



Visiting SAAM and the National Portrait Gallery

A SAAM and NPG Social Narrative for
Visiting the Museums

I am going to visit the **National Portrait Gallery** and the **Smithsonian American Art Museum** in Washington, DC. Both museums are in the **Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture**.

The National Portrait Gallery is sometimes called **NPG**, whereas the Smithsonian American Art Museum is also known as **SAAM**.





The museums are located at 8th and G Streets NW in **Chinatown** near the Capital One Arena.

I may see crowded sidewalks, bright lights and hear loud noises, like car horns and the voices of other people.



When it's time to enter the museums, I may need to **wait in line** with other people.



The accessible entrance to the museums is located on **G Street**, and there is another entrance at the opposite side, on **F Street**. I can enter on whichever side is most convenient for me.

During my visit to the museums, I may wear a **face mask** if I would like to, but it is not required.

I may see signs reminding me of this.

Face Covering Optional
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When I enter the building, a **security officer** will direct me to pass through the **Evolv system** detectors. This is to ensure my safety and the safety of others who visit the museums.

If I have a **backpack or other large bag**, the officers will ask me to hold it at my side or wear it on my front.





The museums are protected by **security officers** whose job it is to protect visitors, staff, the art, and the building. The officers have two different uniforms—some wear white shirts with insignia; others wear navy blue jackets over white shirts. Both officers have badges, so it is clear they work at the museums.



As I explore the museums, I will be **careful not to touch** any of the artworks and to maintain a safe, **arm's length** distance away from the art.

I may see stanchions or lines on the floor to help me keep my distance. Some of the artworks are protected by glass.





It is important to **stay with my group**, but if I need assistance or if I get lost, the officers can help me.



It is also important that I keep my hands clean and free of germs. I can use the **sinks** in the restroom or **hand sanitizer pumps** located throughout the building to keep my hands clean.



If I need to rest, there are **benches** throughout the museum that I can use.

I can also rest in the **Kogod Courtyard**. The courtyard is enclosed with a glass ceiling, and there are planters filled with plants. There may be water on the floor from the fountains.



When it is time to leave the museums, I will exit through the **accessible exit on the G Street side**, or through the doors and **down the stairs on the F Street side**. The museums' staff hope that I'll come back for another visit very soon!

