

Organizational Fact Sheet

The William Hammond Mathers Museum is Indiana University's museum of world cultures. Through its collections, exhibits, and programs, the Museum is dedicated to preserving and promoting knowledge of the world's cultures. In all of its activities, the Museum strives to further its audiences' understanding of both the diversity of the world's specific cultures and the underlying unity of culture as a human phenomenon.

The Museum was founded as the Indiana University Museum in 1963 for the purpose of supplementing university classes in anthropology, folklore, and history. The Museum was renamed the William Hammond Mathers Museum when its present building was dedicated in 1983. The Museum has been continuously accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1971 (current through 2007). Currently the institution supports 10 staff positions (7 fulltime, 3 part-time), with an annual budget of \$513,716, and serves approximately 20,000 on-site visitors per year.

The Museum staff is supported by a small number of volunteers, five part-time work-study students who perform security and reception duties, and a varying number of Indiana University students enrolled in a Practicum course for academic credit. Practicum students work with specific staff members, supporting the Museum's activities as well as receiving museum work experience and developing their own projects. Numbers of practicum students vary by semester, but normally range from ten to fifteen. At this time the Museum does not have a docent program, or an advisory board.

The Museum's collection reflects its mission: approximately 37,000 artifacts from around the world are used to sustain ongoing exhibits and educational programming. The Museum designs and maintains a variety of rotating exhibitions, often in collaboration with professors, other institutions, or community organizations. Museum exhibits and events are offered to the public free of charge. Special programs at the Museum include annual events such as *Discovering Archaeology*, as well as occasional programs throughout the year. The Museum partners with academic departments and institutions such as the Lotus Festival of World Music to host lectures, workshops, and concerts.

The Museum provides guided tours of the exhibits and of the Collections Storage area for groups aged preschool through retirement. Tours can be tailored to a classroom or group's interests or areas of study, and support a wide range of state academic standards. Off-site presentations are available on a variety of topics. The School Loan Collection includes objects for classroom use as well as for hands-on activities at the museum. The museum's "Teaching with Objects and Photographs" curriculum is available to assist teachers in using material culture in the classroom.

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Program Fact Sheet

The William Hamond Mathers Museum of World Cultures strives in all of its activities to further its audiences' understanding of both the diversity of the world's specific cultures and the underlying unity of culture as a human phenomenon. The Mathers Museum Field Trip Program reinforces this mission by ensuring access to the museum for school tours. School-age children are a crucial audience for the museum, and supporting the work of teachers is a critical component of the museum's Education directive. School field trips to the museum allow students to encounter ideas and artifacts in a way that is not possible in the classroom, and allow teachers to creatively enhance and extend the effectiveness of curriculum requirements. Museum field trips are designed to integrate strongly with state academic standards, and can be tailored to any topics or issues a teacher wishes to address.

The Mathers Museum Field Trip Program aims to remove financial obstacles to school field trips to the Museum, and to provide teachers with access to a field trip program that best meets their needs. An additional goal is to increase school field trips by 20% for each year of the two-year program. The program is aimed at teachers in southern and central Indiana (i.e., those in driving distance for field trips), with a special focus on the Monroe County Community Schools Corporation (MCCSC) as the Museum's primary local school constituency. Teachers and administrators will partner with the museum as consultants and participants in designing and promoting the program.

The core of the program will be a field trip fund, to which teachers may apply to cover the costs of field trips to the Museum. The program will also focus on promoting Museum field trips to teachers as a significant aid to classroom work, providing another vector for learning. The Field Trip Program includes the option of in-class presentations by Museum personnel, both before and after the field trip. Other Mathers Museum services for teachers include in-class presentations on a variety of standards-integrated topics, independent of a field trip; the Museum's School Loan Collection of objects available for classroom use; and the Museum's "Teaching with Objects and Photographs" curriculum of lesson plans.

The Field Trip Program will cover two years of school field trips, beginning in July 2004. Three half-day teacher workshops will be offered over the course of the program, in July 2004, January 2005 and July 2005. The effectiveness of the program will be assessed at the end of each semester (December and May) through teacher surveys and interviews. Based on field trip statistics from previous years, a field trip fund will be established to cover sixty field trips in 2004-2005, and seventy-five field trips in 2005-2006. With field trip costs averaging \$75.00, and allowing \$750.00 for the teacher workshops and materials production, the total project budget will be \$10,875.00. The Curator of Education will manage the Field Trip Program with the assistance of two to three Indiana University Practicum students each semester. At the end of the two-year program, support will be sought to continue Museum coverage of field trip costs. The need for additional Education staff will be evaluated and action taken as necessary.

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