



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
and BLUE STAR FAMILIES present
arts.gov/bluestarmuseums
BLUE STAR MUSEUMS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RICE MUSEUM IS A 2023 BLUE STAR MUSEUM

Rice Museum to offer free admission to military personnel and their families this summer

The Rice Museum announced it will again join museums nationwide in the Blue Star Museums initiative, a program that provides free admission to currently-serving U.S. military personnel and their families this summer. The 2023 program will begin on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 20, 2023, and end on Labor Day, Monday, September 4, 2023. Find the list of participating museums at arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

Blue Star Museums is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families, in collaboration with the Department of Defense and participating museums across America.

“We thank the 2023 Blue Star Museums who invite military personnel and their families to experience the many wonders they have to offer, whether it’s a glimpse into the past, an encounter with awe-inspiring art, or a moment of discovery,” said Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD, chair of the National Endowment for the Arts. “The Rice Museum is helping to enrich the lives of military families and build meaningful connections between our nation’s military and their local community.”

Blue Star Museums include children’s museums, art, science, and history museums, zoos, gardens, lighthouses, and more, and hail from all 50 states, District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The [current list of participating museums](#) will continue to develop over the summer as organizations are welcome to [register to be a Blue Star Museum](#) throughout the summer.

The free admission program is available for those currently serving in the United States Military—Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force, members of the Reserves, National Guard, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members. Qualified members must show a [Geneva Convention common access card](#) (CAC), [DD Form 1173 ID card \(dependent ID\)](#), [DD Form 1173-1 ID card](#) or the [Next Generation Uniformed Services \(Real\) ID card](#) for entrance into a participating Blue Star Museum.

Follow #bluestarmuseums on Twitter @NEArts and @BlueStarFamily. Follow #ricenwmuseum on Facebook and Instagram @RiceNWMuseum.



About the Rice Museum

Housing a world-class collection of rocks and minerals, the Rice Museum is recognized as the finest in the Pacific Northwest and one of the best in the nation. Its educational programs include organized school field trips and ongoing educational outreach throughout the community at large. The Museum is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its unique architectural style and natural stone, and extraordinary native Oregon woodwork.

The Rice Museum is a Smithsonian Affiliate, one of only three in Oregon. The Affiliation serves as an endorsement of the quality of a museum's facilities, the training and professionalism of its staff, and its mission to educate the public. More information about the Smithsonian Affiliations program and Affiliate activity is available at www.affiliations.si.edu.

About the National Endowment for the Arts

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. To learn more, visit arts.gov or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).

About Blue Star Families

[BlueStar Families \(BSF\)](#) is the nation's largest chapter-based military and veteran family support organization. Its research-driven approach fosters strong communities with a focus on human centered design and innovative solutions. Since its founding in 2009, BSF has delivered millions of dollars in benefits and impacted more than 1.5 million people each year. For more information, [click here](#) and follow along with Blue Star Families on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

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