

## Family Experience Checklist:

### Things to consider when designing in-gallery projects for families

#### Create spaces that are comfortable for adults and kids.

- Are the layout and activities intuitive and obvious for families?
- Is there a designated “landing pad” for families to create and play together?
- Do the activities integrate well and obviously connect with the look and feel of the objects and galleries?
- Does the space and furniture work for everyone?

For example:

- Have we made space for strollers?
- Do we have chairs with arms for parents?
- Have we accommodated for kids’ height? (Can they see the artwork? Can they reach materials?)

#### Provide information for parents to help guide their visit.

- What can we do here?
- Why are we doing this?
- Which work of art is this activity related to? Where is it?
- What can we touch?

In order to answer these questions clearly, ask yourself:

- Are instructions explicit + succinct?
- Do directions and text provide visual cues of how to do an activity or engage with the art?
- Does language choice support reading the directions and text out loud?
- Do directions and text have a causal and friendly tone?

#### Provide an environment for families to engage in experiences and conversations that only happen in the museum.

- Are relevant prompts available to spark conversations?
- Does this experience inspire discovery and creativity?
- Are we using readily available but unexpected materials for art making?
- Have we thought about the connection between the art making and the art objects and artist process?
- Are readily available and unexpected materials used to help inspire creativity?
- Have you provided take-aways (tangible and intangible) to extend the experience beyond the museum’s walls?

#### Support engagement with the real thing and create experiences that people can only do at the museum.

- Have we mined the object for its special story (context, history, and creation)?
- Have we considered engaging multiple senses to support exploration of the art?
- Have we used high quality materials that are authentic (connecting visitors to the essence of works of art)?
- Are all components of the activity thoughtfully made, paying attention to the smallest details?

#### Accommodate the incredible variety of parenting styles and learning styles.

- Have we layered content to provide for visitors with different skill-levels and ages to engage?
- Does our activity and/or environment provide choices to help *each* family find the experiences they’re looking for?
- Are we supporting an environment where families can learn together? Is it obvious that you can talk about and enjoy art without being an expert?
- Have we provided information nearby that supports parents’ interest and engagement whether it be in their parent or adult role?