

25 / ARTWORKS 26 OVERVIEW

THE ART MUSEUM
OF EASTERN IDAHO



It was a great experience for my students—something different and new for them. They loved it!

—Brittaney Torgerson, A W Johnson Elementary teacher, 2025

Who We Are

A team of museum educators, teaching artists, and arts professionals bringing museum-based visual arts education directly to elementary students across Eastern Idaho.

What We Do

ARTworks partners with schools to deliver free, exhibit-based visual arts instruction directly in elementary classrooms. Each lesson connects students with a current Museum exhibit, a featured artist, and a hands-on artmaking experience inspired by original works of art.

What We've Accomplished

- Nearly **18,000** students served since inception
- Approximately **1,300 students annually**
- Close to **70 schools**
- **13 school districts**
- **10 counties** across Eastern Idaho

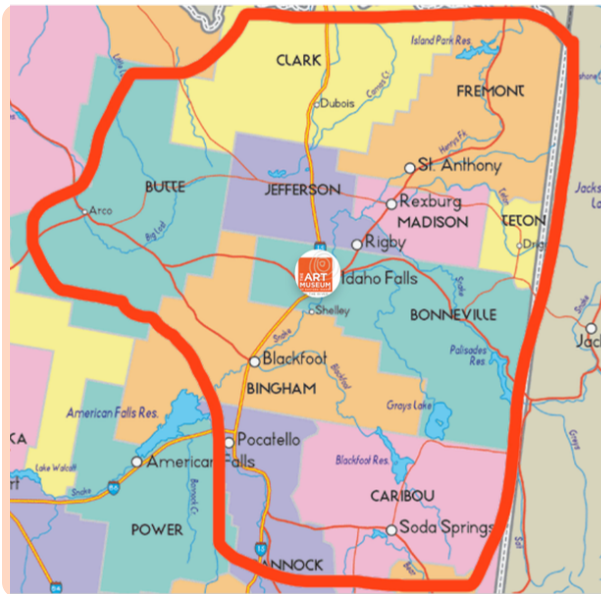


Exhibit-Based Model

Every ARTworks lesson begins with a current Museum exhibit. Students observe and discuss original works of art, learn about a featured artist connected to the exhibit, and create original artwork inspired by the artist's techniques and ideas. This inquiry-based model strengthens visual literacy, creativity, critical thinking, and artistic confidence.

Current service area of the ARTworks Regional Outreach program shown above in red.

How ARTworks Works:

Bringing museum-quality visual arts education directly to elementary classrooms throughout Eastern Idaho.

Exhibit Connections



Students creating artwork inspired by a painting in the 2025 "Gathering" exhibit

Every ARTworks lesson is inspired by a current exhibit at The Art Museum of Eastern Idaho. Museum educators collaborate months in advance to develop engaging, standards-aligned lessons that connect classroom learning with original works of art and the Museum's exhibitions.

Featured Artist



Child creating an art piece after learning about the artist Joan Miró at a 2025 Headstart outreach visit.

Each lesson highlights a featured artist whose work complements the current exhibit. Students learn about the artist's life, creative process, artistic style, and cultural or historical context, gaining a deeper understanding of the ideas explored through the exhibition.

Pre-Visit Materials

Landscape Artist, Kelly Sheridan

Please discuss the following questions with your students prior to our visit:

- When you look at these images, what feelings do you have?
- What do the colors seem to be expressing?
- What are some things that you see when you look at each image?
- What kind of balance does each piece have?



An example of part of a 2025 document sent to teachers before outreach visits to prepare students for the museum educator's visit.

Teachers receive pre-visit resources, including artwork images, discussion prompts, and background information that prepare students for the museum educator's visit. TAM is also expanding its free online library of lesson plans and classroom resources to extend learning throughout the school year.

Museum Educator Visit



Students at Firth Middle School show off their projects after a visit from a museum educator, 2026.

Professional museum educators bring the Museum directly into the classroom through inquiry-based instruction, discussions of original works of art, hands-on art making, and standards-aligned lessons that inspire creativity, critical thinking, and artistic confidence.

Each student receives a complimentary museum pass to visit with their family, encouraging continued engagement with the museum.

Visual Thinking Strategies



Students discuss various ways to curate an art exhibit and design their own exhibit during an outreach visit, 2026.

Using Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), students closely observe works of art, support their ideas with visual evidence, and respectfully consider multiple perspectives. VTS strengthens observation, communication, critical thinking, confidence, and visual literacy while encouraging curiosity and thoughtful discussion.

Hands-On Art Making



Museum educator leading students in an art lesson, 2026

Students apply what they have learned by creating original artwork inspired by the featured artist and exhibit. Rather than copying an example, they experiment with artistic techniques, solve creative problems, and express their own ideas through meaningful studio experiences.

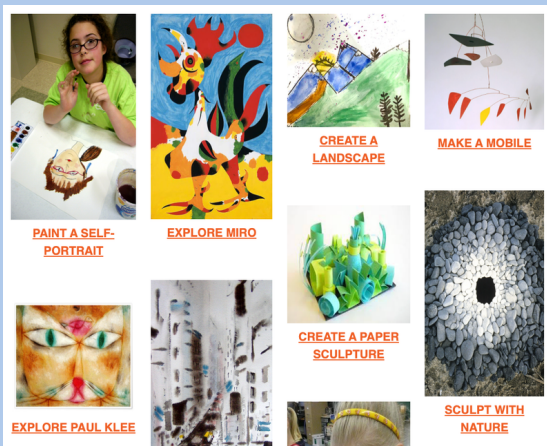
ARTours



Education curator leading a school tour, 2026

Following the classroom outreach lesson, participating classes visit The Art Museum of Eastern Idaho for a guided ARTour. Students encounter original works of art firsthand, strengthen connections to the featured exhibit, and experience the Museum as a welcoming place for creativity, learning, and exploration.

Teacher Follow-Up Lessons & Summer Workshop



A selection of available lesson plans on the TAM website.

Teachers can continue the learning with standards-aligned lesson plans and classroom activities available through TAM's growing online resource library. These extensions reinforce artistic concepts, encourage continued creativity, and help integrate the visual arts across the curriculum. We also offer summer professional development workshops for educators that provide continuing education credit.

Teachers receive a follow-up survey to aid museum educators in refining ARTworks to continue meeting the region's needs.

Young at ART Exhibit



Young artist exploring student work in the "Young at Art" exhibit

Selected follow-up lessons invite students to create artwork for submission to TAM's annual *Young at ART exhibit*. Displaying their work in a professional museum celebrates student creativity, builds confidence, and strengthens students' sense of belonging within the region's artistic community.

Program Outcomes:

Reach

- Nearly 18,000 students served
- 1,300 annually
- 13 districts
- 10 counties

Educational Model

- Exhibit-based
- Featured artist
- Visual Thinking Strategies
- Hands-on artmaking
- ARTours
- Family museum pass

Teacher Support

- Pre-visit materials
- Online lesson library
- Follow-up lessons
- CE workshops
- Evaluation surveys