

6 Exhibits Your Family Will Love This Fall

Friday, November 2 2018, 12:13 PM

OUT + ABOUT/ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

6 Kid-Friendly Museum Exhibits Your Family Will Love This Fall

Explore art, ideas and culture at kid-friendly museum exhibits around Seattle

BY GEMMA ALEXANDER

PUBLISHED ON: OCTOBER 11, 2018





PHOTO: Ancient viking helmets. Photo courtesy of the Nordic Museum

Somehow, museums just seem more attractive in the fall. There's a coziness in spending a Saturday afternoon wandering brightly lit galleries while the wind blows leaves around in the rain outside.

Seattle-area families are in luck because there are terrific kid-friendly exhibits to visit this autumn. Even if museums aren't usually your thing, at least one of these exhibits is sure to capture your family's interest.



T. rex skull at the Burke. Photo courtesy of The Burke Museum

Testing, Testing, 1-2-3: Last Chance at the Burke Museum

Where: The Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, Seattle

When: Through Dec. 30, 2018

Cost: Included with admission

The Burke Museum, Washington state's oldest public museum, is closing on Dec 31. It will reopen in a new space in late 2019. We can bet the new Burke will be a fresh and exciting experience, but for those with a bit of nostalgia for a disappearing Seattle, there's still plenty to see and do at the old Burke during its final months.

Besides wandering its old-school exhibits of preserved animal specimens, visit the new Testing, Testing, 1-2-3: Work in Progress exhibit where you can see the behind-the-scenes work of setting up the new Burke. The highlight is watching the preparation of the Burke's new T. rex skull unfold each day. But the exhibit also gives you a sneak peek of objects coming out of storage for display in the new museum.

During the final days of the current Burke Museum (Dec. 26–30) enjoy free admission and gallery activities for all ages.

The Vikings Begin

Where: Nordic Museum, Seattle

When: Oct. 20, 2018–April 14, 2019

Cost: \$5 for Viking exhibit alone; regular admission required to

Cost: \$5 for viking exhibit alone, regular admission required to visit other galleries

If you haven't been to the new [Nordic Museum](#), the special exhibit this fall is the perfect time to get acquainted. In May, the Nordic Heritage Museum reopened as the Nordic Museum in its new space in central Ballard, a sleek building designed as a linear "fjord." The old exhibits exploring the Nordic-American experience are refreshed and joined by expanded stories of the Nordic region.

The next special exhibit, [The Vikings Begin](#), will present 1000-year-old Viking artifacts on loan from Sweden. Although kids will learn that horned helmets are a myth, they will get to see authentic Viking swords and armor, as well as everyday household items from the earliest stages of the Viking era on display in the U.S. for the first time ever.

Note that this is a special exhibit requiring purchase of timed tickets; [purchase online](#). Find out more about the Nordic Museum's [best features for families](#).

[Peacock in the Desert: The Royal Arts of Jodhpur, India](#)

Where: Seattle Art Museum

When: Oct. 18, 2018–Jan. 21, 2019

Cost: \$5 in addition to regular admission

We've already identified [Peacock in the Desert](#) as an exhibition that can [make kids fall in love with art](#), because this collection of

500 years of Indian royal treasures is particularly kid-friendly. A recreation of a royal wedding procession — complete with life-size horses and elephants — is just the beginning.

The exhibition also contains a gilt palanquin, ornate 17th-century weapons and jewelry and possibly the only remaining Indian court tent in existence. More traditional artworks like paintings and textiles feature lots of animal imagery and bright colors that are more attractive to kids than the dour portraiture of European artwork from the same period.

Upcoming family-friendly programming includes a [free community opening celebration](#) on the evening of Thursday, Oct. 18; a [concert of Indian music](#) on Saturday, Oct. 20; and a [Diwali family festival](#) on Saturday, Nov. 3; plus numerous family arts workshops throughout the exhibit.

Note that this is a special exhibition and is not included in regular museum admission. A separate, timed ticket is required for entry. [Advance purchase is recommended.](#)





Preston Singletary's "Thunderbird Man (Xeiti Káa)," 2018. Photo credit: Russell Johnson

Preston Singletary: Raven and the Box of Daylight

Where: Museum of Glass, Tacoma

When: Through Sept. 2019

Cost: Included with admission

Taking kids to a glass museum sounds like the very definition of a bad idea. But keeping kids focused will be easy in the new exhibit at Tacoma's [Museum of Glass](#). The exhibit, [Raven and the Box of Daylight](#), immerses visitors in Tlingit culture through a collection of glass art and dynamic audio and video elements including recordings of storytellers, music and coastal sounds, amid a backdrop of shadows and projected images.

Glass artist Preston Singletary uses modern glass techniques to create pieces rooted in Tlingit culture. This exhibition recreates the Tlingit story, "Raven and the Box of Daylight," which tells how Raven transformed the world by bringing light to people. For an added dimension, listen to music by Singletary's Tlingit-language jazz band [Khu.eex'](#) before visiting the exhibit.

Join the museum's [Family Day](#) on Saturday, Oct. 13, for special activities related to Raven and the Box of Daylight.

[Wham! Bam! Pow! Cartoons, Turbans & Confronting Hate](#)

Where: Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience, Seattle

When: Through Feb. 24, 2019

Cost: Included with admission

[The Wing](#) is not always the most kid-friendly museum in Seattle. But from [Worlds Beyond Here](#), which celebrates Asian-American contributions to sci-fi, to the kidPLACE exhibit highlighting Asians and Asian-Americans in space technology, several Wing Luke Museum exhibits this fall touch on topics close to kids' hearts.

Perhaps the most charming is Wham! Bam! Pow!, a small exhibit about cartoonist Vishavjit Singh, who responded to the surge of racism he experienced after 9/11 by creating stereotype-busting cartoons that portray Sikh-American life. These led to the creation of Sikh Captain America.

Singh has even donned spandex himself to bring the nonviolent superhero who defeats bigots with humor and compassion off the page and onto the streets. (Be warned that unlike Steve Rogers, who polices the Avengers' language, Sikh Captain America's catch phrase is "Let's kick some intolerant ass.")



Polaroid from the collection of Robert E. Jackson. Courtesy of Bellevue Arts Museum

Polaroids: Personal, Private, Painterly

Where: Bellevue Arts Museum

When: Oct. 12, 2018–March 24, 2019

Cost: Included with admission

Not all art is produced by artists. This [Bellevue Arts Museum](#) exhibit is a curated collection of instant Polaroid photography and photographic ephemera. Once an awe-inspiring new technology, instantly printed photos have a retro draw for kids

new technology, instantly printed photos have a retro draw for kids today, who are used to looking at snapshots on a screen.

Because privacy is a major theme of the exhibit, it's an excellent starting point for discussions with kids, but it also means that some parents may be concerned about the subject matter of some photos, which include weapons or suggested nudity.



DON'T MISS A THING. Sign up for your weekly dose of parent fuel and local adventures.

READ NEXT



Weekender: Top Family Events for Seattle and the Eastside



5 Ways to Beat Cabin Fever This Winter

The No. 1 Great Gaming to Safes Field

The New Sport Coming to Sateco Field IS....



RELATED TOPICS

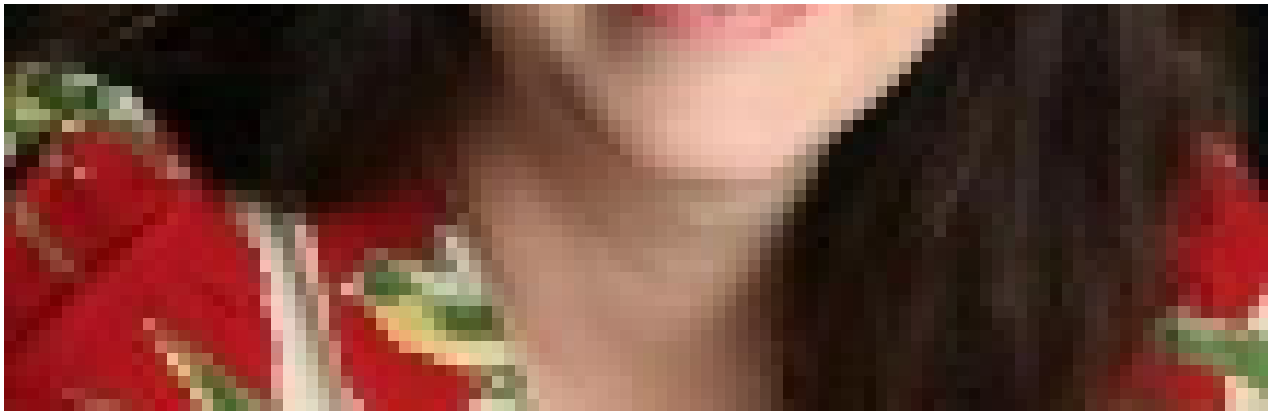
- FALL
- MULTICULTURAL
- MUSEUMS

Share this article with your friends!



ABOUT AUTHOR





BY GEMMA ALEXANDER

Gemma Alexander is a Seattle-based freelance writer with two daughters. When she is not writing for ParentMap, she [blogs about books and travel](#) and spends too much time on Twitter.

Go on a City Scavenger Hunt

Got a Girl Gamer? It's Time to Talk

OTHER ARTICLES BY THIS AUTHOR

LEAVE A COMMENT

0 Comments

Sort by



Add a comment...

[Facebook Comments Plugin](#)

HIDE COMMENTS





SIGN UP

Get the latest adventures, tips, tools, getaways and giveaways delivered to your inbox.

CHOOSE YOUR REGION

- Seattle Area
- Eastside
- South Sound
- North Sound
- National

LATEST + GREATEST

1 I Like How Many Kids I Have, Thank You Very Much



2 5 Ways Living in Germany Has Changed My Parenting



3 Birth Photographers Are a Thing — Why You Should Consider One



4 Rainy-Day Recess: Where to Play Indoors



5 Weekender: Top Family Events for Seattle and the Eastside



HAPPENING

- NOV 2 **Science Sleuths Workshop**
- NOV 2 **Indoor Playspace at Ballard Church**
- NOV 2 **14th Annual Día de los Muertos: Viva la Lucha, la...**
- NOV 2 **Friday Night Skate**
- NOV 2 **Dia de los Muertos - Day of the Dead Celebration**

[VIEW FULL CALENDAR](#)

