



After School Art Detectives Educational Program

What is the Art Detectives program?

NBAM's **"After School Art Detectives"** program is designed to engage youth in positive after school activities while teaching them specific art, academic and life skills. Students are recruited from collaborating schools as soon as school begins - or sooner if program candidates have been identified – and calls are made to parents informing them of their child's admission into the program. Print notices about the schedule and other pertinent information is sent to parents by mail, translated into Spanish and/or Portuguese when applicable. Schools that have no or few after school opportunities are selected to ensure equitable opportunities for youth during a high – risk behavior time (after school 3-6pm).

Where is the Art Detectives program held?

At the New Bedford Art Museum at 608 Pleasant Street, in New Bedford.

What sort of activities do the kids participate in?

"After School Art Detectives" participants will visit public venues in downtown New Bedford to locate, list, and discuss 2 and 3Dimensional works of art at these locations – New Bedford Free Public Library, City Hall, banks, schools (UMASS Dartmouth's College of Visual and Performing Art and a BCC campus are within blocks of the New Bedford Art Museum) and more. Exhibits at the art museum and other art venues will also be subjects and inspiration for art activities and projects that students will be engaged in during the program. Museum educators will facilitate dynamic art activities based on art "found" by **"After School Art Detectives"** and on exhibits (current and past) at the New Bedford Art Museum. **"After School Art Detectives"** will complete art projects using paint, wire, clay and other art media.

Do your art instructors incorporate certain teaching styles?

VTS (Visual Thinking Strategies) and other thinking strategies will be incorporated into art critique and discussion while **"After School Art Detectives"** view art they are "mapping". Art vocabulary, concepts and styles are discussed and considered as students respond to prompt questions by museum educators while viewing art. Authentic task activities – in this case finding, listing, viewing, and discussing art found in public locations - will promote students' ability to articulate new ideas and concepts into their own art.

Are the art instructors actual teachers?

Yes. The instructors for the Art Detectives program have had teaching experience and an education in teaching. Anyone who works with children at the Museum have had a background check called a CORI report through the state of MA.

What is the age of Art Detective participants?

"After School Art Detectives" students are kids ages 10-13 or grades 5-8.

How does a child get to participate in the program?

Currently, children who participate attend one of the collaborating (non 21C school) New Bedford Public Schools. Arrangements with these schools are made prior to the start of each year between the Museum, the participating school and New Bedford City Hall. Currently, we are working with children from Carter Brooks and Parker schools.

How does the museum find the kids to participate?

“After School Art Detectives” participants are recruited at their eligible schools by:

1. Principal’s /art teacher’s recommendation
2. Program presentation to students about the at eligible schools w/school permission
3. Presentation to parents at participating schools during evening open house
4. Posting eligible schools and grades on museum’s education web page

Once a child signs up, are there other requirements of the child or parent?

1. To participate in the program, a permission slip must be filled out with the parent/legal guardian and student’s contact information, as well as emergency contacts and phone numbers.
2. Both applicants and their parent/legal guardian must have read and signed NBAM’s **“After School Art Detectives”** Code of Conduct. NBAM is committed to a productive learning environment and children must be on their best behavior to participate.
3. Parents must agree to be at the child’s school no later than 5pm on the participating day to meet their child as they get off the van returning from the Museum.

How do the children get to the Museum?

Once the program begins, students meet an **“After School Art Detectives”** site coordinator each program day at 2:30 at their school to be bused to the New Bedford Art Museum.

What are the days/hours of the Art Detectives program?

The Art Detectives program is currently conducted on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3-5pm.

Do the kids help in shaping what activities they do in this program?

NBAM after school program developers and facilitators rely heavily on feedback from youth in NBAM’s programs to maintain high-quality art activities while keeping youth engaged in authentic task, hands on art lessons. Competition for participant’s attention and interest with electronic games, sports and inactivity requires innovative ways to maintain good attendance and interest in the program – in New Bedford Art Museum’s after school programs youth are given numerous opportunities to voice their constructive criticism for positive improvements to the program. An interpersonal skill important to achieving the outcomes of the program is self-evaluation, a life skill necessary for personal growth.

Does the work from Art Detectives get displayed at the Museum?

Art made by youth during the **“After School Art Detectives”** will be displayed at the New Bedford Art Museum during monthly AHA! evenings in the museum’s education room located adjacent to the Community Gallery.