

# Gallery Reads: How Does The Information Profession Help Youth Engage With Art?



## 1. What is Gallery Reads?

Gallery Reads is the first interactive activity for the Seattle Art Museum (SAM) where children will have the opportunity to connect with art in the galleries. The concept involves checking out a book from the new Ann P. Wyckoff Education Resource Center and read in front of a corresponding artwork. This activity will encourage abstract thinking, art appreciation, and skills in literacy.

## 2. Background

SAM would like to successfully launch Gallery Reads but lacks awareness in programming and literacy. The skills I acquired at the iSchool will be beneficial in determining the best practices from a library information perspective.

## 3. Process

### 1. Corresponded with other galleries to gain insight and ideas

- Spoke with The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Delaware Art Museum, and Denver Art Museum to gain more insight and suggestions for best practices

### 2. Literature Review

- Researched journals and articles
- Studied relevance of teaching art to children in museums
- How will this practice benefit children AND parents?

### 3. Conducted a Gallery Reads focus group with parents and children to test out applicability

- Observed families utilizing books in front of art work
- Conversated with parents to understand what worked/did not work for their children

### 4. Created teaching plan for SAM

- Recorded own thoughts and suggestions to make Gallery Reads successful
- Designed 2 more art/book pairing for program
- Produced survey for SAM

## 4. Findings

### 1. A Bonding Activity for Families

- "Provide an environment for families to engage in experiences and conversations that only happen in the museum." -Denver Art Museum
- Parents are always looking for new activities in the community to participate in with their children

### 2. Creative Freedom

- Allow children the opportunity to freely think and interpret the artwork themselves. Questions should be more of a way of encouragement. Don't aim for questions that shoot for right or wrong.

### 3. Consider the Caregivers

- When creating programs catered towards children, adults tend to be dismissed in the planning process.
- "Adults play important roles in encouraging and shaping youth interest development." (Akiva, Schunn, & Low)

### 4. Art Appreciation

- Gallery Reads will allow children to understand and respect the creativity and vision of various art.
- This program will also teach children museum etiquette.

### 5. Diversity

- Gallery Reads will provide opportunity to include more diverse books/art pairings to expose children to different cultures around the world.

## 5. Forward Thinking

### 1. Created two more art/book Gallery Reads pairings to extend program

### 2. Constructed survey to help SAM continuously improve deliverables for community



Information School  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Heidi Dong  
MLIS Candidate 2018

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