About the Museums

Smithsonian American Art Museum
The Smithsonian American Art Museum tells the stories of America through the visual arts, and its collection spans more than three centuries of artistic achievement that parallels the nation's cultural development. The Museum captures the extraordinary creativity of our artists, whose works are windows on the American experience. Everyone can discover his or her own story on its walls.

National Portrait Gallery
The Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery tells the multi-faceted story of America through the individuals who have shaped its culture. Through the visual arts, performing arts and new media, the Portrait Gallery portrays poets and presidents, visionaries and villains, actors and activists whose lives tell the American story.

About the Building
Praised by Walt Whitman as the “noblest of Washington buildings,” this National Historic Landmark is considered one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in the United States.

Begun in 1836 and completed in 1868, it is one of the first public buildings constructed in early Washington. It was the site of Abraham Lincoln’s inaugural ball in March 1865. The two museums have displayed their collections here since 1968.
Lunder Conservation Center

The Lunder Conservation Center is the first art conservation facility which allows the public behind-the-scenes views of the conservation work to examine, treat, and preserve artworks.

Photo by Ken Rahaim

Robert and Arlene Kogod Courtyard

The Robert and Arlene Kogod Courtyard, with its elegant glass canopy, provides a distinctive, contemporary accent to the building.

Photo by Tim Hursley

Luce Foundation Center for American Art

The first public study and art storage center in Washington, the Luce Foundation Center displays more than 3,000 objects from the Smithsonian American Art Museum’s permanent collection in secure glass cases. Ongoing public programs and special interactive kiosks provide the public with detailed information about works on view in the Luce Foundation Center.
Second Floor

National Portrait Gallery
- America’s Presidents
- The Struggle for Justice
- Portrait Connection
- Special Exhibitions

Smithsonian American Art Museum
- Graphic Arts
- American Art through 1940

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America’s Presidents

The Struggle for Justice

Modernism

Impressionism

Gilded Age

Civil War

Impressionism

Southwestern Art

Folk Art

Shaker Furniture

Early America

Graphic Arts

Western Art

The Early Republic
Third Floor

Smithsonian American Art Museum

- Luce Foundation Center (Public Study/Art Storage Center)
- Special Exhibitions
- Art Since 1945
- Contemporary Art

National Portrait Gallery

- Twentieth-Century Americans
- Great Hall

Art Since 1945

Contemporary Art

Twentieth-Century Americans
Third-Floor Mezzanines

National Portrait Gallery

BRAVO!*
Champions*

* Entrance only from the Great Hall

Smithsonian American Art Museum

Luce Foundation Center
(Public Study/Art Storage Center)

Smithsonian American Art Museum
and National Portrait Gallery

Lunder Conservation Center

Fourth Floor

Smithsonian American Art Museum

Luce Foundation Center
(Public Study/Art Storage Center)

Smithsonian American Art Museum
and National Portrait Gallery

Lunder Conservation Center
Visitor Information

8th and F Streets, NW
Washington, DC
Smithsonian Information: 202-633-1000
TTY: 202-633-5285
AmericanArt.si.edu
NPG.si.edu

Walk-in Tours
Tour schedule is available at the information desk.

Group Tours
To schedule a group tour for the National Portrait Gallery, please e-mail NPGAdultTours@si.edu; for the Smithsonian American Art Museum, please e-mail AmericanArtMuseumTours@si.edu. Four weeks’ notice required.

Coatroom
Self-check coatroom is located in the F Street lobby. Lockers are available in the F and G Street lobbies. Backpacks and suitcases are not allowed in the galleries; please use the lockers provided.

Wireless Internet Access
Free public wireless Internet access (Wi-Fi) is available in the Kogod Courtyard and Luce Foundation Center.

Security
Bags, boxes, packages, and laptops may be inspected for security reasons.

Photography
Handheld photography and video for personal use are permitted in the permanent collection galleries and in the Luce Foundation Center, but not in special exhibitions or the Lunder Conservation Center. No tripods are allowed. Photography for commercial use must be prearranged with the museums’ public affairs offices.

Gallery Guidelines
Please help protect our artworks by not touching them. Eating and drinking are not permitted in the galleries. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the building or courtyard. Please limit the use of cellular phones in the galleries. Do not run in the courtyard water scrims.

Lost and Found/First Aid
Please inquire at the information desk or ask a security guard for assistance.

Special Events/Corporate Entertaining
For information about co-hosting a special event at the Reynolds Center, please call 202-633-6333 or e-mail ReynoldsCenterEvents@si.edu.

Admission
Free

Museum Hours
11:30 a.m.–7:00 p.m. daily except Dec. 25

Café
The Courtyard Café (1st floor) is open year round, 11:30–6:30.

Museum Stores
Museum stores are located in the G Street Lobby.

Accessibility
Barrier-free access is available at the G Street entrance. All areas of the building are served by elevators. Wheelchairs are available. Please ask a security guard.

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Cover photo by Tim Hursley

Smithsonian
Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture
National Portrait Gallery
Smithsonian American Art Museum

Two great museums, one incredible place.

Guide to the Symbols

Museum Store
Restroom
Information Desk
Café
Family Restroom
Coatroom
Elevator

MIX
Paper from responsible sources
FSC C018033