



311 East Main Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
260.422.6467
www.fwmoa.org

Dear Principal or Head of School,

The Fort Wayne Museum of Art invites your teachers and students to visit us **in-person** this academic year. I hope you will take this opportunity and, partnering with our education staff, re-introduce experiential learning into your curriculum through authentic, memorable experiences with works of art. Thanks to the generosity of the Lincoln Financial Foundation, we are proud to offer this programming **for free** to both public and private schools in Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wells, and Whitley counties.

Our inquiry-based museum tours, facilitated by expert staff and docents, offer tangible learning experiences that meet both the State and National Visual Arts Standards. In addition, tours integrate important literacy skills and accommodate multiple learning styles as students discuss, analyze, and interpret artworks in a museum environment. These interactions have measurable educational benefits, recently recorded in a large-scale impact study conducted by the National Art Education Association and the Association of Art Museum Directors. Key findings include a boost to creative and critical thinking as students asked more complex questions and were more accepting of multiple interpretations; skills that, while uniquely supported by museum programs, transfer across academic disciplines and beyond. We recognize that technology allows for the easy presenting and viewing of artworks online; however, we maintain that there is no alternative to personally experiencing art. By allowing them to look closely, share ideas, and discover personal connections, field trips stimulate students' curiosity and broaden their life and learning experiences.

Art museums are inclusive spaces, and we endeavor to extend diverse, authentic art experiences to all. We understand that field trips are not always an option; therefore, we encourage you to collaborate with us through Gallery on Wheels, our program that brings the art museum to you! These curated, interdisciplinary collections similarly build visual learning skills practiced in a museum to your classroom.

Information about programs and resources are online at fwmoa.org/school-programs/. Educators are available to present program offerings and answer questions during teacher meetings and trainings. Arrange a program or educator in-service presentation by calling or emailing Naomi Vanderleest, 260.422.6467 or naomi.vanderleest@fwmoa.org. Tour and outreach programs are also offered virtually.

We look forward to collaborating with you as you work to broaden your students' learning experiences.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Shepard III'.

Charles A. Shepard III, President & CEO