

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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### I Challenges

- Encouraging members of the community who are not normally museum goers to come to the museum
- Taking the museum to the community
- Creating programs in the museum for members of various communities

### II Getting the Community into the Museum

- Partnership with children's hospital: one-day family memberships are available for families staying in hospital housing while their children are patients.
- Partnership with library: one-day family memberships may be signed out for a three week period from libraries in low income areas.
- Free Fridays for schools without the funds to take students to the museum.
- Citizenship Court: one-year family memberships are handed out to new citizens by a representative of the museum.
- Each student visiting the museum with his or her class is given a one-day family pass.
- Free evenings: one evening per week there is no admission charge for the permanent collection.

### III The Museum Goes out to the Community

- Docents take slide shows into senior centers.
- Docents take masterpiece reproductions to classrooms. The basic elements of the work are mounted on the back of the reproduction along with suggestions for discussion. These are prepared by a research committee and docents may check them out and take them to schools.
- Docents prepare and take slide presentations or PowerPoint presentations from libraries in the museum to schools.

- Docents prepare slide shows or PowerPoint presentations to take to correctional institutions or rehabilitation facilities.
- Docents visit elementary schools with portfolios, each containing eight to ten prints which they discuss with the students. Portfolios are housed in docents' homes throughout the city and may be checked out for classroom visits.
- Students, working with docents during the summer, make large wall murals depicting immigration to the west. These may be incorporated into the History, Art and Geography curricula.
- Docents share a brown bag lunch with nursing home residents prior to doing a slide show.
- Docents take slides and artifacts into fourth grade classrooms for a discussion of natural history, cowboy life and pioneers.
- Docents participate in such community events as street festivals and art shows. Booths where children may create art are set up. To inform the adults, there are posters and brochures about the museum and its collections and membership opportunities. Museum passes are available for distribution.
- Docents present a program about the history of Ohio River Steam Boats on a steam boat during a city festival.

#### IV Programs in the Museum for Various Communities

- Book Clubs: works in the permanent collection are chosen that evoke such elements as characters, themes and setting of a book. This works well when a state or province selects an "everybody reads" book. Books may also be chosen as tie-ins for special exhibits.
- Docents prepare a brief tour for seniors. They then discuss what they have seen over refreshments.
- Docents in a natural history museum prepare and present a weekend program for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.
- Docents prepare a program using art as a connection to music, math and poetry. Teachers bring their students to the museum on Saturdays.