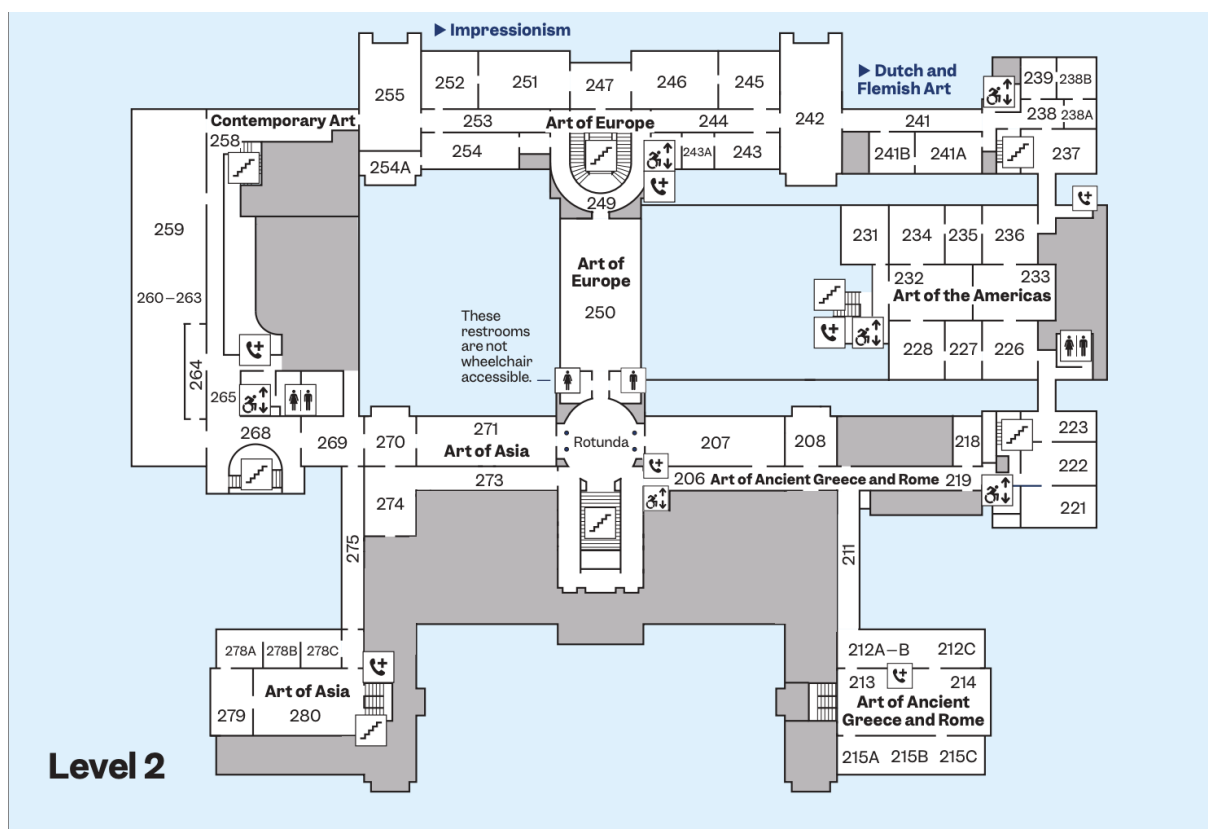


MFA Boston Strategic Plan 2020

We are committed to the care, study, and enhancement of an extraordinary collection of art. We celebrate it as a platform to spark creativity and embrace it in the pursuit of advanced knowledge and cultural understanding. We bring it to life with our community of diverse audiences. We believe in the power of art. We believe that art can help create a context for understanding values and beliefs across time. In acknowledging this, we strive to be a meeting place of world cultures—expressed locally and internationally. In service of our goal of bringing art and people together, we aspire to be known at home and abroad for our purposeful collecting, our spirit of collaboration, and our ability to welcome and deeply engage audiences in the life of the Museum. We will celebrate artists across time. We will honor all visitors. We will invite many voices. To deliver this promise, we will: Collect Purposefully Collaborate Generously Invite Boldly Welcome Warmly Engage Deeply

Mission Statement, Adopted by the Board of Trustees, June 20, 2024

The Museum of Fine Arts houses and preserves preeminent collections and aspires to serve a wide variety of people through direct encounters with works of art. The Museum aims for the highest standards of quality in all its endeavors. It serves as a resource for both those who are already familiar with art and those for whom art is a new experience. Through exhibitions, programs, research and publications, the Museum documents and interprets its own collections. It provides information and perspective on art through time and throughout the world. The Museum holds its collections in trust for future generations. It assumes conservation as a primary responsibility which requires constant attention to providing a proper environment for works of art and artifacts. Committed to its vast holdings, the Museum nonetheless recognizes the need to identify and explore new and neglected areas of art. It seeks to acquire art of the past and present which is visually significant and educationally meaningful. The Museum has obligations to the people of Boston and New England, across the nation and abroad. It celebrates diverse cultures and welcomes new and broader constituencies. The Museum is a place in which to see and to learn. It stimulates in its visitors a sense of pleasure, pride and discovery which provides aesthetic challenge and leads to a greater cultural awareness and discernment. The Museum creates educational opportunities for visitors and accommodates a wide range of experiences and learning styles. The Museum's ultimate aim is to encourage inquiry and to heighten public understanding and appreciation of the visual world.



The Parthenon Marbles

The British Museum displays the Parthenon Marbles including pediments, metopes, and friezes depicting Greek myths and religious procedures.

The marbles are controversial due to disputes over the legality and ethics of their removal, with Greece seeking their return, arguing they were taken without proper consent, while the British Museum maintains legal ownership.

Challenges in determining their display include legal ownership disputes, differing interpretations of historical documents, cultural significance, and the potential precedent set for other artifacts in global museums.

"Heritage" refers to the legacy of physical artifacts and intangible attributes inherited from past generations, preserved for their historical, cultural, or aesthetic value.

The New Acropolis Museum

The Acropolis Museum in Athens displays the Parthenon sculptures designed to mirror the Parthenon's original layout, allowing visitors to view the sculptures in their original context

The museum's website highlights that the gallery is oriented to align with the Parthenon, showcasing the sculptures in their original positions and offering a comprehensive visual narrative of the temple's decorative elements.

Controversial because it seems out of place from the existing Greek architecture.

Arguments for keeping the Parthenon marbles in London include their accessibility to a global audience and their role in showcasing world heritage within an international museum context.

Universal museum and heritage

MFA aims to preserve outstanding collections and engage diverse audiences through direct experiences with art. This mission aligns with its ancient Greek collections by providing insights into Greek culture and its historical significance.

The significance of museum objects to national or other heritage is often determined by the narratives constructed around them, influenced by historical, political, and cultural factors.

Repatriation means sending artifacts back to their original country, while reunification involves bringing scattered pieces together to restore a complete collection. Balancing universal museums with heritage preservation requires recognizing these museums' role in showcasing diverse cultures and acknowledging the importance of artifacts to their original communities. Museum collections themselves are part of our heritage, as they show the history of collecting and how societies have valued art and artifacts over time.

Museum visit

Drawing from the Museum's collection of approximately 7,500 ancient coins, the gallery's thematic and chronological displays emphasize ancient coins as highly sophisticated, beautiful works of art on a miniature scale, while also exploring the cultural and political history they embody. Sculpture, vases, and other works of art are on view alongside coins in the gallery.

The primary function of coins in antiquity was economic.

But coins were also works of art on a miniature scale, made by skilled craftsmen across the ancient world. Through their combinations of symbolic imagery and inscribed text, coins carried official messages of the authorities -cities, alliances, kingdoms, and empires-who sent them into circulation. Despite their small sizes, coins nevertheless made big political statements.

each one provides a glimpse of the customs, beliefs, politics, and ideals of the people who produced and used it. The MA's collection boasts some 7,000 ancient Greek and Roman coins, renowned for their artistry, rarity, and historical significance. The concept of using a metal coin with an established, standard value arose more than 2,600 years ago. While scarcity, durability, portability, divisibility, and uniformity long characterized the most robust currencies, real success has always come down to trust on the part of the user.