

GREENWICH, CT, August 28, 2020 — The Bruce Museum reopened the Museum to members and the public on June 27, 2020, upon receiving the necessary certification from state agencies.

Admission to the Bruce Museum is by advance online reservation, with timed ticketing to ensure the comfort and safety of visitors and staff. Effective Wednesday, September 2, admission fees are \$10.00 for Adults; \$8.00 for Students (5-22 w/ valid ID); \$8.00 for Seniors (65 & up). **Admission is always free for Museum members and children under 5**; the Museum is free to all visitors every Tuesday.

The Bruce is pleased to participate in the **Blue Star Museums** program, offering free admission to all active-duty U.S. military personnel and their families with identification, as well as **Museums for All**, an initiative of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Through Museums for All, those receiving food assistance (SNAP benefits) are welcome to visit the Bruce with their family free of charge.

The Bruce Museum also partners with Bank of America's **Museums on Us** program. On the first full weekend of every month, admission to the Bruce is free for Bank of America cardholders. Call 203-869-0376 for more information or to make a reservation utilizing these special-access programs.

The following hours of operation and admission policy are in effect until further notice:

9:30 – 10:30 am, Tuesday through Sunday: The Museum is open only to self-selected individuals over the age of 65 or who are immunocompromised.

10:30 – 11:30 am, Tuesday through Sunday: The Bruce is pleased to welcome Museum members only for one hour of special access.

Remaining Museum hours are unchanged. To reserve a timed ticket to visit the Bruce Museum, visit brucemuseum.org.

Check our website frequently! The Museum may need to operate fluidly between reopening phases, depending on the state and local guidance. If you have any questions about the safety guidelines, please call 203-869-0376 prior to your visit.

Please be aware of the following new policy, effective August 28, 2020, regarding masks with exhalation valves or vents:

The purpose of masks is to keep respiratory droplets from reaching others to aid with source control. Masks with one-way valves or vents allow exhaled air to be expelled out through holes in the material. This can allow exhaled respiratory droplets to reach others and potentially spread the COVID-19 virus. **Therefore, CDC does not recommend using masks if they have an exhalation valve or vent.**

Visitors wearing masks with exhalation valves or vents will not be allowed to enter the Museum.

Frequently Asked Questions

What steps is the Museum taking to ensure the health and safety of visitors?

- All visitors, excluding children under two years old, are required to wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth as per state laws and CDC guidelines.
- The Museum will follow a rigorous cleaning and sanitation plan prior to opening spaces; surfaces and points of contact will be disinfected by Museum staff throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available at entrance points and common areas.
- Along with timed ticket entry, the Museum will reduce visitor levels to less than 50% capacity in order to maintain proper distancing among visitors and between Museum staff and visitors.
- Visitors who enter the Museum as a “family unit” will be limited to four people, and will be permitted to tour the galleries together while maintaining proper distance from other visitors and Museum staff.
- Group visits, guided tours, public programs and special or private events are not being scheduled at this time.

Who can visit the Bruce Museum?

The Bruce welcomes all visitors who are not experiencing symptoms of illness. Those in high-risk groups (comorbidities) should continue to stay safe and stay home, as recommended by the CDC. Individuals over the age of 65, or those who are immunocompromised who wish to visit are encouraged to take advantage of the Museum’s special access for those groups of people, 9:30 – 10:30 am, Tuesday through Sunday.

I plan to make a reservation for a timed entry. Can you walk me through the experience of entering the building?

Thank you! Upon arriving on Museum grounds, please proceed to the main entrance. You will be greeted by Museum staff at the Visitor Services desk, who will confirm your reservation and give you a brief overview of what to expect during your visit. Additional information will be found on signage, both outside the Museum and inside, and we encourage you to spend a moment familiarizing yourself with these guidelines.

The gallery floors of the Museum will employ one-way flow and limited capacities. Signage and floor markings will indicate social distance markers and visitor flow. Touchable interactives will be disabled throughout the galleries.

Please arrive on time. Visitors can arrive five minutes before their ticketed time and up to 10 minutes after their ticketed time to enter. If you arrive later than 10 minutes after your start time, we unfortunately cannot allow you to enter the Museum.

Will gallery tours be offered?

No guided tours are offered at this time. We invite you to take advantage of our “Audio by Cell” gallery tours; details about how to access the audio tour on your cell phone may be found near the entrance of the main gallery.

What if a Museum visitor is not willing to use a face mask upon entering the building?

That person will not be permitted to enter the building. Following recommendation from the CDC for everyone to wear a CDC-approved mask or cloth face covering in public settings to reduce the spread of COVID-19, CT Governor Ned Lamont signed an executive order directing face coverings to be worn by anyone in shared public spaces, including by employees while in the workplace. This does not apply to children under the age of two or to anyone for whom doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition.

What exhibitions are on view?

Opening on Tuesday, September 1, in the Bruce Museum’s recently renovated art gallery, *Floating Beauty: Women in the Art of Ukiyo-e* examines historical perspectives on women and their depiction in art in Edo Period Japan (1615 – 1858).

Featuring more than 40 woodblock prints on loan from the permanent collection of the Reading Public Museum in Pennsylvania, this exhibition highlights female characters in literature, kabuki theatre, and poetry; the courtesans and geisha of the Yoshiwara district; and wives and mothers from different social classes performing the duties of their station, in order to gain some insight into the lives of women in pre-modern Japan. *Floating Beauty* will be on view through November 1, 2020.

On view in the Bruce Museum’s Bantle Lecture Gallery, the exhibition House on the Hill: The Changing Face of the Bruce Museum will explore how the views of the Bruce Museum have transformed over time. Numerous historical images will show the evolution of the structure from its conversion from mansion to modern museum that explores the intersections of art and science.

Some of these changes have been subtle, some have been profound. In the 1950s, the Museum was threatened by the planned route of the Connecticut Thruway (now incorporated into Interstate 95). The state compensated Greenwich for the lost parkland, and funds were used to construct a major addition to the Museum, which was unveiled in 1958.

The building was modified again in 1992-93, a renovation and expansion that allowed it to keep pace with both its foundational role in the community and museum standards of the day.

Helping tell the story of the Bruce Museum's architectural history are quotes and citations from founding staff, community leaders, and visitors both young and old over the generations. The exhibition will be open to the public through October 11, 2020; an online version may be viewed at www.houseonthehilllexhibition.com/.

Organized by Curator of Science Dr. Daniel Ksepka, the [*Under the Skin*](#) exhibition samples images made possible by a remarkable array of technologies—CT scanning, infrared cameras, scanning electron microscopy, and more—that allow scientists to visualize the marvels of evolution that lie below the surface. Natural history specimens from the Bruce Museum and on loan from other collections complement each image and reinforce the role of museums as stewards of natural history.

Will you be offering traditional programs for visitors, such as the Bruce Beginnings programs for families with young children?

The Museum's Audience Engagement team will continue to offer a rich array of online learning activities geared to children and their families. Please visit the "Education" tab at brucemuseum.org for current information and when new, in-person programs will be offered.

Do I have to leave the Museum by a certain time?

While we invite you to enjoy your time at the Bruce, we ask that you be mindful of the timed-ticket holders who follow you. No more than 90 minutes is recommended.

Is the Museum Store open?

The Museum Store welcomes shoppers, with controlled access and minimal touch transactions.

Some other cultural institutions in the TriState area are choosing to remain closed to the public at this time. Why open the Bruce Museum now?

The Bruce Museum is reopening only after taking every precaution to ensure the health and safety of our staff and visitors, and in accordance with all applicable state and local guidelines, protocols, and certification.

Like other arts and cultural organizations in the area, the Bruce Museum serves an important role as a trusted community partner that serves the public through the arts and science. The Bruce brings people together to share in arts and cultural experiences, building community, enhancing quality of life, and adding vibrancy to our cities and towns.

In short, the Bruce Museum is proud to being able to continue to fulfill its time-honored mission to promote the understanding and appreciation of Art and Science to enrich the lives of all people, with both a compelling array of virtual exhibitions, programs, and events and, once again, in-gallery experiences for those who wish to visit in person.

If you have specific questions not answered above, please email the Museum at info@brucemuseum.org or call 203-869-0376.

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About the Bruce Museum

The Bruce Museum is a community-based, world-class institution highlighting art and science. Changing galleries for art and permanent galleries for the natural sciences encompass regional to global perspectives. Accredited by the [American Alliance of Museums](http://www.aamuseum.org) and voted the best museum in Fairfield County by area media in recent years, the Bruce plays an integral role in the cultural life of area residents. The Museum attracts approximately 70,000 visitors annually, including 24,000 schoolchildren, and also has special programs for families, seniors, students, and community organizations. Located in a park setting just off I-95, exit 3, at 1 Museum Drive in Greenwich, Connecticut, the Museum is also a 5-minute walk from the Metro-North Greenwich Station. For additional information, call the Bruce Museum at 203-869-0376 or visit brucemuseum.org.