K-12 School and Teacher Programs 2022–2023

Students: 15,027
Teachers: 702
Districts: 27

Schools: 228
Charter Schools: 33
Instructional Hours: 755.63
Summary:

The Utah Museum of Fine Arts (UMFA) K-12 School and Teacher Programs team provides a broad spectrum of learning and engagement opportunities to Utah’s local education agencies (LEA). Through outreach programs, tours and field trips, educator resources, professional development, and inspired by a global collection of more than 20,000 art objects, UMFA’s educational programs engage students and teachers across the state, helping foster a love of art and highlighting creativity as an important life skill.

UMFA K-12 School and Teacher Programs Core Values:

- Provide access to art and art education statewide
- Connect art to classroom learning and Utah Core Standards
- Create personal connections to art, each other, and the world
- Promote critical thinking through visual literacy
- Spark creativity as a life skill for 21st-century learners

At the UMFA, we believe that art objects are an access point to the discovery of global ideas of the past and present, helping students develop visual literacy, honing critical thinking, and inspiring creativity – all essential tools for higher education and career-ready students. Through these programs, we foster empathy in learners by promoting affective and sensorial responses through an exploration of human connections, hands-on experiential learning, diverse discussions, and question-based practices.
Districts served:
Program Highlights of the Year

Museum Inreach at the UMFA

Students: 4,740
Teachers: 235
Districts: 15
Schools: 90
Charter Schools: 14
Instructional Hours: 291.60

Tour Themes:
• How to Look at a Work of Art (K-12)
• Storytelling (3-5)

Creative Leaps: Inspiration from Contemporary Art and Dance Tour

Students joined Ririe Woodbury Dance Company and the Utah Museum of Fine Arts to dance, doodle, and discover the dynamic world of contemporary art and dance! This special program was held in person at the UMFA on December 6–8, 2022 and January 17–19, 2023 and guided students on a diverse journey to react and respond to amazing works of performing and visual art. The program included a guided tour, art and movement workshops, and a performance by Ririe Woodbury Dance Company.

Dual Tours: UMFA and NHMU

Students explored two museums in one day with this exciting adventure of art and culture! Students practiced critical thinking skills and discovered cultural connections through art and artifact discoveries at the UMFA and NHMU!
Outreach to Schools
Students: 6,124
Teachers: 203
Districts: 17
Schools: 45
Charter Schools: 2
Instructional Hours: 200.53

Museum in the Classroom presentations:
• Connecting Utah’s Past and Present
• Our World – Past Traditions / New Voices
• Printmaking
  - Storytelling through Japanese Prints (K-3)
  - Abstract Printmaking (4-6)
  - Exploring Traditions with Mexican Prints (7-12)
• Photography
• Land Art in Utah
• Careers in Art (7-12)

Art Connections Workshops
In this spring program, we worked with East High School art club around special exhibition Many Wests: Artists Shape an American Idea on view at the UMFA from February 5 to June 11, 2023. The first session began with a museum tour and a talk by local artist Vicky Lowe. Students were introduced to Many Wests and began conceptualizing their own artwork responding to Great Salt Lake. Following sessions included artmaking at East High School and a trip to Great Salt Lake. These sessions were also supported by East art teacher Donna Pence and local artist and educator Vicky Lowe. The students’ original artworks will be displayed in the U of U Education building through the fall.

What teachers are saying:
“Engaging, thoughtfully planned, organized, creative. In the words of a student, ‘we hit the jackpot with this field trip!’ ”

“It is so important for kids in rural areas like ours to have a connection to the arts and meet people like you.”

“I loved the art and science connection. I appreciated how the instructors showed how the activities are tied to standards”

“I feel the topic was applicable to my classroom because as I explored and learned more about the topic I was enlightened and I gained a broader perspective on how I can make my curriculum more personal to all of my students”
STEMCAP Artmaking Workshops

Students explored two museums in one day with In addition to virtual tours, we also provide artmaking workshops with STEMCAP for Youth-in-Custody (YIC) schools. With the “We Are All Water” project we co-facilitated the portrait making and artist statement sessions. Students learned about Great Salt Lake and created a self-portrait with an overlaid section of a river that feeds into the lake. We provided two Mission STEMCAP artmaking workshops where students created agamographs and oil pastel fish. All these workshops took place in the schools’ classrooms and are hands-on to allow students to express scientific ideas through creative outlets.

Educator Programs and Resources

Students: 4,163
Teachers: 264
Districts: 17
Schools: 147
Charter Schools: 23
Instructional Hours: 263.50

Evening for Educators: STEAM is in the Air

This was an in-person event held on October 5, 2022, from 5:30-8:30pm. Educators were invited to see how art and science come together in our special exhibition: Air, on view July 16–Dec 11, 2022. We explored the use of science, technology, art, and math (STEAM) to have critical conversations and find creative sources of engagement. Educators participated in a tour and two hands-on workshops. One workshop, creating wind detectors, was facilitated by Kellie Yates from the STEM action center. The other, on native seed bombs, was developed by Fiona Summers, a student and teacher at the University of Utah.
Evening for Educators: Many Voices in Many Wests

This was a virtual event held on March 8, 2022, from 5:30-8:30pm. Inspired by our special exhibition Many Wests: Artists Shape an American Idea, on view February 4–July 11, 2023, to explore the inclusion of multiple perspectives and voices. Educators participated in a virtual tour of the exhibition and two workshops, led by the Natural History Museum of Utah and local artist and educator Vicky Lowe, to engage in critical thinking skills and explore art as an approachable way for students to share thoughts and ideas.

Classroom Posters

This year we debuted new posters of artworks from the UMFA for teachers to decorate their classrooms with. On the back of each poster includes basic background info about the artwork and two simple activities (one for elementary and one for secondary) that engage with the work. These posters were available at various educator programs and on our website. The posters are of a Chinese Funerary Urn, a Necklace with Double Bat Effigies from Panama, a Flower Still Life by Flemish artist Francois Ykens, Infinity Nets by Yayoi Kusama, Hot Dog Bridge by Russell Talbert Gordon, and Forest Seed Basket for present and future understanding by Merritt Johnson.

Left to right | Necklace with Double Bat Effigies, Panama, Coclé region, Gran Coclé culture, ca.700–1200, gold. Purchased with Funds from Friends of the Art Museum, UMFA2008.16.1; Merritt Johnson (born 1977, lives Sitka, AK), Forest seed basket for present and future understanding, 2019, handwoven black ash wood and Sitka Spruce cone seeds. Purchased with funds from The Phyllis Cannon Wattis Endowment Fund, UMFA2022.5.1; Francois Ykens (Flemish), detail of Flower Still Life, 1644, oil on panel. Gift of Val A. Browning, UMFA1993.034.006;
Educator Resources on Japanese Art
umfa.utah.edu/japanese-art/educator-resources
A collection of resources to help teachers bring the UMFA’s Japanese Art into their classroom. Lesson plans, a curator talk, a woodblock printmaking process video, and more are included. This had 118 unique page views.

Mindfulness in the Classroom
umfa.utah.edu/mindfulness-in-the-classroom
This page includes resources for teachers to practice and teach mindfulness and the art of slowing down. Three guided meditations provide a resource for the classroom and a recording of the March 2022 UAEA: Art, Mindfulness, and the Classroom Conference Presentation for teachers own development. This recording has 13 views and the overall Mindfulness in the Classroom page had 69 unique page views.

K-12 STEAM Resources
umfa.utah.edu/STEAM
A brand new webpage published in June 2023 with a collection of lesson plans for teachers looking to engage students with Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. This page will grow as we continue to release more lesson plans and resources. This had 5 unique page views already.