Know-Before-You-Go

Welcome to MOCA Grand Avenue

Familiarize yourself with MOCA before you get there! Designed especially for families with children but useful to all, this step-by-step guide lets you know what to expect when you arrive for your visit. See you at MOCA!
Today I’m visiting The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) on Grand Avenue in downtown Los Angeles. MOCA has two locations: the one I’m visiting on Grand and The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, which is a larger warehouse space down the street in Little Tokyo.
MOCA is a contemporary art museum that collects art made from the 1940s onward. I’ll see all different types of art today: some made of paint, others made of wood, and even some made of light! I might be surprised by what I see!
Before I arrived at MOCA, my adult might have checked the “Visit” page on MOCA’s website and reserved a timed ticket.

My adult can pull up the confirmation for the reservation which we’ll take to a small cube-like green building, which is the box office.

moca.org/visit
Once I arrive at MOCA Grand Avenue, I might see a spacious plaza where people are standing. Some of them will be wearing a badge which means they work at MOCA.

Surrounding the plaza, I see the museum building made out of red bricks and green tiles. It might feel a little confusing.
Before I enter the museum, I am greeted by a security officer or a gallery attendant, who will be wearing badges and suits or all-black outfits. They’re here to help me with anything I need, including any questions I have about the art.
If I want the elevator to enter the museum, someone will guide me and my adult to a wheelchair lift that will take me towards the MOCA office elevator, which will deliver me down into the galleries.

I’ll arrive in the middle of the third-floor galleries. Once there, I’ll see some restrooms.
Back at the street entrance: my adult will show our proof of reservation to the attendant who will direct us to the huge stairway behind me.
I walk down the stairway and find a restaurant with outdoor tables, and the entrance to the museum. I might see a line to get inside, but it won’t take long if there is one.
Before I enter the museum, I check to make sure my mask is on. This will help keep me and the other visitors and employees at MOCA safe. Inside, there is hand sanitizer and extra masks if my adult or I need one.

A security officer or gallery attendant may open the door to the entrance, and when we enter I’ll feel cool air.
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I’ll see a long curvy desk with friendly gallery attendants. They’ll give me helpful information such as where the restrooms are located and explain to me the museum’s rules. They’ll also show me cubbies where my adults and I can put our belongings if we don’t want to carry them with us.

My ticket will be scanned here, so my adult or I will hold our phone under the monitor on the desk and wait for a beep.
If I look to my left and right, I’ll see two different gallery spaces. Here I get to make a choice with my adult of which way to go. Once I’ve chosen a gallery, I’ll be greeted by another gallery attendant at the entrance.
I’ll see more friendly gallery attendants and security officers throughout the galleries. They’re there to make our experience as fun and safe as possible. If I have any questions, I can ask them for help!
Inside the galleries, I’ll see artworks on the walls and floors, some might even be big enough to step inside of, so I should watch where I’m walking to keep my body and the art safe.

I’ll keep two big steps between myself, the art, and other people. If I forget, I might be reminded to step back, but I didn’t do anything wrong—I could just be feeling big feelings.
In some rooms, I will even see artwork that is the room itself! Some artworks may require directions from a gallery attendant, so I’ll listen carefully to what they say.
When I look at art with my family, I can consider the questions, “What’s going on here?” and others that my adults and I come up with.

If I really love a piece of art, I can take a picture of it without flash!
If I need a break or have to use the restroom, I can tell my adult. To the right of and behind the curved desk in the main museum lobby, there will be a stairway and an elevator that will lead me down to MOCA's Reading Room and more restrooms.

The Reading Room can be a quiet place to escape to, but it can also become busy. Following the pink MOCA Family Project signs, I can find a self-guided art-making station.
At the Family Projects station, I can play and experiment with cool materials and take home what I make! I can find easy-to-follow project steps in English and Spanish.

Next time I come, there may be a new project!

For more art-making, drawing, and writing activities to do at home, visit moca.org/families
When I am finished with my visit, I will exit through the same doors I entered at the beginning.

If I didn’t get to see everything, I can always come back another day!