

# Museums On Call: How Museums Are Addressing Health Issues

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## INTRODUCTION

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For years, museums have demonstrated their public value as educational providers, community anchors and stewards of our national heritage. They've also earned a reputation for driving tourism, creating jobs, attracting businesses to the community and serving as a source of immense civic and community pride.

As society has changed, so has the work of museums. Museums are facilitating job training programs, celebrating cultural diversity and awareness, teaching English as a Second Language classes and serving as locations for supervised visits through the family court system.

But health care?

In fact, museums are playing a significant role in many health care issues.

The American Alliance of Museums has assembled this report to showcase some of the important ways that museums are contributing to health care—helping patients, training medical professionals and educating the public about health and wellness issues.

This report provides an introduction to 10 aspects of the health care field in which museums are making significant contributions:

- Alzheimer's
- autism
- disease prevention
- health literacy
- hospital outreach
- medical training
- mental health
- military and veterans health
- nutrition and wellness
- visual impairment

This report is not designed to be all-encompassing. It is a snapshot of the many ways museums are serving their communities. The accompanying appendix includes a list of museum programs on health topics, sorted by state. The program examples described in this report were collected during a four-week period in May/June 2013.

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## ALZHEIMER'S

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Approximately five million Americans have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and one in eight people ages 60 and older report memory loss or confusion. Museums are stepping up to serve this growing demographic.

Many museums have developed partnerships with their local Alzheimer's Association chapter, offering special tours for adults with memory loss, facilitating hands-on art-making with art therapists and providing museum staff with specialized training on how to trigger memories using works of art as prompts. In some cases, artists and museum educators travel to memory care residences to draw, paint, sculpt and print with patients.

For example, staff from the Hyde Collection in New York was trained by the local Alzheimer's Association chapter for its *Memories in the Making* program, in which participants use conversation prompts such as art work to create imagery and induce memories. The program is conducted onsite and as outreach to nursing homes and residences.

Botanic gardens have worked with individuals with dementia and their care providers to provide olfactory and tactile experiences. Participants create objects, such as a fragrant sachet, that serve as a cue for future conversation and interaction. Following these programs, participants report a lasting sense of satisfaction, calm and an increased willingness to converse.

Some programs are specifically geared toward caregivers. The *Catching Your Breath* program at the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum is specifically designed for caregivers of persons living with memory loss. Sessions have included poetry readings, guest speakers, instruction in meditation and breathing techniques and advice on creating a holiday stress-management plan.

Other museums are helping their communities deal with loss and grief. In Wisconsin, the Woodson Art Museum's *Treasuring Memories* program, in collaboration with Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services, helps community members of all ages who are coping with the death of a loved one by encouraging them to create memorial art.

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## AUTISM

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One in 88 American children is estimated to be on the autism spectrum, and an estimated five percent of children seven and under have a disability or special need. These children may have special challenges with social interaction, sensory processing, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behavior.

Many museums are leading the charge in creating programs for families facing these challenges. Some children's museums open early to offer a quieter, less crowded experience for these children and their families, or offer a summer art camp for children with special needs. Others carefully monitor the building temperature or adjust the lighting in some areas to create a more sensory-friendly environment.

Many museums also utilize multiple learning styles, creating visual representations of what visitors can expect to see and do, in order to help parents prepare their child and minimize unfamiliar and unexpected experiences. These museums also train their staff to understand what to expect, how to react and what community resources are available to help these visitors.

One of the most significant elements of these programs is a parent's confidence about not being judged or ridiculed by others. "My son was able to run around and be himself without any stares or people telling him he is acting inappropriately," one parent reported. "It is a relief to not have people looking and staring like you're the worst parent because your kid is acting out or making loud noises in a public place."

Some children create collaborative art projects focusing on building self-expression and communication with peers and teachers in a unique environment. In one program, educators saw marked improvement in individual students' creative expression, an increased comfort level in handling transitions and an awakened openness to new tactile materials. Museum educators have worked with teachers, parents, paraprofessionals and site coaches on ways to utilize art-making as a regular communication tool for students.

In addition to advancing children's development, some museums invite local specialists and resource providers to these programs so that parents and kids can talk to experts about their needs or questions. One museum professional explained the low-stress environment this way: "No diagnosis, no lab coats in sight, just Q & A."

The benefits are not just limited to families. Some museums are offering therapeutic memberships so that health care practitioners can bring their patients to a fun, enriching environment. Some museums are also working to increase awareness about kids with special needs with projects such as Melita, a puppet at Please Touch Museum in Philadelphia that has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. Sometimes a child will ask a question about it; sometimes it goes unnoticed. Either is acceptable.

Discovery Museums in Acton, Massachusetts, developed *Especially for Me* in partnership with Autism Alliance of MetroWest and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program of the Children's Hospital Boston to serve families in the region affected by autism spectrum disorder or hearing loss. The program has grown from four sessions in 2010 to 16 scheduled programs in 2013.

The Florida State University Museum of Fine Arts partnered with the FSU College of Medicine's Autism Institute to highlight the efforts of artists with autism spectrum disorders. The exhibition, *I Am Me: Artists and Autism*, presented a wide range of work from a group of talented artists aged three to 55, focusing on how their autism played a part in their creativity. Their statements were poignantly reflective of their personal triumphs and struggles.

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## DISEASE PREVENTION

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Museums are also making a difference in a wide variety of disease prevention efforts: diabetes awareness, dental hygiene, stress relief techniques, acupressure and acupuncture, posture and scoliosis screening, gait analysis, bone density screening, blood pressure screening, rural health issues, emerging pathogens, immunizations at kindergarten readiness events, breast cancer support, brain awareness and community health fairs.

The New York Hall of Science has explored how our evolution has shaped health issues such as obesity, lactose intolerance, skin diseases and pregnancy and childbirth, while the Invertebrate Zoology Department at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History works with medical providers to identify bedbugs and other insects.

The Field Museum in Chicago analyzes pathogens and parasites in birds and small mammals to help the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention understand and address emerging health threats. Working with the University of Chicago's Institute for Genomics and Systems Biology, this project provides samples from which emerging diseases can be studied.

The Northwest African American Museum in Seattle held an exhibit called *Checking Our Pulse: Health and Healers in the African American Community*, that highlighted five health issues that disproportionately affect the African American community: heart disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, mother and infant issues and breast cancer.

Science Factory Children's Museum in Eugene, Oregon, hosts a whooping cough booster shot clinic for adults in partnership with Lane County Public Health, which is bracing for a summer outbreak.

The Museum at Mountain Home on the James H. Quillen VA Medical Center and College of Medicine campus in Johnson City, Tennessee, tells the story of the development of health care in South Central Appalachia from its earliest practitioners to the present.

The Arizona Science Center in Phoenix has a National Institutes of Health/Science Education Partnership Award-funded project in which middle school students replicate a computer sorting massive amounts of data and identifying disease patterns to determine appropriate cancer treatment. The museum also offers visitors the chance to be “Disease Detectives” and has several stage presentations encouraging audience involvement in fighting microbes and viruses.

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## HEALTH LITERACY

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As well-known providers of lifelong learning, museums educate communities about health care issues.

At EdVenture Children’s Museum in Columbia, South Carolina, an anatomy and physiology exhibit takes the form of a 40-foot boy named EDDIE. Children climb through the brain and down the backbone, pass by the heart, play in EDDIE’s stomach and slide through his GI tract. The museum uses this exhibit and other programs to educate multi-generational family audiences about health and chronic diseases, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer.

Museums also play an important role surveying the public about their perceptions, concerns and wishes surrounding health care issues. The Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, has gathered such data, providing results in an interactive exhibit.

The Denver Museum of Nature and Science is bringing population genetics directly to the public in a personally relevant way. *Genetics of Taste: A Flavor for Health* uses citizen-scientists to enroll museum visitors as human subjects in this live research study, funded in part by a National Institutes of Health/Science Education Partnership Award.

The Museum of Science and Industry and the Chicago Public Schools have collaborated on SIMLAB, a National Institutes of Health/Science Education Partnership Award-supported initiative that uses museum resources—such as a human patient simulator—to teach the science and health education curriculum to students.

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## HOSPITAL OUTREACH

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Art, music, poetry and theater have all been proven to deliver profound healing benefits and museums are making a significant contribution in this area. Hospital patients around the country are benefitting from therapeutic programs such as art therapy, bedside art-making and art videos.

For example, a museum educator might bring a work of art from the museum's collection and lead a discussion with patients. Works of art are carefully selected for imagery that is calming, meditative and uplifting, and are designed to serve those with varying degrees of fear, distress and physical pain. Some patients even have the opportunity to view videos of art or monitor zoo animals from a hospital television to boost spirits and take their minds off their challenging medical circumstances. Art therapists with specialized mental health training work in collaboration with museum educators and patients including those with brain and spinal cord injuries, orthopedic injuries and amputations to promote coordination, dexterity and speech.

*ZooTV*, a partnership between the Great Plains Zoo in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and the Sanford Children's Hospital, offers comfort and a welcome diversion to patients whose days may include blood tests, injections and painful treatments. The program utilizes 14 weather-proof cameras to shoot live video in several areas of the zoo and offers participants a feeling of stability and constancy when many aspects of their lives are restricted and dictated by illness and treatment.

The Tucson Museum of Art brings art-making projects to critically ill children at the University of Arizona Medical Center. While dealing with their illness or disability in an unfamiliar environment, children explore and express their feelings, discover ways of working in the visual arts and engage in therapeutic social interaction.

The Detroit Institute of Arts has partnered with Oakwood Healthcare and Oakwood Southshore Medical Center to create a video of artworks for patients' rooms, designed to enhance the healing environment and alleviate the stress of a hospital stay. The 18-minute video features images of the museum's architecturally stunning spaces and detailed explorations of artworks, accompanied by serene piano music and inspiring quotes. The paintings, photographs, sculptures and other works of art feature images of landscapes, waterscapes, flowers and portraits of people in relaxed surroundings. Long-term plans are to offer the video on patient television systems at all four Oakwood hospitals and post-acute care sites.

The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens in Jacksonville, Florida, offers *Kids Together Against Cancer*, a workshop for families coping with a cancer diagnosis. Clinical social workers and artists gather at the museum for discussion, art-making and support.

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## MEDICAL TRAINING

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The ability to observe carefully, describe accurately and then interpret what one sees is essential in clinical diagnosis. Because these skills are also requisite in the visual arts, museums began partnering with medical schools to help train the next generation of medical professionals.

Museums play an important role in teaching medical students, nursing students and other medical professionals to develop observational skills that can aid in proper diagnoses of patients. Professional auditors for the Society of Quality Assurance, which oversees the pharmaceutical industry, have eagerly enlisted museum educators to help SQA staff develop skills such as careful observation, asking open-ended questions and audience assessment.

One medical student described her initial skepticism that her observational skills could improve by looking at the paintings. But after painstakingly considering details in photographs of patients, she was a believer. “I paid more attention to colors, shapes and sizes of skin blotches, lesions and other conditions,” she said.

The U.S. Botanic Garden partners with the National Capital Poison Center to bring medical school residents, pharmacy students and toxicology fellows to the garden to learn about poisonous plants. The program has grown and now includes tours for student groups, children who are homeschooled and people of all ages interested in medicine and herbalism.

The Milwaukee Public Museum works with Carroll University’s physician assistant graduate program to help the students understand cultural differences in prevention, health and healing from a medical anthropology perspective. The university requested this program because many of its students lacked experience in treating or understanding people from different cultures or religions.

Children’s Museum of Phoenix partners with Arizona State University’s College of Nursing and Health Innovation to bring nursing students to the museum. Student nurses offer fun and interactive health programs for children at the museum while becoming comfortable working with young children and their families.

Working in partnership with the schools of medicine, nursing, psychology and physical therapy, the Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami developed *The Fine Art of Healthcare*, a program which invites graduate students to explore the connections between viewing works of art and patient care in the clinical setting and supports the development of best-practice clinical skills such as peer collaboration in and across disciplines, active listening and deep observation.



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## MENTAL HEALTH

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Mental health and mental illness have long been difficult topics of discussion. Museums offer exhibits and other programs that help to break down these barriers. Museums are also partnering with mental health agencies to host clients as volunteers, exhibiting their art and holding public programs on art and mental wellness.

For example, the Otter Tail County Museum in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, has an exhibit on the history of the Fergus Falls State Hospital, which offers a non-judgmental and welcoming environment for discussion of issues such as depression, alcoholism, epilepsy and addiction.

Public programs such as *Stigmas, Stereotypes and Solutions* at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford, Connecticut, help the community explore the prevalence of, treatment and support for those struggling with mental health issues.

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## MILITARY AND VETERANS HEALTH

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Museums are extremely proud of their collaborations with military personnel and veterans. Museums partner with Veterans Administration hospitals and make outreach visits to soldiers with combat-related injuries, including traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder. A program might involve a specially trained museum educator providing a very brief talk about a work from the museum's permanent collection, guiding the participants in a hands-on activity related to the work and encouraging exploration through the art-making project.

The Omaha Zoo's *Wounded Warriors* program provides services to veterans in the areas of mind, body, economic empowerment and engagement. The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art has also partnered with the Veterans Affairs Recreational Therapy Division to serve local veterans.

The Morris Museum of Art in Augusta, Georgia, has developed *Outreach to Wounded Warriors*, in which museum staff visits soldiers with combat-related injuries, including many with post-traumatic stress disorder. A specially-trained museum educator discusses a work from the museum's collection, leads a hands-on activity related to the work and encourages participants to explore their own backgrounds and history. Every two to three months, the soldiers visit the museum for a gallery experience and a hands-on activity.

The National Museum of Civil War Medicine's Letterman Institute helps to train military and civilian health care providers, including the Public Health Service, Veterans Administration and Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, on mass



casualty care methodologies and medical management protocols. The institute also provides lectures on medical history and its relevance in modern practice to medical schools. Since 2004, they have trained more than 5,500 medical professionals and 1,500 medical students.

The Ormond Memorial Art Museum and Gardens in Ormond Beach, Florida, was founded as a memorial tribute to veterans of World Wars I and II and now includes original sculptures dedicated to those who served in Korea and Vietnam. The museum offers a two-hour class, *The Art of Healing*, for patients and their caregivers. The program was created by artist Sherrill Schoening, who described the healing benefits of art: “Patients and caregivers exposed to art are more optimistic and hopeful; experience less boredom, anxiety and loneliness; are better able to let go of fears and tension as well as reduce stress and feel less pain and respond better to treatment since a less stressed body is more able to heal than a tense one.” The museum also hosts an art outreach program for local veterans.

More than 2,000 museums participate in the Blue Star Museums program, offering free admission to military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The program—a collaboration between the National Endowment for the Arts, the U.S. Department of Defense and Blue Star Families—is another way museums honor those who serve.

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## NUTRITION AND WELLNESS

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Museums have also taken a leading role in educating the public about health, nutrition and the benefits of physical activity. Some museums participate in multi-cultural health fairs, plant community vegetable gardens, offer walking tours and promote healthy eating. Many also have exhibits related to human physiology, while others discuss the history of food, changing trends in the food industry and how to make informed choices by reading nutrition labels.

The Children’s Museum of Manhattan in New York, New York features an *EatSleepPlay* initiative that brings obesity prevention programs to at-risk communities and educates childcare providers, health professionals and teachers about healthy eating and physical activity. Children’s Museum of Manhattan also created the *Eat Play Grow* health curriculum, developed in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health, to help educators engage families in healthy lifestyle choices.

The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland features an exhibit, *Dangerous Decibels*, which includes a 10-foot-tall, walk-through ear. The exhibit was specifically suggested by focus groups of students in sixth through eighth grades to educate about hearing loss and was funded in part by a National Institutes of Health/Science Education Partnership Award. Visitors can activate a sound source and observe how the parts of the ear work together with the brain to enable us to hear. They can also test their

hearing using an interactive computer game. The museum also works with a local public hospital on *Learning Labels*, a project that explores the five main components of nutrition labels (serving size/servings per container, calories, fats, carbohydrates and protein). The museum also offers educational classes, demonstrations and special events on a wide range of food and science topics.

The State Historical Society of North Dakota in Bismarck offers *Historic Happenings Heritage Hikes* to promote community wellness. The program includes a hike through areas of historic significance and helps the community better understand its heritage, including how food was prepared and stored, compared with current dietary trends.

The *Healthy Plate Cook-Off* at the Marian Koshland Science Museum of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., challenges its community to create a healthy and balanced meal while also focusing on taste and presentation.

At the Witte Museum in San Antonio, the *H-E-B Science Treehouse* will become the *H-E-B Body Adventure*, a permanent four-story, indoor-outdoor exhibition using gaming technologies, physical activity and a regionally relatable cultural focus to ignite changes in health behaviors.

The Arizona State Museum in Tucson worked with the University of Arizona College of Public Health to develop a creative way to talk to teenagers about obesity: they wrote a comic book with an interactive website and mobile app, available in Tohono O’odham, Spanish and English. The museum’s director of education, Lisa Falk, notes that approximately 50 percent of the Tohono O’odham have diabetes. She believes the museum’s *Through the Eyes of the Eagle: Illustrating Healthy Living* exhibit can play a role in reversing this epidemic.

More than 600 museums encourage healthful activities through *Let’s Move! Museums and Gardens*, a collaboration between the White House, the Institute of Museum and Library Services and eight national museum service organizations. The program encourages children and families to eat healthy foods and increase physical activity through exhibits, programs and outdoor activities. Many of these museums use their food service operation as a setting for educating visitors about healthy food choices.

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## VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

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The Art Beyond Sight Collaborative recognizes that art can address many of the daily living issues faced by people who are blind. Museums have embraced this concept by designing tactile exhibits and specialized touch tours with multi-sensory verbal descriptions for the blind and persons with low vision.

The Walters Art Museum has a long-term partnership with the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, providing touch tours of sculptures combined with verbal description tours.

Many botanic gardens have developed specialty tours for groups with low vision and other special needs, including hands-on activities, specially designed multi-sensory tours and even specialized self-guided experiences.

The National Database of Accessible Cultural Institutions lists museums that are committed to implementing practical solutions allowing all audiences to enjoy our nation's museums, science and technology centers, zoos, aquariums, historic sites, botanical gardens, national parks and performing arts centers.

Art Beyond Sight has also been working to involve the next generation of museum professionals through its Disability and Inclusion Curricula. Museum studies programs at a number of universities—including Arizona State University, Cooperstown Graduate Program, Indiana University, University of the Arts (Philadelphia), University of Washington and the George Washington University—are collaborating to develop methodologies and content related to inclusion and accessibility for future staff and decision-makers at cultural institutions.

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## CONCLUSIONS

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Museums play an important role in addressing numerous health issues and the public is warmly embracing—and greatly benefitting from—these initiatives. From creating moments of lucidity for persons with Alzheimer's disease and providing meaningful experiences for children with autism to spurring dialogue on important public health issues and helping the next generation of medical professionals to hone their clinical skills, museums continue to build on their long-standing commitment to public service.

Many museums have found their service in health care helps them deepen relationships in their community. “The more relevant we are to our community, the more likely our work will be funded and the more likely we can expand our work and serve more people,” explained Michelle Lopez, manager of the *ArtAccess* program and Autism Initiatives at the Queens Museum of Art in New York.

Participating in health care also helps the museum reach a more diverse population. “Other community organizations may serve a specific race, religion, gender, age group, or income level, but the hospital serves everyone,” Lopez continued. These collaborations lead to good publicity for the museum, bringing awareness to an audience that typically does not or cannot visit the museum in person. “[The museum] needs to be in the community a lot more—they won't stumble upon us and they usually don't come out unless invited,” she explained.

Museums have long been considered one of the most trustworthy sources of objective information. With approximately 850 million visits each year, American museums are poised to continue reinforcing their public value as key community partners through their work in health care.

To learn more about how museums are working in your local community, please see the appendix, a sampling of health-related initiatives in nearly 150 museums around the country.

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## ABOUT THE ALLIANCE

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The American Alliance of Museums is the one organization that supports all museums, including art museums, history museums, science museums, military and maritime museums, youth museums, aquariums, zoos, botanical gardens, arboretums, historic sites, presidential libraries and science and technology centers. The Alliance works on behalf of the nation's 17,500 museums and 400,000 museum employees by developing standards and best practices and championing the cause of museums. The Alliance is proud to serve as the national voice for museums, highlighting their roles as key providers of education, economic engines, community anchors and providers of many social services. For more information about the Alliance, visit [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org).

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## APPENDIX: MUSEUM PROGRAMS BY STATE

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This appendix includes examples of health-related programs, sorted by state. It is not an exhaustive list and is intended to be a snapshot. It was compiled based on input from museums across the nation during a 4-week period in 2013. If you know of additional health-related programs in a museum, please email us at [governmentrelations@aam-us.org](mailto:governmentrelations@aam-us.org). To learn more about any of the health programs at these museums, please contact the Alliance at 202-289-1818.

### ALABAMA

**Birmingham Museum of Art** (Birmingham, AL)—Works with a local medical school to teach a class to help develop observational skills that can aid in proper diagnoses of patients. The museum also offers classes that connect to Asian sculpture and Sumi-e painting in the form of Yoga and Tai-Chi.

## ALASKA

**Alaska State Museum** (Juneau, AK)—Participates in an Art Beyond Sight initiative focused on working with persons with visual impairment.

## ARIZONA

**Arizona Science Center** (Phoenix, AZ) —*Framing New Pathways to Medical Discovery for Families, Students and Teachers*, a program where you can learn about the latest health science discoveries through in-house lab experiences, gallery demonstrations, kid-friendly talks, school-based outreach programs and more. This program is supported by the National Institutes of Health's Science Education Partnership Award. The gallery lab has served 9,735 guests. *Body Depot*, a section on the museum's *Ask a Biologist*, has received approximately three million visitors over the past two years.

**Arizona State Museum**, University of Arizona (Tucson, AZ)—*Through the Eyes of the Eagle: Illustrating Healthy Living* project, focused on multi-modal ways of reaching adolescents to address public health issues like obesity and diabetes through websites, mobile apps, gaming, comic books and a traveling exhibition to small communities.

**Children's Museum of Phoenix** (Phoenix, AZ)—Partners with a local university to host student nurses to offer health education in the museum and gain experience working with kids and families.

**Phoenix Zoo** (Phoenix, AZ)—Developed a zoo camp and some exhibits with a focus on the tactile that are specifically designed for sight impaired people.

**Tucson Museum of Art** (Tucson, AZ)—*Hospital Outreach Program* involves docents bringing art-making projects to critically ill children at Tucson Medical Center and University Medical Center. The Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest Chapter teams up with the Museum to offer *Memories in the Making PLUS*, where individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or Dementia have the opportunity to create art and express themselves through discussing works of art on view in the galleries.

## ARKANSAS

**Arkansas Country Doctor Museum** (Lincoln, AR)—Educates the public about the history of country doctors, the unique history and culture of the Ozark area and the history of medical theory and practice. The museum welcomes school groups and engages them in hands-on activities.

**Museum of Discovery** (Little Rock, AR)—Offers programs for children and families to promote nutrition, healthy living and physical activity.

**Shiloh Museum of Ozark History** (Springdale, AR)—Promotes community gardening, including the health benefits of eating vegetables. *Farm to Table: Then and Now* demonstrated traditional gardening techniques and ways to prepare fresh vegetables and herbs.

## CALIFORNIA

**Aquarium of the Bay** (San Francisco, CA)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

**Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco—de Young Museum and Legion of Honor** (San Francisco, CA)—Collaborates with the Northern California Alzheimer's Association to host programs with individuals living with dementia and their caregivers. The *Art and Healing* program serves veterans in partnership with the San Francisco Veterans Medical Center located at Fort Miley.

**Monterey Bay Aquarium** (Monterey Bay, CA)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

**Oakland Zoo** (Oakland, CA)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

**Sacramento Zoo** (Sacramento, CA)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

**San Francisco Museum of Modern Art** (San Francisco, CA)—Participates in a multi-site museum accessibility study that will test and measure the outcomes of specific educational protocols with people with visual impairments. The study will define, document and evaluate best practices for making museum collections accessible to visitors with disabilities.

**Wignall Museum of Contemporary Art** (Rancho Cucamonga, CA)—Offers *When I'm 64*, an exhibit that explores the lives of older Americans and aims to change perceptions about aging.

**Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum** (City of Industry, CA)—Offers *California Living*, a program for visitors with memory loss in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association and a local long-term care facility. The museum published a white paper outlining the institution's commitment to providing maximum physical and program access for all visitors regardless of their physical, cognitive or emotional abilities or disabilities.



## COLORADO

**Denver Museum of Nature and Science** (Denver, CO)—Offers *The Genetics of Taste: A Flavor for Health*, a research project that is part of an award-winning permanent health exhibition, Expedition Health. The program brings population genetics to the public in an accessible, relevant format.

## CONNECTICUT

**Connecticut Beardsley Zoo** (Bridgeport, CT)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

**Harriet Beecher Stowe Center** (Hartford, CT)—Offers *Mental Health: Stigmas, Stereotypes and Solutions*, a community program that highlights the prevalence of mental illness, the accessibility of mental health treatment and support for individuals and families struggling with mental health issues. The program is a partnership with the Hartford Hospital Institute of Living and the National Alliance on Mental Illness Connecticut.

**Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History** (New Haven, CT)—Offers *Big Food: Health, Culture and the Evolution of Eating*, which highlights evolving food environments, increasing obesity rates and decreasing physical activity levels.

## DELAWARE

**Biggs Museum of American Art** (Dover, DE)—Participates in a multi-site museum accessibility study that will test and measure the outcomes of specific educational protocols with people with visual impairments. The study will define, document and evaluate best practices for making museum collections accessible to visitors with disabilities.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**Marian Koshland Science Museum of the National Academy of Sciences** (Washington, DC)—Hosts the *Healthy Plate Cook-Off*, an event that presents healthy and delicious meals prepared by culinary job training students at the D.C. Central Kitchen. Students are challenged to create a healthy and balanced meal that reflects the MyPlate icon, while also focusing on taste and presentation.

**National Gallery of Art** (Washington, DC)—Participates in a multi-site museum accessibility study that will test and measure the outcomes of specific educational protocols with people with visual impairments. The study will define, document and evaluate best practices for making museum collections accessible to visitors with disabilities.

**The Kreeger Museum** (Washington, DC)—Pairs middle school students with persons with Alzheimer’s disease to experience art and stimulate conversation around memories.

**The Phillips Collection** (Washington, DC)—The museum offers *Creative Aging at the Phillips*, in collaboration with Iona Senior Services, a program for persons with memory loss.

**U.S. Botanic Garden** (Washington, DC)—Offers *Medicinal and Poison Plant Tours*, a program designed for students and medical professionals (medical school residents, pharmacy students, toxicology fellows, etc.) to learn about poisons and how the Poison Center works. The museum also offers *Roots and Reflections*, a program designed specifically for individuals with dementia and their care providers and specialty tours for groups with low vision and other special needs.

## FLORIDA

**Bass Museum of Art** (Miami Beach, FL)—Offers *Artful Minds*, a program for persons with Alzheimer’s disease and their caregivers. Participants build on memories through museum exploration, experimentation with art materials, reminiscing and storytelling.

**The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens** (Jacksonville, FL)—Offers *Kids Together Against Cancer*, a workshop that helps families coping with a cancer diagnosis. The museum also engages in art therapy programs for veterans with mental health issues, children in foster care, persons with low vision and children on the autism spectrum.

**Florida State University Museum of Fine Arts** (Miami, FL)—Partnered with the Florida State University College of Medicine’s Autism Institute to highlight the efforts of artists with autism spectrum disorders. The exhibit, *I Am Me: Artists and Autism*, showed art work from a group of artists aged three to 55 years with autism, thus highlighting their skills and talents instead of their diagnosis.

**Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art at St. Petersburg College** (Tarpon Springs, FL)—Offers *ArtHaven*, a free weekly art therapy program for adolescents experiencing mental health, developmental or social challenges. The program works with two community mental health agencies.

**Low Art Museum, University of Miami** (Miami, FL)—Offers *The Fine Art of Healthcare*, a program in partnership with the schools of medicine, nursing, psychology and physical therapy to explore the connections between looking at works of art and patient care in the clinical setting. The program supports the development of best practice clinical skills: peer collaboration in and across disciplines, active listening and deep observation.

**Lowry Park Zoo** (Tampa Bay, FL)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

**Museum of Contemporary Art, Jacksonville** (Jacksonville, FL)—Offers *Rainbow Artists: Art and Autism across the Spectrum*. Rainbow Artists utilize creative art-making activities that allow for rich visual expressions that are often untapped due to difficulties in verbal communication, social relations and sensory development. Supported by Baptist Health, the program has served over 230 students from six Duval County schools during the past year.

**Ormond Memorial Art Museum and Gardens** (Ormond Beach, FL)—Offers *Art in Therapy*, a program that highlights the healing benefits of art, imagery and a positive outlook. The museum also hosts an art outreach program with local veterans.

**Pensacola Museum of Art** (Pensacola, FL)—Produces programs for persons on the autism spectrum.

**Polk Museum of Art** (Lakeland, FL)—Serves pediatric patients at Lakeland Regional Medical Center with an art cart that is full of art supplies for use across the hospital.

## GEORGIA

**Georgia Aquarium** (Atlanta, GA)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

**The Morris Museum of Art** (Augusta, GA)—Hosts *Connections*, a gallery experience and art activity designed for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia disorders. The program was developed in 2006 in partnership with the local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. The museum also offers a program, *Outreach to Wounded Warriors*, which includes a monthly visit to a unit of soldiers with combat-related injuries. The museum's *ArtsReach* program sends specially-trained museum educators to visit patients at Georgia Regents University Hospital and the Children's Medical Center. Also in partnership with the Department of Psychiatry at Georgia Regents University Hospital, an annual lecture, *Art as a Window to the Mind*, is developed by doctors and museum educators to connect psychiatric or psychological conditions with an art topic.

## HAWAII

**African American Diversity Cultural Center Hawaii Manoa** (Honolulu, HI)—Hosts seminars to build awareness about HIV/AIDS.

**Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum** (Honolulu, HI)—Presents the *Nā Ulu o Kaiwi'ula, Garden Tour*, which explores how Hawaiians use plants for their health and wellness.

## IDAHO

**Idaho Botanical Garden** (Boise, ID)—Promotes outdoor exploration, including programs such as *Nature Detectives for Kids*, a vegetable garden and Botany Camp for Kids.

## ILLINOIS

**Chicago Children's Museum** (Chicago, IL)—Conducts programs specially designed for children with autism spectrum disorder.

**Chicago Zoological Society—Brookfield Zoo** (Chicago, IL)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

**DuPage Children's Museum** (Naperville, IL)—Uses the museum's food service operation to encourage healthy choices. The museum's S.M.A.R.T. Café integrates food packaging, signage and a menu design that allows young children to choose a balanced lunch by using pictures if they can't yet read. The museum also uses its food service operation to teach other concepts: the transfer of heat when cooking food is science; measuring a recipe is math; sculpting fruits is art; studying recipes is reading preparation; and following the steps food takes from the farm to the table is technology.

**Loyola University Art Museum** (Chicago, IL)—Conducts programs for Alzheimer's patients.

**Shedd Aquarium** (Chicago, IL)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

**The Field Museum** (Chicago, IL)—Analyzes pathogens and parasites in birds and small mammals to understand and address emerging health threats. The project is a collaboration between the University of Chicago's Institute for Genomics and Systems Biology, the Smithsonian Institution and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## INDIANA

**Healthworks! Kids' Museum** (South Bend, IN)—Is dedicated solely to the idea of having a positive impact on community health through exhibits and programs.

**Indianapolis Museum of Art** (Indianapolis, IN)—Participates in a multi-site museum accessibility study that will test and measure the outcomes of specific educational protocols with people with visual impairments. The study will define, document and evaluate best practices for making museum collections accessible to visitors with disabilities.

**Minnetrista** (Muncie, IN)—Hosted a traveling exhibit that included four health topics: clinical trials and development of new medicines; neuroanatomy and spinal cord injury; health conditions that result from obesity, healthy food choices and the importance of exercise; and comparative respiratory system anatomy and asthma.

## IOWA

**Cedar Rapids Museum of Art** (Cedar Rapids, IA)—Participates in an annual program that brings together museums, schools, libraries and sighted and blind people to jointly advance the goals of literacy and art access for the blind. The museum is registered in the national database of accessible cultural institutions, which means that they provide inclusive public spaces and programs for people with disabilities and their families.

## KANSAS

**Mulvane Art Museum at Washburn University** (Topeka, KS)—Partners with the St. Francis Comprehensive Cancer Center to offer an art and wellness program, which is geared toward adult cancer patients and was launched to better understand the link between art and medicine.

**Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas** (Lawrence, KS)—Offers a *PopUp Superhuman Voting Station* where visitors can vote on health care issues and express their ideas and opinions. Visitors can listen to interviews with local health care providers.

**The Sedgwick County Science and Discovery Center** (Wichita, KS)—Features exhibits that teach the public about oral health, including *Big Mouth*, an anatomically correct human mouth containing 40 different interactive elements, *Big Mouth Bugs*, which helps visitors learn the importance of brushing their teeth and *The Science of Sweets*, an interactive live science show demonstrating how our bodies process sugar. The museum also works in cooperation with the Central Plains Area Agency on Aging and the Sedgwick County Department of Aging to host an annual *Senior Expo* of

products and services to help older Americans and their caregivers. In partnership with Wichita Public Schools, Exploration Place hosts monthly science programming for severely mentally disabled students in area middle schools and educational programs on health and nutrition.

## KENTUCKY

**Speed Art Museum** (Louisville, KY)—Conducts specially designed programs for people who are visually impaired.

## LOUISIANA

**Audubon Nature Institute** (New Orleans, LA)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

## MAINE

**Children’s Museum and Theatre of Maine** (Portland, ME)—Offers a free, private playtime for families affected by autism. The *Play Our Way* program provides a safe and comfortable environment for exploration and gives families facing similar challenges a place to connect. The museum also offers regular workshops on healthy cooking and health food choices.

## MARYLAND

**National Museum of Civil War Medicine** (Frederick, MD)—Provides battlefield and mass casualty fundamentals for first year medical students.

**National Museum of Health and Medicine** (Silver Spring, MD)—Offers a unique opportunity for the public to view exhibits that depict the effects of disease on the human body. Case histories of patients are examined and diagnostic equipment is exhibited.

**The Walters Museum of Art** (Baltimore, MD)—Hosts touch tours and verbal description tours for the blind and those with low vision in partnership with the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Boston Children’s Museum** (Boston, MA)—Conducts programs for children with autism and their families.



**Boston Museum of Science** (Boston, MA)—Incorporated a universal design approach with exhibit development and refurbishing. The museum also provides STEM education for people with disabilities.

**Franklin Park Zoo** (Boston, MA)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

**Museum of Fine Arts, Boston** (Boston, MA)—Partners with three local hospitals to provide visual art and art-making experiences to patients and their families. The museum also offers special programming for persons on the autism spectrum and works with a local medical school to teach visual literacy and help medical students explore empathy as many will face dying patients for the first time.

**New England Quilt Museum** (Lowell, MA)—Offers an exhibit, *Cervical Cancer/HPV Quilt Project*, which was created to honor and memorialize women who have fought cervical cancer. The project helps patients express their emotions such as grief, anger, relief and hope.

**The Discovery Museums** (Acton, MA)—Serves families in the region whose children are on the autism spectrum or have hearing loss. The museum partners with the Autism Alliance of MetroWest and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program of the Children's Hospital Boston on this effort and works with the Tufts Dental School and Emerson Hospital to produce a *Family Health and Wellness Day* that includes health screenings, healthy snacks and fitness activities.

**Worcester Art Museum** (Worcester, MA)—Conducts programs with people with Alzheimer's disease.

## MICHIGAN

**Binder Park Zoo** (Battle Creek, MI)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

**Detroit Institute of Arts** (Detroit, MI)—Created a video of artworks designed to enhance the healing environment for patients and to alleviate the stressful experience of a hospital stay.

**Detroit Zoological Society** (Detroit, MI)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** (Kalamazoo, MI)—Provides art-making experiences to developmentally disabled children and adults through its *Accessible Arts* program.

The museum also offers specialized tours for children and adults with visual impairments and a program for people with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers.

**Sloan Museum** (Flint, MI)—Offers a free dental fair that engages children and adults with interactive activities and fun children's characters.

**University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum** (Ann Arbor, MI)—Offers *Catch Your Breath*, a monthly wellness program for caregivers of those living with memory loss.

## MINNESOTA

**Minneapolis Institute of Arts** (Minneapolis, MN)—Developed art kits that are delivered to hospital patients as part of a research study on how arts improve well-being. The museum offers *Veterans' Art Connections* tours which were created in collaboration with the Minneapolis VA Medical Clinic's Partial Psychiatric Hospital Program, an outpatient healing and recovery program for veterans. The program is designed for veterans who suffer from a wide range of psychiatric illnesses, including psychosis, depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress and substance disorder. The museum offers a program, *Discover Your Story: Tours for Visitors with Memory Loss*, in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota. This program also connects future doctors with the memory loss population as part of the University of Minnesota Medical School's first year curriculum.

**Otter Tail County Museum** (Fergus Falls, MN)—Created an exhibit about the Fergus Falls State Hospital and offers guided tours that explore a range of mental health issues including depression, alcoholism and addiction.

**Rockford Area Historical Society** (Rockford, MN)—Participates in community health fairs and started a community garden.

## MISSISSIPPI

**Mississippi Children's Museum** (Jackson, MS)—Offers a weekly program that promotes healthy eating habits.

## MISSOURI

**Kansas City Zoo** (Kansas City, MO)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

## MONTANA

**Children’s Museum of Bozeman** (Bozeman, MT)—Offers *Earth Garden*, a program in which children plant and maintain an herb and vegetable garden for all museum visitors to enjoy. Participants are encouraged to “get down in the dirt and explore the world below our knees!”

## NEBRASKA

**Lincoln Children’s Zoo** (Lincoln, NE)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

**Sheldon Museum of Art** (Lincoln, NE)—Offers programs specially designed for persons with a visual impairment.

## NEVADA

**Springs Preserve (includes the Desert Living Center, the Origen Museum and the Nevada State Museum)** (Las Vegas, NV)—Offers a series of “Sustainable Pantry” workshops on healthy cooking and sustainable harvesting.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

**New Hampshire Children’s Museum** (Dover, NH)—Offers an intergenerational program for people living with Alzheimer’s disease and conducts programs for children on the autism spectrum.

## NEW JERSEY

**Bergen County Zoological Park** (Paramus, NJ)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

**The Newark Museum** (Newark, NJ)—Offers interactive tours and art-making sessions for people with Alzheimer’s disease and memory loss. The museum also hosts *Generation Fit*, an exhibit that teaches children about diet, nutrition and exercise.

## NEW MEXICO

**Albuquerque Museum** (Albuquerque, NM)—Offers programs for individuals with visual impairment.

**Museum of Indian Arts and Culture** (Santa Fe, NM)—Offers programs for individuals with visual impairment.

**Museum of International Folk Art** (Santa Fe, NM)—Offers programs for individuals with visual impairment.

## NEW YORK

**Brooklyn Museum** (Brooklyn, NY)—Participates in a multi-site museum accessibility study that will test and measure the outcomes of specific educational protocols with people with visual impairments. The study will define, document and evaluate best practices for making museum collections accessible to visitors with disabilities.

**Central Park Zoo, Wildlife Conservation Society** (New York, NY)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

**Children’s Museum of Manhattan** (New York, NY)—Visits with patients at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering’s Cancer Treatment Center. The museum also offers a program for persons on the autism spectrum.

**Guggenheim Museum** (New York, NY)—Participates in a multi-site museum accessibility study that will test and measure the outcomes of specific educational protocols with people with visual impairments. The study will define, document and evaluate best practices for making museum collections accessible to visitors with disabilities.

**The Hyde Collection** (Glens Falls, NY)—Partnered with the Alzheimer’s Association of Northeast New York to offer programs for persons with Alzheimer’s disease and their caregivers.

**Museum of Modern Art** (New York, NY)—Established the first-of-its-kind *Meet Me at MOMA* program to serve persons with Alzheimer’s disease. The program has been replicated by numerous museums and expanded to include resources that can be used by museums, assisted-living facilities and other community organizations serving people with dementia and their caregivers.

**New York Hall of Science** (Queens, NY)—Hosted traveling exhibitions about the AIDS epidemic that included first-hand stories. Supported by the National Institutes of Health, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and developed in partnership with six other science centers, the effort was successful in changing attitudes about AIDS.

**Seneca Park Zoo** (Rochester, NY)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Health Adventure** (Asheville, NC)—Offers monthly health screenings through its *Wellness on Wheels* program, fitness programs for seniors and wellness programs focused on dental care, puberty and reproductive health.

**North Carolina Museum of Art** (Raleigh, NC)—Developing recreational trails to promote active living. The museum is partnering with the University of North Carolina's Gilling School of Public Health which will quantify the health benefits of investing in recreational resources.

**Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina Greensboro** (Greensboro, NC)—Training nursing, kinesiology and physical education students to observe and interpret movement, develop visual diagnostic skills and develop a visual vocabulary.

## NORTH DAKOTA

**State Historical Society of North Dakota, North Dakota Heritage Center** (Bismarck, ND)—Offers monthly *Historic Happenings Heritage Hikes* that combine natural history, geology, cultural history and art with nutrition and physical exertion.

## OHIO

**Cleveland Metroparks Zoo** (Cleveland, OH)—Offers an annual program, *Senior Safaris*, which includes a fitness demonstration and health screenings.

**Cleveland Museum of Natural History** (Cleveland, OH)—Identifies arthropods for local medical providers.

**Columbus Zoo and Aquarium** (Columbus, OH)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

**COSI Columbus Science Center** (Columbus, OH)—Serves families with children on the autism spectrum by opening one hour early and creating a more sensory friendly environment. The museum partners with Nationwide Children's Hospital and the Autism Society of Central Ohio to provide experts and resources for these families.

**Dittrick Medical History Center and Museum at Case Western Reserve University** (Cleveland, OH)—Documents the history of medicine.

**Toledo Zoo** (Toledo, OH)—Offers health screenings, exercise and safety tips to seniors, in cooperation with the local area office on aging.

## OKLAHOMA

**Oklahoma City Museum of Art** (Oklahoma City, OK)—Dedicates an art educator to local medical facilities to provide art education and enrichment in the visual arts. This *Healing Arts* program is a collaboration with the Children’s Hospital, Jim Thorpe rehabilitation centers, St. Anthony’s Behavioral Medicine and three local memory care centers. Each month, a teaching artist travels to three local memory care centers to draw, paint, sculpt and print while engaging in discussions about the project.

**Oklahoma WONDERTorium** (Stillwater, OK)—Opens one hour early once a month specifically for families with children living with special needs. During these programs, temperatures in the building are carefully monitored, the speaker system is turned off and some of the lighting is lowered to create a more sensory-friendly environment. The museum also offers an *Ask an Expert Night* where parents (and kids) can ask questions of local experts and specialists in a comfortable, non-medical environment.

## OREGON

**Oregon Museum of Science and Industry** (Portland, OR)—Offers a bilingual nutrition and fitness exhibit, *Eat Well, Play Well /Come Bien, Juega Bien*, funded by the National Institutes of Health Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) program and Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon and developed in partnership with researchers at Oregon Health and Science University and other local experts. The museum also offers educational programs on aging, nutrition, the human brain, biomedical research and *E. coli*. During the H1N1 flu epidemic, the museum was awarded a “Public Health Heroes” award.

**Oregon Zoo** (Portland, OR)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

**Science Factory Children’s Museum** (Eugene, OR)—Hosted a whooping cough booster clinic for adults in partnership with Lane County Public Health, which is bracing for a summer outbreak.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Erie Art Museum** (Erie, PA)—Partners with a local hospital to help doctors-in training hone observation skills, offers a sensory-friendly program for children on the autism spectrum and partners with a community-based mental health agency to host clients as museum volunteers and offer public programs on mental health.

**La Salle University Art Museum** (Philadelphia, PA)—Partners with the La Salle University’s School of Nursing and Health Sciences and the department of Fine Arts to



teach a health assessments course. The class teaches students to read body language and facial expressions which helps them to better serve patients and their family members.

**Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University** (Pittsburgh, PA)—Hosted the exhibit, *Imperfect Health: The Medicalization of Architecture*, about the uncertainties and contradictions present in the ideas of health. The museum hosted public events during the exhibit including a flu vaccine clinic, in partnership with the University Health Services and a local hospital.

**Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium** (Pittsburgh, PA)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for the children on the autism spectrum.

**Please Touch Museum** (Philadelphia, PA)—Provides families of children with disabilities with innovative tools to make a museum visit more comfortable and enjoyable. The museum's *Play Without Boundaries* program creates a comprehensive welcoming structure for families of children with varying abilities including a quiet space of the day, quiet kits containing cool-down items, specialized accessibility and inclusion training for staff, special evening and early morning events for families of children with disabilities and mobile programming that brings museum-themed games to schools, childcare centers, libraries and social service agencies.

**Senator John Heinz History Center** (Pittsburgh, PA)—Works with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and other local partners on fitness, nutrition and sports medicine.

**University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology** (Philadelphia, PA) —Partners with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to enhance the quality of life for seriously ill and injured children through unique programs including touch tours for visually-impaired audiences and classes designed for students with cerebral palsy.

## RHODE ISLAND

**Roger Williams Park Zoo** (Providence, RI)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**EdVenture Children's Museum** (Columbia, SC)—Features EDDIE, the World's Largest Child, a 40-foot 17.5-ton, hands-on exhibit in which children climb through the brain, down the backbone, pass by the heart and can play in EDDIE's stomach and slide

through his GI tract. The museum uses this exhibit and others to educate multi-generational family audiences about health and chronic diseases, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer. The museum also offers programs addressing oral health, nutrition and physical activity and the value of growing food through *Taste Buds*, the nutrition lab. The museum also partners with local elementary schools to plant vegetable gardens to promote healthy food choices.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

**South Dakota Discovery Center** (Pierre, SD)—Introduces students and families to new fruits and vegetables through its *South Dakota Harvest of the Month* program. The museum also has a pop-up exhibit that travels to schools and communities to educate about nutrition and physical activity and regularly partners with the South Dakota Department of Health, the South Dakota Department of Education Team Nutrition, St. Mary's Hospital Foundation, Wellmark Foundation, Oahe Headstart, afterschool programs and some local grocers.

## TENNESSEE

**Memphis Brooks Museum of Art** (Memphis, TN)—Offers *Alzheimer's Art Therapy Tours* for those with memory loss and their care partners. Participants enjoy lively discussion of artwork conducted by docents trained by the Brooks Museum and the Alzheimer's Association, as well as hands-on art-making with an art therapist. The museum also works with the Veterans Affairs Recreational Therapy Division, Youth Villages, the Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program and the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home to bring art therapy to a wide audience. The culmination of each program is an exhibition of participant artwork in the Brooks Education Gallery.

**Museum at Mountain Home** (Mountain Home, TN)—Serves veterans in cooperation with the James H. Quillen VA Medical Center and College of Medicine.

**Pink Palace Museum** (Memphis, TN)—Focuses on childhood obesity and diabetes through its *Learning Labels* program sponsored by Baptist Memorial Health Care. The museum is planning permanent exhibits focused on health, fitness, wellness and nutrition.

## TEXAS

**Abilene Zoological Gardens** (Abilene, TX)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

**Dallas Museum of Art** (Dallas, TX)—Partners with the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School that teaches a course on careful and thoughtful

observation. The museum also has a program, *Meaningful Moments*, for visitors with early stage dementia and their care partners. This program is also offered for care facilities specializing in memory care. The museum also offers *Autism Awareness Family Celebrations*, where the museum opens early with specialized experiences and a summer art camp for children with autism. The museum partners with Art Beyond Sight to offer programming for visitors with vision impairment and with The Arc of Dallas to provide an art experience to adults with developmental disabilities.

**French Legation Museum** (Austin, TX)—Hosts an event designed to raise awareness in the community about the value and benefits of local, sustainably raised foods and to connect families to local food, gardening and wellness resources in the Austin area. The *Children’s Picnic and Real Food Fair* is a collaboration between the Children’s Environmental Health Institute, the SANDE Youth Project and the magazine Edible Austin.

**Museum of Fine Arts, Houston** (Houston, TX)—Participates in a multi-site museum accessibility study that will test and measure the outcomes of specific educational protocols with people with visual impairments. The study will define, document and evaluate best practices for making museum collections accessible to visitors with disabilities. The museum’s *Art for the Mind and Spirit* program brings meaningful visual arts experiences to Texas Children’s Hospital, Ronald McDonald House and Shriners Hospital for Children, Houston.

**Witte Museum** (San Antonio, TX)—Increases health literacy through its *H-E-B Science Treehouse*, which will become the *H-E-B Body Adventure* exhibit, a permanent four-story, indoor-outdoor experience that uses gaming technologies, physical activity and a regionally relatable cultural focus to ignite changes in health behaviors.

## UTAH

**Utah’s Hogle Zoo** (Salt Lake City, UT)—Participated in an *Autism Speaks* initiative and offered programs specially designed for persons on the autism spectrum.

## VERMONT

**Shelburne Museum** (Shelburne, VT)—Maintains an apothecary garden of plants and blossoms for health and well-being.

## VIRGINIA

**Virginia Living Museum** (Newport News, VA)—Hosted a traveling exhibition: *Bodies Revealed*—a look into the human body systems: skeletal, muscular, nervous, respiratory, digestive, urinary, reproductive and circulatory.

**Virginia Museum of Fine Arts** (Richmond, VA)—Uses recycled materials, including medical materials, to tell the story of good health.

## WASHINGTON

**Northwest African American Museum** (Seattle, WA)—Offered *Checking Our Pulse: Health and Healers in the African American community*, which addressed five issues that disproportionately affect African Americans: breast cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular disease and mother/infant health. Visitors were challenged to take steps to reduce their personal risk for these health issues. Subsequent health fairs took place that aligned with the exhibit's topics.

**Seattle Art Museum** (Seattle, WA)—Participates in a multi-site museum accessibility study that will test and measure the outcomes of specific educational protocols with people with visual impairments. The study will define, document and evaluate best practices for making museum collections accessible to visitors with disabilities.

## WEST VIRGINIA

**Huntington Museum of Art** (Huntington, WV)—Offers programs for individuals with visual impairment.

## WISCONSIN

**History Museum at the Castle** (Appleton, WI)—Visits local health care facilities with thematic items from the education collection to encourage free-flowing conversation to help people with early to mid-stage memory loss. Items are selected by weight and sounds to spark different memories. The museum offers bicycle tours of the community, highlighting Appleton's bicycle movement of the late 1800s and partners with the Oneida Nation Reservation to address obesity and diabetes on the reservation.

**Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum** (Wausau, WI)—Offers programs for those with memory loss living at home and in long-term care facilities. Individuals with early-to-mid-stage memory loss are invited to participate with a friend, family member, or care partner in a creative, art-making activity. Artworks on view spark conversation among participants. The museum collaborates with the Marshfield Oncology Clinic to create art with those in various stages of breast cancer and recovery and partners with Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services for *Treasuring Memories*, a program for community members of all ages who are coping with the death of a loved one to create memorial art.

**Milwaukee Public Museum** (Milwaukee, WI)—Works with Carroll University’s physician assistant graduate program to help the students understand cultural differences in prevention, health and healing from a medical anthropology perspective. The University requested this program because many of its students lacked experience in treating or understanding people from other cultures or religions.

## **WYOMING**

**Carbon County Museum** (Rawlins, WY)—Offers guided multi-sensory tours including sound and tactile elements for visitors and an oral history recording of Wyoming’s first female doctor.