

### **What is Seeing Special Things?**

A year-long, multiple-visit program, Seeing Special Things, is The Contemporary Austin's longest-running educational initiative, celebrating its 42nd year this school year. Offered to public elementary schools in Austin at no cost to campuses, with a focus on schools with greater need, this program is designed to integrate visual art into the classroom and enhance student literacy, social emotional learning, cultural awareness, critical thinking, observation, and communication skills through museum visits, classroom discussions, and art making.

Seeing Special Things introduces students to original works of contemporary art and a multitude of innovative media and processes through looking and making experiences in a variety of settings. Through each facet of the program, students grow as artists and observers of the world, building self-confidence in sharing their unique ideas. Additionally, classes and teachers make new memories together while away from campus in order to experience something exciting and dynamic: the art of our time made by living artists from around the world.

### **How does it work?**

Over the course of a school year, the program brings students from Austin's public schools to a variety of exhibitions at the Jones Center on Congress Avenue and Laguna Gloria on Lake Austin. Museum docents and staff facilitate three museum visits during the year that each include a pre-visit classroom lesson and post-visit materials. In addition to visiting each museum location at least once, students will take part in a special art lab with a Guest Artist Educator from the community during one of their visits. At the end of the year, each student will receive a commemorative sketchbook and a free family pass - a ticket that never expires for their whole family to visit both locations for free.

### **How do I participate?**

Teachers from each school (grades 2-4) apply to participate in the program as a team. The art teacher is invited to join this grade level on all of their tours, for which the museum will pay a substitute reimbursement. The principal or administrator is asked to support the school's faculty by allowing them to embark on three tours per year. There is an application form on the museum's website, at <https://thecontemporaryaustin.org/explore/for-schools/>.

**The deadline for application to this exciting and educational program is August 12, 2022 for the upcoming school year, 2022-2023. Any questions? Please contact Sarah Chestnut, School and Teacher Programs Manager, at [schestnut@thecontemporaryaustin.org](mailto:schestnut@thecontemporaryaustin.org).**