The Ringling invites you to join us for our engaging school and teacher programs. FREE standards-based school tours provide K-12 and college students the opportunity to learn about the legacy of John and Mable Ringling while exploring our diverse collections. Teacher programs provide educators with the tools they need to bring museum learning into the classroom.

SEE the Museum of Art and its collection of ancient to contemporary art and special exhibitions.

EXPLORE the Tibbals Learning Center, where you can walk through the *Howard Bros. Circus Model* and test your skills at circus acts.

EXPERIENCE the original Circus Museum to learn the Ringling family story and view John and Mable’s private railcar, the *Wisconsin*.

TOUR Ca’ d’Zan, the elegant winter residence of John and Mable Ringling.

ENJOY the grounds and gardens, including the David F. Bolger Playspace.

VISIT the Johnson-Blalock Education Center and use the rich resources available at The Ringling Art Library.
The Ringling offers both docent-led experiences and self-guided explorations. These options allow you to create a unique visit that best meets the needs of your students.

**DOCENT-LED TOURS / MUSEUM OF ART**

Watch students engage with works of art as a trained museum guide facilitates their exploration of The Ringling’s art collection. A variety of themes are available for docent-led tours, each of them focused on careful looking and discussion. These tours range from 45 to 60 minutes in length and cover 4 to 7 works of art. For more information, see page 5.

**DOCENT-LED TOURS / CA’ D’ZAN**

History comes alive as students in grades 4 through 8 explore the grand winter home of John and Mable Ringling under the direction of a trained guide. These tours, which last 60 minutes and are focused on Florida history, can be booked on a case-by-case basis. For more information, see page 7.

**SELF-GUIDED TOURS / ALL VENUES**

This option provides you with the greatest amount of flexibility. You determine what venues will best meet the needs of your students. The self-guided option allows you to set your pace and concentrate on specific topics of your choice. For more information, see page 9.
DOCENT-LED TOURS / MUSEUM OF ART

Our Museum of Art tours provide groups with trained guides. These tours last 45 to 60 minutes and focus on 4 to 7 works of art. Choose from the following themes:

MEET THE RINGLING
This tour introduces students to The Ringling and its influential founders. As students explore the art collection that John and Mable brought to Sarasota, their docent will guide them in analyzing the ideas and stories behind a selection of key works, thereby sharpening their skills of observation, interpretation, and visual analysis. This tour can be adapted for all grades and ability levels.

ANIMAL SAFARI
Take a scholarly safari! During this tour, students will search for amazing animals in works of art. Regal lions, prancing horses, devoted dogs, and curious cats are just some of the creatures on display. Learn about the roles that animals play in our lives and in art, and compare the different ways that artists have depicted our furry, scaly, and feathery friends. Grades K–5.

CREATIVE COLORS
Color has always been one of the most important elements in the artist’s tool box. By examining works in our galleries, students will see how artists can use color to set a mood, define a character, or convey symbolic meaning. Students will have the opportunity to develop new vocabulary and use visual thinking skills to discuss color in art. Grades 6–8.

MYTHS AND LEGENDS
Explore myths and legends from throughout history in this docent-led tour. Students will learn about the lives and loves of heroes, gods, and other mythological and historical figures through their depiction in paintings and sculptures. By connecting works of art to students’ knowledge of history, literature, and culture, this tour creates opportunities for rewarding discussions and discoveries. Grades 9–12.

While the high volume of school tour requests prevents us from offering custom-guided tours in the Museum of Art, we will work with you to adapt the above tour themes to your students’ needs.
The Ringling is pleased to offer docent-led school tours inside Ca’ d’Zan, the Ringlings’ winter residence. Students in grades 4 through 8 will see history come alive as they explore the first floor of the mansion and find connections between this historic home and Florida life in the Roaring Twenties.

Your docent will lead students through opulent rooms and impressive public spaces, helping students understand the differences and similarities between life at Ca’ d’Zan and their own lives today. These tours provide a unique opportunity to see inside the life of a couple who helped shape state and local history. Grades 4–8.

Docent-led tours of Ca’ d’Zan last 60 minutes and can accommodate up to 50 people. These tours are offered at 9:30 am, Tuesday through Friday. To schedule a docent-led Ca’ d’Zan tour, teachers should contact the Education Department directly at (941) 359-5700, ext. 3705.
SELF-GUIDED TOURS

Self-guided tours give your group the greatest flexibility by allowing you to customize your experience. These tours can serve any age group or ability level, and the possibilities for curriculum connections are endless. Self-guided groups have access to all of the venues at The Ringling:

- Museum of Art (including special exhibitions in the Searing Wing)
- Circus Museum (including the original Circus Museum and the Tibbals Learning Center)
- Ca’ d’Zan
- Bayfront Gardens

During self-guided tours, teachers and chaperones are responsible for facilitating their group’s experience. To help educators prepare for a self-guided visit, we offer a variety of lesson plans that can be downloaded and activities that correspond to different venues, themes, and exhibitions. To view available resources, visit ringling.org.

Please note: Groups who schedule a docent-led tour are also welcome to self-guide through any venue during their visit.
WHAT TO SEE WHEN YOU ARE HERE

A school trip to The Ringling can create memories that last a lifetime. A visit to any (or all!) of the following venues is sure to capture your students’ imaginations.

MUSEUM OF ART

From Renaissance paintings to modern sculptures, our twenty-one galleries contain rich artistic treasures for your students to explore. View favorite works that John Ringling purchased, as well as new additions and special exhibitions that bring a fresh perspective to the collection.
CIRCUS MUSEUM

Comprising two buildings, the Circus Museum is the perfect place to discover the history, science, art, and fun of the circus.

In the Tibbals Learning Center, students can see the amazing Howard Bros. Circus Model, a sprawling miniature circus complete with lights, sound, and motion. An interactive gallery gives students the chance to practice walking a wire, balancing like an equestrian, and aiming a model human cannon. Be sure to check out the timeline of circus history and the costume gallery too.

In the original Circus Museum, you will learn the story of the boys from Baraboo and explore Ringling family history. Whimsical circus wagons help students understand the grandiosity of the traveling circus, and the Wisconsin railcar lets them imagine what it would be like to travel the country in style with John and Mable.
CA’ D’ZAN

■ Visit the fabulous winter residence of John and Mable Ringling and step back into the glitz and glamour of 1920s Florida. Styled after a Venetian palazzo, Ca’ d’Zan (literally “House of John”) was the center of Sarasota society. See how John and Mable spent the winter months when they were not travelling with the circus, buying art in Europe, or searching for that next stupendous circus act.

School groups who do not book a docent-led school tour of Ca’ d’Zan may self-guide through the mansion’s first floor. Please visit ringling.org for more information on self-guided tour times in Ca’ d’Zan.
After purchasing their beautiful waterfront estate, the Ringlings worked hard to create a park-like setting where their guests could enjoy Sarasota’s rich subtropical environment with them. Today The Ringling is home to an array of plants and trees, including magnificent banyans and poincianas. Here are some highlights for your group to explore:

**DWARF GARDEN**  Meet some of The Ringling’s most whimsical statues in this lush setting.

**MABLE RINGLING’S ROSE GARDEN**  Stop and smell the roses in Florida’s oldest rose garden, which boasts an incredible variety of blooms. See if your students can find the rose named after Mable.

**SECRET GARDEN**  Stroll through the Secret Garden to pay your respects to John and Mable who are buried nearby. This private retreat was where Mable planted specimens given to her by friends and neighbors.

**MILLENNIUM TREE TRAIL**  Learn about Florida’s native trees and plants on this educational tree trail built to mark the year 2000.

**DAVID F. BOLGER PLAYSPACE**  Kids of all ages will love burning off some energy at the Playspace, where they can swing, slide, and spin amidst towering banyans.
School groups are welcome to enjoy The Ringling’s lovely outdoor setting by eating lunch on our grounds.

**BROWN-BAG IT**

For groups who bring lunches with them, storage wagons are available in the Welcome Center in the John M. McKay Visitors Pavilion. Just drop off your lunches when you arrive, and then wheel the wagons to your desired picnic area when it is time to eat. Wagons should be returned to the Welcome Center before you leave The Ringling.

There are two picnic areas designated for group lunches. Each includes accessible picnic tables.

**THE BANYAN CAFE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM**

The Banyan Cafe, located on The Ringling grounds, is pleased to provide brown bag lunches for school groups. Lunches are $7.00 per person, tax included. To order lunches, please contact Ann Marie Grew at annmarie@tableseide.com or call (941) 359-5700, ext. 5710 to order over the phone. These lunches can be enjoyed at our picnic areas.

Lunches include whole fruit, a cookie, bottled water or fountain soda, and a sandwich (turkey, ham or veggie wrap).
MUSEUM MANNERS

By following these simple steps, you and your students can help us take care of the art and artifacts on display.

- Leave backpacks on the bus. Backpacks can accidentally bump into paintings or sculptures.
- Stay an arm’s length away from museum objects. Dirt and oil from our hands can cause damage, and getting too close can lead to accidents.
- Remember to turn off the flash on your camera since bright light can fade works of art.
- Photography is prohibited in the Searing Wing of the Museum of Art due to copyright protection.
- Use pencils if you are drawing or taking notes inside. Pens, markers, and crayons are not permitted. Make sure you do not prop paper on gallery walls to write or draw.
- Stay with your group and your chaperone at all times.
- Use indoor voices and walk while in the galleries.

CHAPERONE INFORMATION

Chaperones play a vital role in making sure students have an enjoyable, safe time during their visit. Please consider the following guidelines when selecting chaperones:

- The Ringling requires 2 chaperones for every 10 students in your group.
- Each additional chaperone exceeding this ratio will be charged a $10 admission fee.
- Chaperones should stay with the students in their group at all times.
- We ask that chaperones assist with encouraging student engagement, monitoring behavior, and adhering to the group’s schedule.
Complimentary admission applies to student groups of 10 or more that book in advance. Once you have selected your tour type, follow the corresponding steps below to reserve your space:

**DOCENT-LED TOURS / MUSEUM OF ART**
Tours are offered Tuesday through Friday. Reservation requests must be received 6 weeks prior to your desired tour date.

- Visit ringling.org.
- Go to the “Learn” tab near the top of the screen.
- Select “Teachers” from the drop-down menu.
- On the left side of the screen, click on “School Visit Application.”
- Complete the requested information and submit the form.

**DOCENT-LED TOURS / CA’ D’ZAN**
Tours are offered Tuesday through Friday. Reservation requests must be received 6 weeks prior to your desired tour date.

- Please contact the Education Department directly to discuss tour availability and schedule your visit. Call (941) 359-5700, ext. 3705 or email education@ringling.org.

**SELF-GUIDED TOURS / ALL VENUES**
Tours are offered Tuesday through Saturday. Reservation requests must be received 2 weeks prior to your desired tour date.

- Visit ringling.org.
- Go to the “Learn” tab near the top of the screen.
- Select “Teachers” from the drop-down menu.
- On the left side of the screen, click on “School Visit Application.”
- Complete the requested information and submit the form.

Once your reservation is processed, you will receive a confirmation email for your tour. If you have any questions regarding your completed reservation, please contact the Advance Sales Office at (941) 358-3180.

**CANCELLATION POLICY**
To avoid cancellations, check your school’s calendar for test dates, holidays, and special activities before booking your visit.
If you must cancel your tour, please call the Advance Sales Office at (941) 358-3180 at least three days before your scheduled tour. Given the high volume of tours, cancellation may result in an inability to reschedule for the remainder of the school year. School tours cannot be rescheduled more than once.
Regardless of which school tour option you select, exploring The Ringling with students is a great way to address learning standards in a variety of content areas. Our tours are designed to align with the Florida standards listed below.

### SCHOOL TOURS & FLORIDA TEACHING STANDARDS

DOCENT-LED TOURS / MUSEUM OF ART

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DOCENT-LED TOURS / CA’ D’ZAN

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The Student Bus Scholarship Program assists educators by defraying some of the transportation costs associated with visiting The Ringling. Teachers can apply by going to the “School Visits K-12” section of ringling.org and submitting the School Bus Scholarship Application.

Scholarships are awarded in amounts up to $600, depending on distance traveled and number of students attending. Schools may receive one award per academic year. Awardees are responsible for making their own arrangements for bus transportation and for submitting invoices to The Ringling after the trip in order to receive payment.

Funding for this project is generously provided by The Frank E. Duckwall Foundation, Inc. Endowment.

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**BUS DRIVER INFORMATION**

**BUS UNLOADING**

1) Drive to the intersection of North Tamiami Trail (US 41) and University Parkway.
2) Proceed west down the esplanade in front of the Museum of Art.
3) Turn right onto Bay Shore Road.
4) Pull into the Bus Drop Off lane to your immediate right.
5) Unload students, chaperones, and lunches. Then, proceed to Bus Parking.

**BUS PARKING**

1) From the Bus Drop Off lane, proceed north on Bay Shore Road.
2) Turn right at the first stop sign onto College Road. Stay in the right lane.
3) Turn right onto North Tamiami Trail (US 41).
4) In less than a block, turn right into the FSU Center for the Performing Arts.
5) Park in the Bus Parking area at the easternmost edge of the parking lot.
The Ringling is committed to supporting the work that teachers do, both in the classroom and beyond.

- Florida educators receive discount admission to The Ringling upon presentation of a valid teacher ID.

- Any teacher planning a school trip to The Ringling is eligible for a free planning visit. Prior arrangements must be made by contacting the Education Department at education@ringling.org.

- Resource guides and worksheets for teachers to use in the classroom or in the Museum are available in the “Learn” section of our website.

- We are always interested in exploring new ways to collaborate with teachers through outreach, gallery programs, and professional development.

SATURDAY FOR EDUCATORS

Each school year, The Ringling hosts a series of professional development workshops geared toward K–12 teachers in a variety of subject areas. These Saturday for Educators programs provide opportunities to explore aspects of The Ringling’s permanent collection and special exhibitions. Educators enhance their understanding of the Museum and their content area in a setting that encourages networking and collaboration.

Participants can earn 3 hours of CEU credit for each program attended. The fee for each workshop is $5, which includes curriculum materials, a tour or gallery lecture, activity demonstrations, and lunch.

For more information and a schedule of upcoming Saturdays for Educators, visit ringling.org and click on “Teachers” under the “Learn” tab.
“I hope this museum… will promote education and art appreciation, especially among our young people.”

– John Ringling, 1931