education team at The Museum:

1. Why did you choose to pursue a career in your field?
I chose to pursue a career in the museum field because many of my best childhood memories took place while visiting museums, zoos, and national parks all over the country. I really treasure the time my family spent together in those spaces, and the amazing things I got to see and do. Getting to create and enhance those experiences for others is one of the key reasons I wanted to join the museum field.

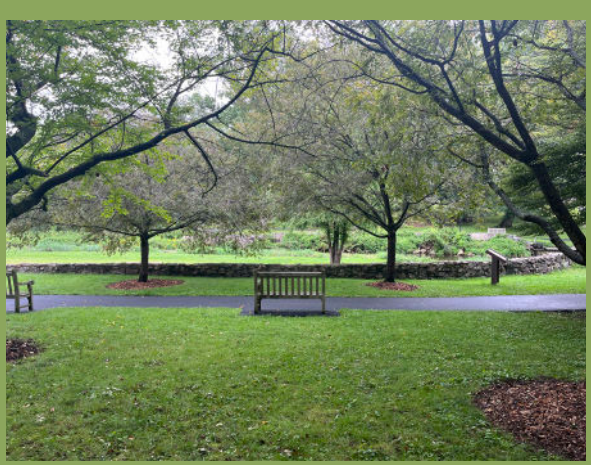
2. What inspired you to join the team here?
The two things that inspired me to join the RPM team were the amazing collection and the team itself. The Reading Public Museum has a truly tremendous collection covering culture, natural history, art, and more. I knew I would love learning about the collection and would be passionate about sharing that information and building programs around it. What really sold me on joining the team was every interaction I had with museum staff. In particular, I feel like I have found a home and bonus family in the RPM education department. I love getting to collaborate with them every day!

3. What do you think sets you apart in your field?
I think the thing that really sets me apart in the museum field is the breadth of my experience. My degrees in Field Biology, Zoo Science, and Museum Studies are a somewhat unique mix. Along with my education, I have had some amazing experiential opportunities: zookeeping, working with over 30 different species; managing signage and audio tour projects with historical societies and community gardens; conducting research on invertebrate social interactions; and learning how to work with and manage objects in both natural history and cultural collections. I feel these varied experiences have helped me to stand out in the competitive Museum field.

4. Tell us about a professional success story that you're proud of.
The project that I am currently really proud of is the STEM Sunday series at RPM. STEM Sunday was a series of three educational events this summer, 2023, intended to provide something fun and engaging for every member of the family. This was our first year trying a program of this type and while there were certainly some learning experiences, the events were more successful than originally anticipated. I feel that I gained a lot of experience and learned a lot from the planning process. From the feedback we received, our awesome participants also enjoyed the events. Stay tuned for the next STEM Sunday event happening in early 2024!

5. Do you have any creative outlets or interests?
In my downtime, I enjoy crocheting and crafting. I have more recently rediscovered a love of reading, and I particularly enjoy books in the horror and mystery genres. I also try to travel as often as I can. I still love visiting and revisiting museums, zoos, and national parks.

Reveries of the Arboretum



For nearly 100 years, the arboretum at The Reading Public Museum has provided not only an enchanting setting for The Museum, but also an unequivocal green space for the surrounding community. From traditional Easter Sunday promenades, to thought-provoking modern sculpture, to perfectly manicured gardens, to exquisite wedding ceremonies, there is one thing that can be said about our unique 25-acre "tree museum" – it creates memories. The mission of The Museum has always centered on education and the arboretum is not an exception. Among the many native trees and plants, there are non-invasive exotic ones. These plants tell stories – some are champion trees, others speak poetry, and some tell the secrets of millennia. The magic and beauty of the arboretum could not be achieved and maintained if not for an amazing group of master gardeners and volunteers. As leaves fall and we move into the quiet of winter – one cannot help by get excited and a little impatient for spring to bring her renaissance to the arboretum.

Arboretum Fall Clean-Up - November 11, 2023 from 9am to 12pm. To learn more, check our website.

Impress for Less: Event Rentals at The Museum

Mix and mingle in the radiance of Sargent's *Man Reading* and Dupre's *The Balloon*, dine with friends under the twilight of the midnight sky, or enjoy the company of close family in a lush botanical garden. No, you don't need to travel to Paris to see world famous works of art; journey to the Arctic Circle to bask in the glow of the stars, or voyage to England to witness expertly manicured gardens. The Reading Public Museum can offer you all this and more as the backdrop for your next event right here in Berks County.

From the Neag Planetarium to our Art Galleries, The Museum provides the most unique venues for entertaining in the Greater Reading area. Our rental spaces come in every size and ambiance, suitable for events large and small, private and corporate. The Museum proper has several venues available for rent, including our glass-ceilinged and travertine floored Atrium, our theatre-style, audio- and video-equipped Auditorium, and of course, our First and Second Floor Galleries. Admire the masterpieces of some of history's most renowned artists as vibrant reds, blues, and yellows color the walls and sunlight radiates through century-old stained glass windows. Our Galleries are the perfect setting for wedding ceremonies and receptions, as well as business dinners and private celebrations.

The Neag Planetarium is perhaps our most versatile venue. The building, which consists of a circular-shaped lobby and chamber, has been transformed into a concert hall for jazz musicians, a dance club for teens, and a swanky, New York-inspired lounge for corporate executives. Furnished with the latest audio and visual technologies, and the ability to treat your guests to a party under the stars (literally!), The Neag Planetarium can make any event simply magical.

Just outside the starlit dome is the lush landscape of The Arboretum. Enjoy 25 acres of beautifully preserved trees and flowers. The grounds of The Museum provide a gorgeous experience for wedding ceremonies and small, intimate gatherings. In the spring and summer, nothing compares to the shade of the trees and the soft, rushing sounds of the Wyomissing Creek. Let your guests relax in the most stunning gardens in Greater Reading.

If you're looking for a venue that will impress, no need to spend big dollars or travel long distances. The hot spot for your next unforgettable party is at the Reading Public Museum - voted Best of Berks SIX years running! Your guests will be talking about your event for years to come. For more information on rental venues, pricing, and availability, please contact Kara Seawell, Manager of External Events and Weddings, at 610-371-5850 x234 or kara.seawell@readingpublicmuseum.org.

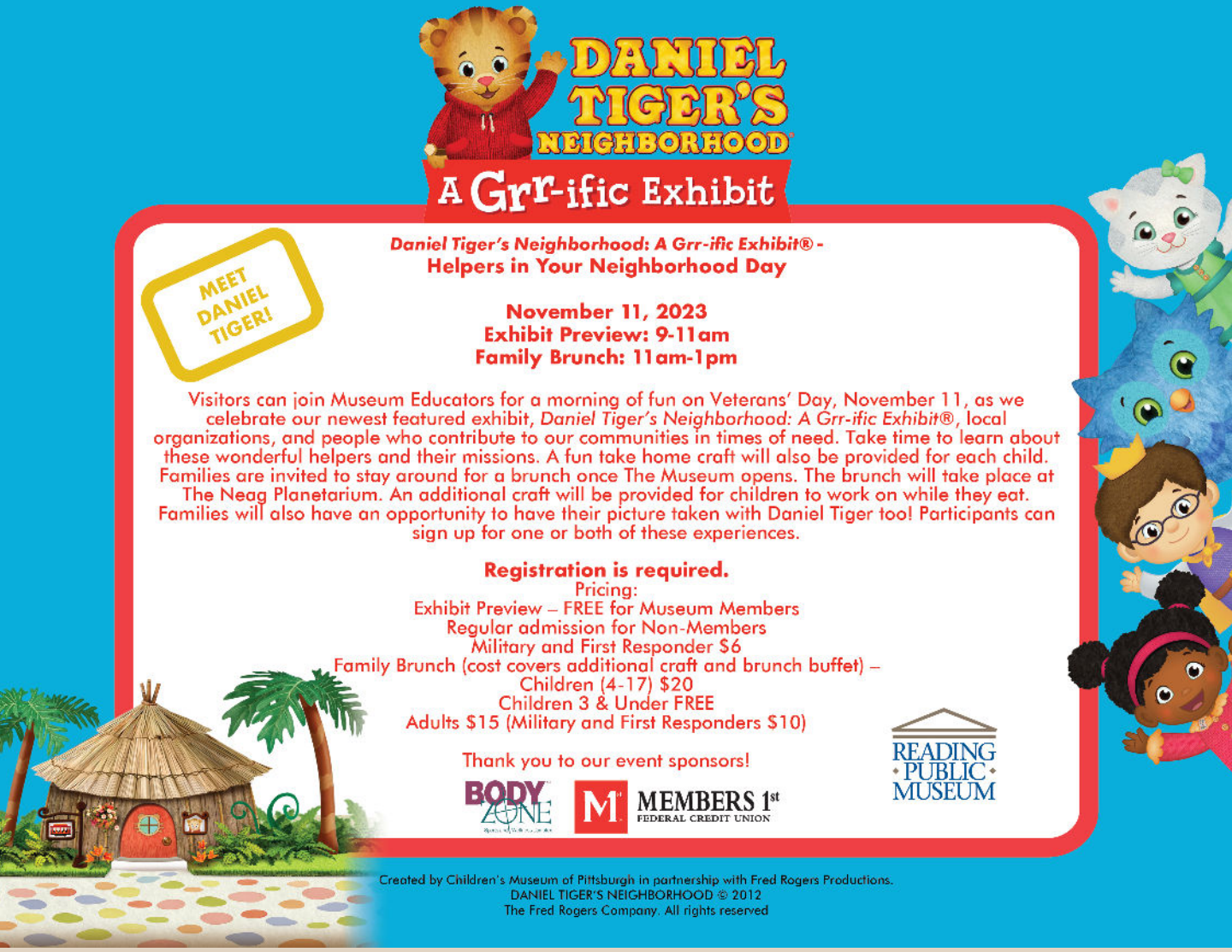
Feed Their Imagination

The 2023-2024 school year is now in full swing; students are making friends, teachers are getting into the groove of their class dynamics, and the Education Staff at the Reading Public Museum is welcoming students each day through our doors to experience all of the wonders of The Museum.

Since the founding of The Museum in 1904, school students have been a welcome and integral part of it's audience. In the 2022 - 2023 school year, RPM welcomed over 17,000 students on field trips, many of whom visited with support of our Feed Their Imagination Fund. These funds are used by schools to cover admission fees, reimburse bus transportation, and subsidize Museum Educator costs for field trips.

The Feed Their Imagination Fund is supported by Museum Members, business supporters, grants, and individual donors who believe in this program. Without this program, many of our area school districts would not have the resources to visit and engage their students in all the worlds of art, science, and culture that The Museum has to offer.

To learn how you can support this program, please contact Wendy Koller at 610-371-5850 x223.



Letter from the Director

Paul G. Oxholm

In the late 15th century, renowned patrons of the arts and sciences in Florence, Italy built collections that encouraged creativity and fostered a sense of community engagement and cultural enrichment. Their legacy continues more than five centuries later as visitors to Florence today can still see and feel the enduring benefits of those vital investments in the local community.

In similar fashion, Ray and Carole Neag made many meaningful contributions to our community over the course of their lives; perhaps none were more notable than those in support of the Reading Public Museum. As active patrons, they supported our art and science programs for decades. In 2011, thanks to their extraordinary $2 million gift, they not only made possible transformative renovations to the newly named Neag Planetarium, but were also major contributors to our "Feed Their Imagination" program which annually enables thousands of financially disadvantaged children to enjoy all aspects of The Museum's many offerings through field trips and after school programs.

While The Museum lost a great friend with the passing of Carole Neag earlier this year, we have continued to be blessed by Carole's children, David Hogan and Beth Lamoin and their families. In early June, David and Beth donated an eight-foot-tall outdoor water sculpture that Carole and Ray both cherished, Lovers, by the internationally recognized artist, Archie Held. Our Curator Scott Schweigert and Facilities Director John Clemmer soon identified the perfect location behind The Museum near South Parkside Drive and in late August, this incredible water sculpture was installed and put on display.

From the first moment that it has been in operation, Lovers has been getting a lot of attention. A number of Arboretum regulars have already declared it to be their new favorite! Even families with young children on walks or bike rides will pause to appreciate its soothing beauty. It really is a lovely and inspiring work of art. I encourage all Museum visitors to stop by and take a look for yourself. And I am quite confident that, just as in Florence, our community is going to be enjoying the benefits of their generous investments for generations to come. I look forward to seeing you at The Museum!

Events

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

For more information visit our website or call the education department at 610-371-5850 x255.

Story Time at The Museum
Thursdays | 3:30pm

YOGA in The Neag Planetarium*
Tuesday Evenings | 5:30-6:30pm
• Fall Series 1 - September 19 to October 24, 2023
• Fall Series 2 - November 14 to December 19, 2023

Special Exhibition Guided Tours
Tours will run October 1st to January 1st (excludes, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve, and New Years Day)
• Wednesdays and Thursdays at 2:30pm

Dinner Series 2023-2024*
• October 26, 2023: *The Art of Collecting: The Luther W. Brady Bequest*
(All dinners begin with a cocktail hour at 5:30pm. Dinner starts at 6:30pm)
Join us for a delicious, multi-course meal in the Museum's beautiful galleries, surrounded by art, nature, and fantasy. The next series includes three dinners in three unique galleries. RSVP for one dinner or all three.
Pricing: One Dinner – Members - $125/person
Non-members - $150/person
Full Series – Members - $300/person
Non-members - $400/person

Yuletide Around the World
Yuletide Trees will be on display during regular Museum hours from Sunday, November 19, 2023 until Sunday, January 7, 2024.

SAVE THE DATE - Summer camp 2024*
Discovery Camp registrations opening March 1 for Museum Members!

In the Neag Planetarium

Sunday Shows October - December
1pm - *The Enchanted Reef*
2pm - (Oct-Nov) *Perfect Little Planet*
(Dec) *Let it Snow*
3pm - *Dream to Fly*
4pm - (Oct-Nov) *5000 Eyes: Mapping the Universe with DESI*
(Dec) *Season of Light*
5pm - *The James Webb Space Telescope Show*
6pm - (Oct-Nov) *El Oasis en el Espacio* **(De idioma español)**
(Dec) *La Temporada de Luz* **(De idioma español)**

Weekday shows
2pm - (Oct-Nov) *Perfect Little Planet*
(Dec) *Let it Snow*
3pm - *Dream to Fly*
4pm - (Oct-Nov) *5000 Eyes: Mapping the Universe with DESI*
(Dec) *Season of Light*
5pm - *The James Webb Space Telescope* **(Wednesdays only)**

Floyd Final Fridays:
Friday 12/29
(No Final Floyd shows in October and November. Rocky Horror Show is taking place in October and *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* is taking place in November.)
7pm - *Let it Snow*
8pm - *Pink Floyd: Dark Side of the Moon*
9pm - *Pink Floyd: The Wall*
10:15pm - *Pink Floyd: Dark Side of the Moon*

More programs listed on back page.
For details on events and updates to the calendar, visit: readingpublicmuseum.org

What's new at The Museum? Easily bookmark our website using the upper right hand corner on your browser for quick access to The Museum's website and stay up-to-date on any pop-up programs or event changes.
Visit: readingpublicmuseum.org

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 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, 4, 5 & 6pm plus Weekday Shows at 2, 3, 4 & 5pm (Mon. – Fri. with some exceptions).

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 desk.

EXHIBIT CALENDAR

The Art of Collecting: The Luther W. Brady Bequest
Through January 7, 2024

Cartography in the Age of Enlightenment
Through December 31, 2023

Voyage to the Deep
Through January 7, 2024

Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood®: A Grr-iffic Exhibit
Through January 14, 2024

Danny Lyon: Memories of the Southern Civil Rights Movement
January 13—May 12, 2024

Natural Histories: 400 Years of Scientific Illustration
January 20—May 5, 2024

Nature All Around Us
January 20—May 12, 2024

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

For more information visit our website or call the education department at 610-371-5850 x255.

OCTOBER

Cub/Boy Scout Day*
• October 1 | 9am-Noon – Lion: Gadgets & Gizmos Workshop

Bus Trips*
The Art of Collecting Bus Trip – Washington DC – October 4, 2023

Homeschool Days | 10am-12pm*
• October 4 – Featured Gallery/Exhibition *Voyage to the Deep*
• October 18 – Featured Gallery/Exhibition *Daniel Tigers Neighborhood®*

Sensory Inclusive Hours*
• October 8 | 10-11am
• October 11 | 5-6pm

Girl Scout Day*
• October 15 | 9am-12pm – Sense Detectives Workshop

Arboretum Education | 10am*
• October 24 – "The Marvel of Marine Plants", Mary Johnson

Subs and Science | 12:30-2:00pm*
• October 25
Come to The Museum once a month for some lunch and learning! This program is geared for children Prek-8 years old and their grown-ups. The day will include, a pre-ordered boxed lunch provided by Subway, hands-on crafts and activities, and free time to explore The Museum.

Senior Series | 1pm*
• October 27 – "Journey from the Center of the Earth: How Carbon Travels from Crust to Coast and Back Again" presented by Elizabeth Whitney PhD Candidate, University of Delaware and NOAA Davidson Fellow

Rocky Horror Picture Show
• October 27 | shows at 5, 7, 9, and 11pm
Details on page 3.

Trick or Treat at The Museum*
October 29 | 9-11am
Details on page 3.

NOVEMBER

Homeschool Days | 10am-12pm*
• November 1 – Featured Gallery/Exhibition *Ancient Civilizations* (Ancient Egypt)
• November 15 – Featured Gallery/Exhibition *Arms and Armor* (Medieval Europe)
• November 29 – Featured Gallery/Exhibition *Animal Habitats* (Predator and Prey: The Food Chain)

Girl Scout Days and Overnights at RPM*
• November 4 | 9am-12pm – Voyagers to the Deep Jr. Workshop
• November 18 | 2-5pm – Abstract Artistry Workshop
• November 18-19 | 6pm-8am – Super Sleuths Overnight

Cub/Boy Scout Day*
• November 6 | 5-8pm – Wolf: Finding Your Way Workshop

Exhibit Reception: *The Art of Collecting: The Luther W. Brady Bequest**
• November 7 | 5:30-7:30pm

Widoktadwen Center for Native Knowledge Indigenous Film Festival Film Screening*
November 9 | 1pm

Senior Series | 1pm*
• November 10 – Guest lecture by Chris Martin and Craig Thatcher from Martin Guitar

Arboretum Fall Clean-up*
• November 11 | 9am–12pm

Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood®: A Grr-ific Exhibit* – Helpers in Your Neighborhood Day
• November 11 | 9am–1pm
Details on page 6.

Sensory Inclusive Hours*
• November 14 | 5-6pm
• November 18 | 10-11am

Purchase Party
• November 16 | 5:30-8pm
Details on page 3.

Arboretum Education | 10am*
• November 21 - "Blue Marsh Lake: What it's all About" – presented by Kirsten Bell, Park Ranger, Blue Marsh Lake

Subs and Science | 12:30-2:00pm*
• November 22

***20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* Movie Screening at the Neag Planetarium**
• November 24, 2023
Movie times: 11am, 5 and 7:30pm
Museum open to event attendees until 9pm
Where: The Reading Public Museum and The Neag Planetarium

DECEMBER

Girl Scout Days and Overnights at RPM*
• December 2 | 2-5pm – STEAMpunk Style Workshop
• December 2-3 | 6pm-8am – Voyagers to the Deep Overnight
• December 17 | 9am-12pm – Being Good in the Neighborhood Workshop
• December 28 | 9am-12pm – STEAMpunk Style Workshop
• December 28 | 1-4pm – Voyagers to the Deep Workshop

Sensory Inclusive Hours*
• December 3 | 10-11am
• December 6 | 5-6pm

Cub/Boy Scout Day*
• December 5 | 5-8pm – Wolf: Digging the Past

Pictures with Santa*
• December 9, 2023 | 9-11am

Homeschool Days | 10am-12pm*
• December 13 – Featured Gallery/Exhibition *Ancient Civilizations* (Ancient Greece and Rome)
• December 27 – Featured Gallery/Exhibition *The Art of Collecting: The Luther W. Brady Bequest* (Creating Contemporary Art)

Arboretum Education | 10am*
• December 19 – The Twelve Birds of Christmas" - Presented by Rebeka Birch

Senior Series | 1pm*
• December 22 – presented by Rebeka Birch, Summer Camp and Scout Program Coordinator and Arboretum Liaison.

Subs and Science | 12:30-2:00pm*
• December 27

Noon Year's Eve*
December 31, 2023 | 9am-12pm

JANUARY

Voyage to the Deep: Underwater Adventures* Member Farewell
January 7 | 5-7pm

For details on events and updates to the calendar, visit: readingpublicmuseum.org