

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Leila Makdisi

This year we focused on sharpening and refining programs that had previously received high level of public engagement. The overview for our program types and total attendance is as follows:

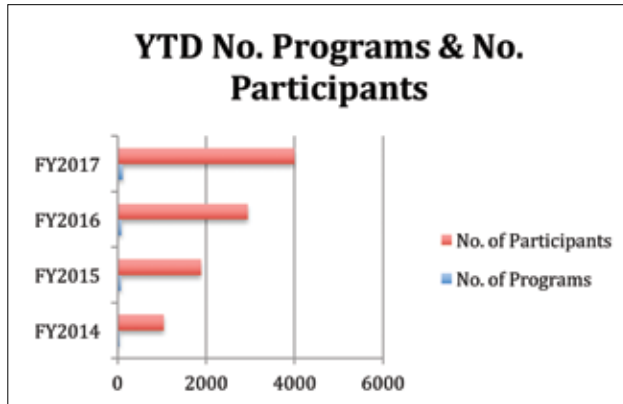


Figure 1. Year-to-date comparison of the number of programs and participants from FY2014 to FY2017

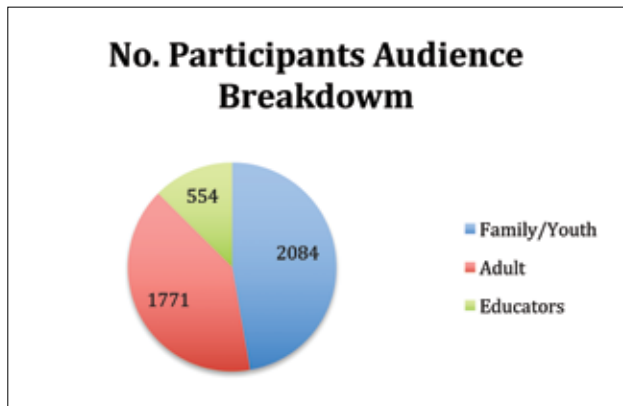


Figure 2. Number of Participants Audience Breakdown

Totals			Family & Youth		Adults		K-12 Educators & Students	
	Number of Programs	Attendance	Number of Programs	Attendance	Number of Programs	Attendance	Number of Programs	Attendance
Grand Totals	116	3,999	37	2084	62	1,771	21	554

Figure 3. An overview of the number of programs and attendance according to audience type

Adult and Community Programs

Carol Ng-He

Building on the success of select programs from last year, our adult and community engagement saw significant growth in geographic reach and enhancement in the program infrastructure.

Highlights of the Year

Community Scholars Program

Since its inception in spring/summer 2016, we have partnered with twenty-four local organizations and reached out approximately 1,800 individuals across the metropolitan Chicago area and beyond through this program (fig. 4). The organizations are listed as follows:

- **Public Libraries:** Acorn Public Library District, Aurora Public Library, Bartlett Public Library District, Beneseville Community Public Library, Bloomingdale Public Library, Blue Island Public Library, Glencoe Public Library, Homewood Public Library, Itasca Community Library, LaGrange Public Library, Lake Bluff Public Library, Matterson Area Public Library District, River Forest Public Library, Roselle Public Library District, Thomas Ford Memorial Library, Wheaton Public Library, Wilmette Public Library
- **Senior Residence:** The Admiral at the Lake, The Clare
- **Religious Organizations:** St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Temple Beth Israel, Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago
- **Cultural Organizations:** Benedictine University Komechak Art Gallery, South Suburban Archaeological Society

Continuing Education Courses & Workshops

The continuing education courses and workshops achieved new records of attendance. We also offered courses of various lengths and delivery method to meet our audience's interest:

1. New hybrid (blending online and on-site) courses were launched with a record high of 32 students on average. These courses include:
 - Intensive Advanced Middle Egyptian Grammar (16 weeks)
 - Introduction to Sumerian Cuneiform (8 weeks)
2. Short seminars led by Museum staff and research associates were introduced, including:
 - Art and Science of Museum Conservation (4 weeks)
 - Technology in Ancient Egypt (4 weeks)
 - Dura Europos: Life on the Roman Empire's Edge and Its Discovery (3 weeks) in conjunction with a domestic trip — Dura Europos Discovery Trip to visit Yale University's collection in New Haven
3. Saturday afternoon workshops were conducted with hands-on experiences for students, namely:



Figure 4. Foy Scalf presenting at the Admiral at the Lake (photo: Toni Smith)



Figure 5. Atorina Zomaya of Assyrian Kitchen leading a cooking class at Whole Foods Market (photo: Carol Ng-He)

- Drinking in Antiquity Series — incorporating lectures, discussion, and beer tasting
- Ancient Cooking with Assyrian Kitchen Cooking Class (fig. 5) — incorporating ancient ingredients and stories about Assyrian cultures in an off-site cooking class

Curated Film Series

In summer 2016 and fall 2017 we offered the Vintage Egyptian Film Series with a pre-screening gallery tour, and the Classic Egyptian Film Series with a pre-screening scholars' introduction. The latter was co-sponsored by the Consulate of Egypt in Chicago, the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies.

Access/Low Vision Program

The content specialist/graduate student-led Multisensory Tour and docent-led Verbal Imaging Tour alternate every month as recurring free programs that serve primarily visitors who are blind or partially sighted through the use of object replicas. While the Verbal Imaging Tour gives visitors the highlights of the museum collections, the Multisensory Tour features specific themes, including: "Archaeology in Five Senses," "Making Sense(s) of the Past in Mesopotamia," "Stories of a Mummification Workshop," and "Faces, Forms, and Poses — The Egyptian Style" (fig. 6).



Figure 6. Museum visitors on the Multisensory Tour touching an artifact replica (photo: David Turner)

K-12 Educator Programs

Carol Ng-He

New K-12 educator resources were introduced to accommodate the various needs of classroom educators.

Highlights of the Year

New Curriculum Guidebook

Investigating a Neolithic Dwelling at Jarmo was released in fall 2016 (fig. 7) in collaboration with Project Archaeology. This investigation is not only the first prehistoric and international study in Project Archaeology’s teacher curriculum database, but it also integrates the Oriental Institute’s archaeological research materials and museum collections. In this investigation, students learn about the lives of the earliest people in the Middle East and the Neolithic Revolution by investigating a Neolithic dwelling and meeting Salma Samar Damluji, an Iraqi architect. The packet was also used for our new online teacher course “Knowing Shelter, Knowing People: Learning from Prehistoric Dwelling.” A printed copy of the packet is available for sale on our website at: oi.uchicago.edu/curriculum

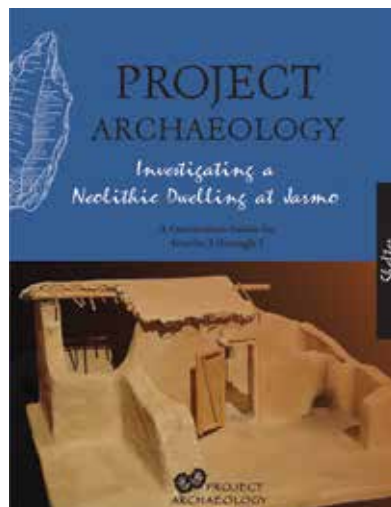


Figure 7. Cover of the curriculum book *Project Archaeology: Investigating a Neolithic Dwelling at Jarmo* (image: Project Archaeology)

Grant Awards

We received two grants from private and corporate foundations, including:

- \$20,000 grant from the Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust to support the year-long Teacher Cohort Academy, which integrates STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) education through the study of archaeological discoveries.
- \$25,000 grant from the Whole Kids Foundation to support the summer teacher program Leadership Legacy Institute in partnership with Project Archaeology (fig. 8).



Figure 8. Carol Ng-He receiving the grant award from the Whole Kids Foundation at Whole Foods Market Hyde Park branch opening (photo: Whole Foods Market)

Teacher Cohort Academy

We engaged sixteen teachers from across the Chicago metropolitan area through a series of rigorous training sessions and curriculum development based on the Oriental Institute collections and research. Participating schools include: Agassiz Elementary School; Arthur E. Canty Elementary School; Bateman Elementary School; Disney II Magnet High School; Franklin Fine Arts Center; Peace and Education Coalition High School (Sinclair campus); Skinner West Elementary School; and UChicago Lab School.

Educator Workshops by Request

Primarily designed for K–12 educators, librarians, and curriculum coordinators, this new initiative is made available during the school year Tuesdays through Thursdays at the Oriental Institute. Leaders or trainers of teacher education programs have the option to have a one-and-a-half or three-hour professional development experience with a content specialist in archaeology and/or Egyptology based on the participants' preferences.

UChicago Student Engagement

We teamed up with the Membership Department to develop strategies to deepen our engagement with UChicago students.

Career Lunch & Learn Series

With the sponsorship of UChicago Careers in Journalism, Arts, and Media (UCIJAM), this three-part series provided students a platform to meet with the OI staff to learn about careers in the field over lunch. Topics included: “Let’s Put On a Show! How Curators Work,” with Emily Teeter, Special Exhibits coordinator; “Conservation of Ancient Art & Artifacts,” with Alison Whyte, associate conservator; and “Project Management in Humanities,” with Foy Scalf, head of Research Archives.

New Offer for UChicago Arts Pass

Starting in fall 2016, we offered all active Arts Pass holders a 75% discount on their registration for all adult education courses and workshops.

Youth and Family Programs

Leila Makdisi

Leila Makdisi stepped out of her role as Youth and Family Programs Manager in March 2016. This report covers the programming through that time.

Highlights of the Year

This year we expanded programming in an attempt to reach bring new audiences into the fold of the Oriental Institute. To that end, we revived and renewed programming for toddlers and caregivers as well as increased access to those programs by removing the costs. We implemented multi-site field trip programs with the other UChicago arts organizations (known as Amplify, which includes the Smart Museum of Art, the Logan Center for the Arts, Court Theatre, the Oriental Institute, and Arts + Public Life), and saw increased visitorship from Chicago Public Schools and groups on the South Side. We also designed and tested pro-

gramming that creates an inclusive environment for individuals on the spectrum who need to approach topics from a sensory-based perspective. Never fear though, we did not forget about our repeat guests! This year saw the regular implementation of our archaeology discovery cart in the galleries. Predominately staffed by university students trained in best practices of museum engagement, our pottery activity was used by approximately 800 museum visitors this year (fig. 9).

After much anticipation and planning our newest field trip offering, Ancient Innovators, is up and running, allowing us to run facilitated programming for larger groups. With the continued success of Mummies Night and our ongoing partnerships with the Girl Scouts of America and the Zoroastrian communities in Chicago, visitorship in the youth and family programs exceeded 2,000 attendees this year, a 11% increase from last year. We plan to keep this momentum rolling!

Program Highlights

This year saw our first foray into sensory focused programming designed to meet the needs of children with Autism. The program was initially a prototype school field trip in conjunction with City Elementary in Hyde Park and a plan exists for it to run as a self-directed family program, yet to be implemented. For this program we developed a sensory station, which will be available to all visitors in the LaSalle Banks Room. Participants were able to use four of their five senses (nothing to eat this time!) to experience a connection with the cultures of the ancient Near East and our collections. We are very excited to test with the public in the future.

The Girl Scouts of America continue to bolster our numbers in fee-based programming with the lure of specially designed Fun Patches earned in our skill-centered workshops like Mummy Science and Junior Archaeologists.

Our quarterly family programs continue to exceed expectations. Mummies Night, the Halloween edition, brought over 500 visitors through our doors. For the first time this year, Nowruz, a Persian New Year Celebration event, was a stand-alone spring event with nearly 200 visitors in attendance (fig. 10).

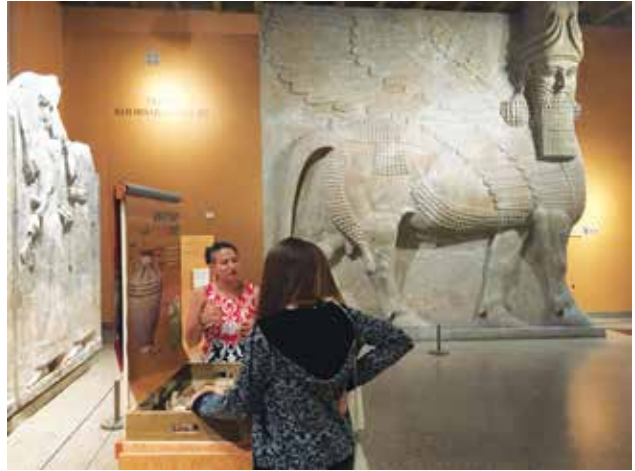


Figure 9. Leila Makdisi engaging a visitor with the Discovery Cart in the gallery (photo: Carol Ng-He)



Figure 10. Haft Seen Table at Nowruz (photo: David Turner)

On the Horizon

Calgary Haines-Trautman

After two years working as the Education Programs facilitator lead intern in the Public Education Department, I am thrilled to be taking on the role of Youth and Family Program coordinator as of mid-June. Having been immersed in museum education here for the past two years, I look forward to jumping right in and getting to work on our programming and new initiatives.

As part of the gallery enhancement project we are working with museum staff to update the educational materials in the gallery to better serve our visitors. This means replacing the current Family Activity Cards with newly designed Gallery Guides. These will provide an interactive component to the galleries, calling out specific objects (in conjunction with the upcoming 100 objects highlights museum catalog) and prompting visitors' thinking about the artifacts in a new way.

Now that we have launched the multi-site field trip collaboration with Amplify partners, the new year brings the promise of active planning in programmatic collaboration for youth and K-12 audiences that will allow us to expand our offerings and widen our scope. Making these collaborations a part of our regular field trip repertoire will help us reach new visitors from the neighboring communities and south side schools.
