

Noguchi Museum Announces New Endowment Gift

Gift from Windgate Foundation will support art education programs in perpetuity



Art for Families program at The Noguchi Museum. Photo: Katherine Abbott.
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New York, NY (October 12, 2021) – The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum today announced a new endowment, which was made possible by a generous \$1 million gift from the Windgate Foundation. Intended to support the Museum’s art education programs in perpetuity, the Windgate Foundation Art Education Fund will ensure the ongoing development and presentation of programs that reach audiences of all ages.

“The Windgate Foundation has been a longtime supporter of The Noguchi Museum, beginning with an early leadership gift in 2004 that enabled the implementation and growth of our education programs. With this extraordinary gift, they are ensuring the continued support of these programs. We are grateful for their incredible generosity, and their recognition of our work,” states Noguchi Museum Director Brett Littman.

Shannon Murphy, Director of Education, states, “The Education department welcomes visitors of all ages, identities, and abilities as they form personal connections to Isamu Noguchi’s art, life, and vision. The Windgate Foundation Art Education Fund will help us ensure Noguchi’s art remains meaningful and relevant for years to come.”



Making Your Mark, a free studio art program for high school students at The Noguchi Museum.
Models in foreground by guest artist Tanda Francis (*Rock It Black*, 2021).
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ABOUT EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT THE NOGUCHI MUSEUM

In the spirit of Isamu Noguchi's artistic vision, education programs at The Noguchi Museum encourage participation and connecting with human experiences across culture, time, and space. The Education department prioritizes a co-creation model of programming where culture is dynamic, it belongs to everyone, and cultural choices are shared between the community and the Museum. Programs include: inquiry-based tours and workshops for public and private school groups; multi-week school partnerships; Project Luz, a Spanish-language photography class; Teen Advisory Board, a year-long paid internship for high school students; Seen and Unseen, an interactive virtual program for adults who are blind or have low vision; Art for Families in English and Japanese, which combines gallery experiences, conversation, and art-making activities; partnerships with local organizations; and more.

Led by Museum educators, all programs foster the development of critical and creative thinking skills, and introduce participants to the art and life of Isamu Noguchi and others. Programs are inquiry-based and promote the idea that creativity can be applied in many different contexts, connecting experiences with art to the everyday. Educators encourage participation through material exploration, conversation, and activities. They honor all individual responses and interpretations, and promote sharing as a way to build understanding and community.

ABOUT THE WINDGATE FOUNDATION

The Windgate Foundation, based in Little Rock, Arkansas, is a private foundation supporting significant educational programs in contemporary craft and visual arts; K-12 and higher educational institutions for the development and support of the arts, scholarships, and effective instructional programs; and programs for economically and socially disadvantaged children in Arkansas. windgatefoundation.org



Touch Tours for visitors who are blind or partially sighted at The Noguchi Museum.
Photo: Katherine Abbott. ©The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum / Artists Rights Society

MEDIA CONTACT

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ABOUT THE NOGUCHI MUSEUM

Founded in 1985 by Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988), one of the leading sculptors and designers of the twentieth century, The Noguchi Museum was the first museum in America to be established, designed, and installed by a living artist to show their own work. Widely viewed as among the artist's greatest achievements, the Museum comprises two floors of gallery space in a converted factory building, as well as an internationally acclaimed outdoor sculpture garden. Since its founding, it has served as an international hub for Noguchi research and appreciation. In addition to managing the artist's archives and catalogue raisonné, the Museum exhibits a comprehensive selection of sculpture, models for public projects and gardens, dance sets, and his Akari light sculptures. Provocative installations drawn from the collection, together with diverse special exhibitions related to Noguchi and the milieu in which he worked, offer a rich, contextualized view of Noguchi's art and illuminate his enduring influence as a category-defying, multicultural, cross-disciplinary innovator. **noguchi.org | [@noguchimuseum](https://www.instagram.com/noguchimuseum)**

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