



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--JUNE 05, 2014

FREE CLASSES FOR DOCENT TRAINING PROGRAM AT FITCHBURG ART MUSEUM

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About FAM

The Fitchburg Art Museum serves the cities of Fitchburg and Leominster and the surrounding communities in North Central Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire. FAM was founded in 1925, and its five-building complex, with over 20,000 square feet of exhibition space, features exhibitions from its art historical collections as well as special exhibitions focused on regional contemporary art. FAM plays a vital role in the cultural life of the region and the Museum maintains active educational partnerships with the local school systems, as well as Fitchburg State University. FAM is an engine for creativity, education, community building and fun!



The class of 2014 is assembling.

Interviews are now being scheduled for anyone interested in becoming a Tour Guide (Docent) at the Fitchburg Art Museum. Participants need not have a background in art, but should have an interest in art and a strong desire to learn and share what you learn with others.

Docents are trained by Museum staff and outside experts on tour techniques, art history and the Museum's collections. New docents practice techniques and acquire the skills to give engaging tours to visitors of all ages. Participants will use the Museum's varied collection for training and education. Art works represented in the permanent collection and long-term exhibitions include paintings by FAM's founder, Eleanor

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Norcross, Greek and Roman antiquities, African and Oceanic Art, Asian Art and our ancient Egyptian tomb artifacts along side Joseph Lindon Smith's trompe l'oeil paintings of Egyptian tomb interiors. Docents will also learn about special, changing exhibitions of contemporary art.

Museum Hours:

Wednesday 12-4 PM
Thursday 12-4 PM
Friday 12-4 PM
Saturday 11-5 PM
Sunday 11-5 PM

FREE First Thursdays:

On the First Thursday of every month, the Museum is free to the public from 3-7 PM.

Admission is free for:

FAM Members, children under 12, Fitchburg State University and Fitchburg Public School students, faculty and staff, Fitchburg Residents of Ward 4B, AAM & NEMA Members +1, Active Military and their family, Corporate Members' and their employees & family.

General admission:

\$9 for adults
\$5 for seniors (62+)
\$5 for students (13+)

Following Docent Foundation Course completion, docents begin giving tours and attending bi-weekly docent meetings/ continuing education sessions. They are required to make a two-year commitment of service to the program. This includes giving tours, conducting studio art projects and attending regular bi-weekly meetings. In return, docents enjoy ongoing learning in an exciting and congenial environment.

“The docents are a marvelous group of people,” says Descoteaux. “They come from such varied walks of life and they tend to be a lively-minded and an intellectually curious group. It makes for a stimulating and fun time whenever we meet.”

The Docent Training Program begins in September and runs through December. Meetings will be held on Wednesday mornings and some Tuesday afternoons.

To find out more, or to schedule an interview, call Ann Descoteaux, Director of Docents at (978) 345-4207 x302.