

School & Teacher Programs

2026–2027

SANTA BARBARA
MUSEUM OF
ART

Program Guide and
Registration Instructions





All School and Teacher Programs are offered at no charge. Reimbursements of up to \$250 are available for bussing costs.

Dear Colleagues,

We invite you and your students to join us at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art to look, discover, question, and explore art through lively discussion, careful observation, and hands-on artmaking. Art is an invitation to be fully present. A visit to the Museum is an opportunity to connect with art, each other, and ourselves.

The art museum is a space in which to ask questions, to share ideas and to be wholly ourselves. Art sparks creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and innovation. In a time when social emotional learning is key to student well-being, we remind you that evidence shows that art making, and visiting art museums, can benefit mental health; supporting emotional resilience, helping us to understand who we are, and how we connect to others.

We hope students of all ages and abilities will feel welcome and confident expressing themselves in the safe, open, creative environment of the Museum, and that you as teachers will see us as a resource for your classroom as well; a place for inspiring personal connection. So come visit us! Together let's facilitate wonder, inspire creativity and share joy!

Sincerely,
Patsy Hicks
Director of Education, Santa Barbara Museum of Art

On View This Year

Special Exhibitions:

***As if in a Dream: History, Fantasy, Future* (through January 3, 2027)**

Like dreams, these artworks combine real and familiar elements but in illogical or uncanny ways. This exhibition shows artists such as Alice Baber, Rafael Coronel, Marsden Hartley and Alison Saar giving fleeting memories durable form, envisioning a future, and transforming the everyday into the visionary.

***Portraits Revealed* (August 30, 2026 – March 21, 2027)**

The essence of portraiture is that it depicts or alludes to a person or people. Over centuries, artists in this gallery have told stories, fantasized, and revealed invisible emotions and beliefs. This exhibition presses on what counts as a portrait by including still-life paintings that use objects to suggest an unseen person or situation and features paintings by Alfredo Ramos Martínez, Otis Kwame Kye Quaicoe, Della Shull, David Alfaro Siqueiros, Cynthia Talmadge, and Francisco de Zurbarán.

***FriendsWithYou: Infinite Dance* (TBD April 2027)**

FriendsWithYou is a collaborative art project by Los Angeles-based artists Samuel Borkson and Arturo Sandoval, III. They have been creating modern modes of spirituality with the mission of having a positive impact on our world since 2002. Visit <https://friendswithyou.com/> for examples of their work.

Ongoing Installations:

Permanent collection of **Antiquities, Asian Art, American Art, European Art, Photography, New Media, and Contemporary Art.** Always on view: **David Alfaro Siqueiros'** 1932 mural *Portrait of Mexico Today*.



Image on view: Charles Christian Nahl, *La Plaza de Toros: Sunday Morning in Monterey*, 1874. Oil on canvas. Gift of Mrs. Silsby M. Spalding.

For more information on special exhibitions, please visit www.sbma.net/exhibitions.

Educator Events

Finding Yourself in the Museum

SBMA's fall Educator Open House introduces teachers to the special exhibitions and permanent collection on view during the 2026–2027 academic year. Starting at 4 pm on Wednesday, September 23, join us to hear about suggested themes and strategies for incorporating the visual arts into the classroom.

Each exhibition invites careful exploration. There are endless connections to discover. We hope you will engage in the hands-on art activities led by our Museum Teaching Artists designed to be used with your students, pick up lesson plans and resources for your classroom, and enjoy a glass of wine in the incomparable company of colleagues and great works of art.

"I am sure I speak for all of us when I say thank you for filling our cups!! What a pleasure to spend time surrounded by art, artists, art teachers, art lovers, and actually get our hands back into creating something ourselves! I appreciate all of you and am grateful for the time we spent together, I feel uplifted!" –Teacher workshop participant

Registration is free, but reservations are required and can be found online at <https://www.sbma.net/events/educator-open-house-1> . Please extend the invitation to attend to interested colleagues. For more information, please email education@sbma.net.

***Open House:
Wednesday
September 23
4 – 6pm***



In-Person Field Trips: Online registration

SBMA offers four different programs, adapted for age-appropriateness, curriculum needs, group size, and day of the week. Full descriptions and links to register are found at: <https://www.sbma.net/learn/fieldtrips>.

Steps to Register:

- 1) Visit <https://www.sbma.net/learn/fieldtrips> to find the program that works for your class's age and time availability.
- 2) Click the orange "Register Now" button below that program's listing.
- 3) A calendar screen will pop up. Select a date when your class is available. **Please cross check with your school's calendar BEFORE registering! School events, other field trips, and conference/work days can limit availability.*
- 4) At the checkout screen, be sure your start time is selected. **Then chose ONE (1) for the quantity, since you will need to register one class at a time.**
- 5) Fill out the form that will include details about your group's size, transportation plans, and other special needs or requests. The more we know in advance, the better prepared we can be for your visit.
- 6) Submit your form and click the check-out button. A complete registration will be confirmed via email. **Please check with our staff if you do not see the confirmation.*

Have questions about a school program? Contact School Programs Manager Molly Kemper at mkemper@sbma.net

In-Person Field Trips: Brief Program Overview

Young at Art: **Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10:00 – 11:30 am and select Thursdays: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm** **Max 30 Students. No exceptions. Open to TK, K, and 1st grades.* Students are introduced to the Museum in this 1.5-hour presentation, beginning with an interactive PowerPoint presentation and hands-on art activity, and concluding with a 30-minute gallery tour with a Museum educator.

Artful Making: **Tuesdays 10:30 – 11:45 am or 11:30 – 12:45 pm and select Wednesdays: 11:00 – 12:15 pm** **Max 30 students. No exceptions. Open to students in grades 2-8.* Artful Making combines a 35-minute docent-led tour of SBMA's galleries with a 35-minute hands-on art project based on the art on view in the galleries. Please note that this program runs **75 minutes** and overlaps between 11:30-11:45am.

Artful Thinking: **Thursdays: 11:00 – 11:45 am or 12:00 – 12:45 pm and select Wednesdays: 12:00 – 12:45 pm** **Max 50 students per session. Open to students in grades 2-12.* The new programming within SBMA's existing field trip structure includes mindfulness practice before gallery tours. Students engage in close looking, dynamic discussion, and self-reflection, and connect with art and each other in a non-judgmental way with the support of a mindfulness coach. Each visit encourages thoughtful dialogue and builds visual literacy while modeling empathy and respect.

Fridays in Focus: **Select Fridays (see website for details).** *Open to students in grades 7-12.* Junior high and high school students are invited to dive deeper into the Museum's collection through a dynamic, theme-based tour. Led by SBMA educators, visiting artists, specialists, or a combination of experts, each session blends art, discussion, and creative thinking in a multidisciplinary format. Whether exploring identity, activism, or visual storytelling, students are encouraged to share ideas, ask questions, and see art through a new lens.

Online Resources



SBMA At School is a space to discover SBMA lesson plans and educational videos. Organized by subject matter and grade level, the webpage features lesson plans related to English Language Arts, History/Social Studies, and Visual Arts. New lesson plans are added monthly.

sbma.net/learn/sbmaatschool



Explore **SBMA's permanent collection online**! Discover artworks from collecting areas, including Antiquities, Asian Art, European Art, American Art, Latin American Art, Photography, New Media, and Modern & Contemporary.

collections.sbma.net

Image: Vajrabhairava Embracing Consort, Tibetan, late 17th century. Gilded bronze with traces of paint. SBMA, Museum Purchase with the John and Peggy Maximus Fund.



VIRTUAL Artful Making Can't make it into the galleries? In this virtual version of the Artful Making program, 3–8th grade students explore an artistic genre or theme in a 45-minute interactive PowerPoint presentation and hands-on art activity. Contact Molly Kemper at mkemper@sbma.net for scheduling and content options.



*Thank you
to our
Education
Donors!*



Nora McNeely Hurley Foundation
Audrey Hillman Fisher Foundation
George H. and Olive J. Griffiths Charitable Foundation
Stone Family Foundation

Anonymous
 The Coeta and Donald Barker Foundation
 Karen and Peter Brill
 Robert and Mercedes Eichholz Foundation
 Hazen Family Foundation
 Montecito Bank & Trust
 Elisa and Marc Stad
 Mary Lynn and Warren Staley
 Michelle and Craig Taylor Foundation

Paul Absher, Justin Barce, Regan & David Barks, Marsha & Stephen J. Barr, Marianne Battistone & Philip Norwood, Alissa Beltran, Robin Bethlenfalvay, Gloria & Laurence Brockway, Karen Carson, Tracy Collins, Bonnie R. Corman, Ph.D., Shannon M. Crane & Mark K. Flores, Maria & John Cunningham, Michele DeCant, Dieter Doppelfeld, Diane & Leslie Ekker, Gail Elnicky & Rich Untermann, Diane Federle, Paul Finkel & Barbara Strauss, Susan Fractman, Elizabeth & Art Gaspar, Elizabeth Gaynes, Janet Goodman & James Liberman, Linda J. Gorin, M.D. in honor of Arnold B. Gorin, M.D. , Heather Green, Salli Harris, Kathy & Peter Hartz, Gillian Heald, Michelle Heckman, Wendy Henchy, Christine Hoehner, Jerome Hurowitz, Maren & John Lambe, Zoë Landers, Judy Lange, Susanne Lersch, Linda Stafford Burrows, Leslie Blake-Lobb, Kristi & Cole Lupoli, Loy Lytle & Sabina White, Rita Manning, Carmen Martinez, Robert Meloy, Nancy Michaud, Alcira Miller, Jodi Mitchell, Ayad Muhammad, Betsey Nash, Jennifer O'Toole, Linda & Gary Rick, Pam Riss, Elisabeth Rose & Owen Shapiro, Bettina Ross, Nalia Santiago, Judith Scheuer, Sharon Sheehan, Barbara Koutnik-Smith & Melbourne Smith, Charlie Stender, Deborah Talmage & Vince Deral, Brian Tappeiner, Karen & Jeff Tenzer, Marianne Tucker, David Unger, Anthony & Sophia Vassiliou, Nancy Vierbrock, DiAnne & Robert G. Voorhees, Julia Walden, Sherri West & John MacDonald, Michael Wilson, Eleanor Wilson & Russell Black, Sandra Wilson, Karen & Al Wintringham, Jeffrey & Erin Zuck, & donors to the 2026 Gilded Gala.