

Mathers Museum Field Trip Program

Contacts

- Geoffrey W. Conrad, *Director* (812/855-5340; conrad@indiana.edu)
- Judith A. Kirk, *Assistant Director* (812/855-1696; jakirk@indiana.edu)
- Abbie M. Anderson, *Curator of Education* (812/855-0197; abmander@indiana.edu)
- Museum website: <http://www.indiana.edu/~mathers>

Project Summary

The William Hammond Mathers Museum of World Cultures on the Indiana University campus strives in all of its activities to further its audiences' understandings of both the diversity of the world's specific cultures and the underlying unity of culture as a human phenomenon. Furthering this mission, the Mathers Museum Field Trip Program removes financial obstacles to school field trips to the Museum, and collaborates with teachers to provide a full-service museum education program that best meets their needs.

Area and Population Served

The program serves Elementary through High School teachers and their students in central and southern Indiana. Program design and promotion focuses on the Monroe County Community Schools Corporation (MCCSC), since these nearby schools represent the Museum's most immediate field trip constituency. MCCSC is made up of 21 schools, with 2002-2003 enrollment of 10,520 students and 656 full-time equivalent teachers.

- Any teacher in driving distance of the Museum may apply to the Program to cover the costs of a field trip, and can benefit from the complete range of the Museum's education services.
- The Program integrates strongly with a range of state academic standards, particularly for curriculum areas in Social Studies and the Visual Arts.

Total Budget: \$72,013.50

- Field trip costs for two academic years (2004-2005, 2005-2006)
- Publication of supporting materials
- Promotion costs
- Teacher workshops
- Personnel

Total Requested: \$11,280.00

- Field trip costs
- Publication costs

The Mathers Museum of World Cultures

Mission

The William Hammond Mathers Museum is Indiana University's museum of world cultures. Through its collections, exhibits, and programs, the Museum is dedicated to preserving and promoting knowledge of the world's cultures both past and present. In all of its activities, the Museum strives to further its audiences' understanding of both the diversity of the world's specific cultures and the underlying unity of culture as a human phenomenon.

History

The Museum was founded as the Indiana University Museum in 1963 for the purpose of supplementing university classes in anthropology, folklore, and history. Continuously accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1971 (current through 2007), the Museum was renamed the William Hammond Mathers Museum when its present building was dedicated in 1983. In 1992 the Museum became a founding member of the Alliance of Bloomington Museums. It is the only museum in the state with an explicit, global cross-cultural perspective on the study of material culture—that is, the things that people make and use and endow with meaning.

Programs and Activities

The Museum's collections reflect its mission: approximately 37,000 artifacts from every inhabited continent sustain a wide range of exhibits and educational programming. At any given time the Museum displays up to seven different exhibits, which may remain in place from six weeks to three years, and which receive approximately 20,000 on-site visitors of all ages per year. In addition to exhibitions conceived and executed entirely in-house, Museum staff regularly collaborate with professors, academic departments and community organizations to design exhibits, and also sponsor exhibits designed by Indiana University students.

The Museum's audiences include the general public, K-12 schools, University students and scholars, and retirees. Special events and programs at the Museum reflect this diversity, ranging from the annual *Discovering Archaeology* fair to lectures, workshops and concerts held throughout the year. Admission to the Museum is always free of charge, reflecting the Museum's not-for-profit status. The Education Department offers guided tours of the Museum's exhibits and collections, as well as off-site presentations on a variety of topics, and provides a wide range of curriculum-based services for teachers. In a typical year the Museum hosts approximately eighty tours, thirty to forty of which are school tours, and holds at least twenty special events for various audiences.

Organization

The Mathers Museum maintains ten staff positions (seven full-time, three part-time), with an annual budget of \$513,716.00. Currently in the process of cultivating a new advisory board, the Museum reports to the Indiana University Office of the Vice President for Research. The Museum staff is assisted by a small number of volunteers; five part-time student workers who perform security, reception and administration duties; and a varying number of Indiana University students enrolled in a Practicum course for academic credit. Practicum students work with specific staff members, supporting the Museum's activities as well as receiving museum work experience and developing their own projects. Numbers of practicum students vary by semester, but normally range from ten to fifteen.

The Mathers Museum Field Trip Program

Mission

The Mathers Museum Field Trip Program removes financial obstacles to school field trips to the Museum, and provides teachers with access to a comprehensive Museum Education program that best meets their needs.

Need

For many years, school field trips to the Mathers Museum have provided teachers with tools to extend the effectiveness of lesson plans and give students another "way in" to understand class work and make it more meaningful. In a survey of Monroe County Community Schools Corporation (MCCSC) teachers conducted by the Mathers Museum in 1994, 95% of respondents reported that field trips are an important activity that can enhance their curricula by providing hands-on, real-life contact with genuine artifacts or experience. Research by education scholars such as Madeleine Gregg, Gaea Leinhardt and Jan Nespor confirms that museum visits introduce students to ideas and community resources they may not encounter otherwise, and acquaint children with museums as places of learning, beauty and fun that will be open to them throughout their lifetimes.

In the current economic climate, however, many school systems have been forced to slash their budgets for field trips. As one example, classrooms in MCCSC are currently limited to one local and one out-of-town field trip per year. MCCSC educators and administrators have expressed their concerns about this problem to the Museum. Responding to this need, the Museum now seeks assistance to create a productive solution: the Mathers Museum Field Trip Program.

Project Design

Field Trip Fund: The program centers on a field trip fund, to which teachers can apply for payment of field trip costs. The fund will cover two years of field trips, beginning in August 2004. This administrative model worked well in a pilot program administered by the Museum in 2001-2002 as part of an Institute for Museum and Library Services General Operating Support grant, and has been successful for the Indiana University Art Museum and the Virginia Museum of Natural History, among others. While any teacher within driving distance of the Museum will be welcome to apply for field trip support, the program will focus on MCCSC as the Museum's most immediate school constituency.

As one gauge of the program's success, the Museum aims to increase school field trips by 20% each year. Current staff at the Museum, including the Curator of Education and Indiana University Practicum students, will absorb this increase in field trips. Based on current statistics, we seek support for fifty field trips in the first year and sixty field trips in the second year. With an average field trip cost of \$75.00, the field trip fund will total \$8,250.00 (110×75). Further costs for three teacher workshops, for promotion of the program to teachers and administrators, and for all staff support, will be met by the Museum.

Teaching with Objects and Photographs: An additional \$3,030.00 will allow re-publication and distribution of the Museum's *Teaching with Objects and Photographs* curriculum guide for integrating artifacts and images into lesson plans. This manual helps move the Field Trip Program beyond simple financial support and into the classroom as a valuable instructional partner. It equips teachers to use material culture as a powerful educational vector for a wide range of subjects, thus making the field trip experience not just an excursion but a dynamic element of ongoing intellectual achievement.

Activity: Comprehensive Education Support

Bringing a class to the Museum for a tour is only one part of the program. Museum field trips are designed to integrate strongly with state academic standards, and can be tailored to any topics or issues a teacher wishes to address. Teachers are welcome to schedule pre- and post-tour classroom presentations by Museum personnel that reinforce the field trip experience, and may borrow objects and Discovery Kits from the School Loan Collection for hands-on activities. In-class presentations are also available on a variety of topics supporting curriculum standards, regardless of a scheduled tour. The *Teaching with Objects and Photographs* manual, offered free of charge, brings all of these elements together as the teacher develops a continuing approach to using artifacts and images in the classroom.

Activity: Promotion

The Field Trip Program will be designed and promoted in partnership with MCCSC teachers and administrators, whose input, awareness, and networking skills will ensure maximum effectiveness. Three half-day teacher workshops, to be held in October 2004, January 2005 and July 2005, will acquaint teachers with the program and with the full range of Museum services for teachers, including *Teaching with Objects and Photographs*. Attractive materials explaining the program and its benefits will be distributed each August and January to MCCSC teachers, as well as to those outside Monroe County who have brought their classes to the Museum in the past. The Curator of Education will meet with MCCSC principals at the beginning of each semester with information about the program and the details of the field trip fund.

Evaluation

Brief surveys, consisting of four to five scaled questions and an area for comments, will allow teachers to rate their experiences after each workshop and each field trip. The Museum will review workshop surveys after each session, and compile field trip survey results each December, May and August, responding with any needed adjustments. Numbers of field trips will be assessed together with the field trip surveys; if stated goals are not being met, teachers will be interviewed further in order to discover causes (lack of awareness? difficulties scheduling?) and discuss remedies.

- Objective: Numbers of school field trips will increase by 20% during each academic year over the year previous.
- Objective: At the end of each school year (May 2005 and May 2006), at least 70% of respondents for that year will have reported a High or Very High overall level of satisfaction with the program.

Beginning in January 2006, plans to extend the program will follow from desired outcomes in numbers of field trips and levels of reported satisfaction. Staffing levels will be evaluated to determine the need to include additional Education personnel in support of an expanding Field Trip Program.

Itemized Budget***Grand Total: \$72,013.12*****I. Funds Sought****Total: \$11,280****A. Field Trip Fund**

Year One: 50 field trips @ \$75.00 per field trip	\$3,750.00
Year Two: 60 field trips @ \$75.00 per field trip	\$4,500.00

B. Publication of Teaching with Objects and Photographs

One-time: 1,500 copies, coil-bound @ \$2.02 per copy	\$3,030.00
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II. Costs Met by Museum**Total: \$60,733.14****A. Personnel**

Curator of Education, Abbie Anderson	
Two years @ \$30,000 per year	\$60,000.00

Note: Curator of Education administers Field Trip Program; supervises Practicum students; manages program promotion and evaluation activities.

B. Promotion

Photocopying: 4-p. packet x 700 copies @ \$0.08/p. x 2 years	\$448.00
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Packet: cover letter; double-sided flyer; sample Field Trip Fund payment application form. Copied professionally in volume at eight cents per page. *Numbers:* 677 MCCSC teachers and principals, rounded up for teachers outside MCCSC and additional copies as needed.

Distribution: Packets will be delivered to Elementary schools in August and to Middle and High Schools in January for each program year.

C. Teacher Workshops

Refreshments: 20 participants x ~\$4.50/person x 3 workshops*	\$270.12
Photocopies: 20 participants x 5 pp. @ \$0.05/p. x 3 workshops	\$15.00

**Refreshments:* Per workshop: 2 doz. sliced bagels (\$13.50); two (12-oz.) containers cream cheese (\$5.98); one package of 32 (12-oz.) bottles of water (\$4.88); 2 light lunch platters (\$61.00); plus one-time cost of \$14.00 for 2 (2-lb.) bags of coffee beans to cover all three workshops.

Packet: Double-sided flyer profiling the Museum's education services; Museum Resource sheet listing available presentations and kits; sample Field Trip Fund payment application form. Copied internally for five cents per page.