



Volunteer Docent Programme

Reports to: Visitor Experience Coordinator

Role type: Volunteering

Location: Bangalore

Duration: 1 year

Commencing: July 2026 to June 2027

Application Deadline: June 13, 2026

[Click Here to Apply \(link to application form\)](#)

About MAP

The Museum of Art & Photography (MAP) is one of India's first major museums of South Asian visual culture. The museum is housed in a state-of-the-art, 44,000 square foot building, designed by the acclaimed Indian architectural practice Matthew & Ghosh, on a landmark site at the heart of Bengaluru's museum district. MAP's five-story building on Kasturba Road includes multiple galleries where the collection is displayed, an auditorium, an art and research library, an education centre, a specialised research and conservation facility, as well as a café.

MAP's collection includes more than 100,000 works predominantly from South Asian: Modern and contemporary art, living traditions, textiles, craft and design, pop culture, pre modern art and photography, dating from the tenth century to contemporary times.

Our mission is to harness the transformative potential of art, to enrich lives, ignite creativity, and connect people. We make art accessible and engaging for everyone through innovative experiences, meaningful dialogue and building communities.

With a focus on accessibility for people with disabilities, and technological tools to make the museum relevant and exciting, MAP ensures a holistic experience for visitors of all ages.

Having launched online in December 2020, at the height of the pandemic, as India's only digital-first museum, and then physically in February 2023, MAP has been bringing its collection to life through multiple pathways, from online exhibitions to a range of articles and essays, collaborations with museums around the world, engaging talks by leading industry figures, and educational resources for kids and adults.

Programme Outline

The Volunteer docent programme is a year-long volunteering opportunity at the Museum of Art and photography. This is an initiative designed to enhance visitors' experiences of exhibitions and collections at the museum. Docents are trained volunteers who lead guided tours and facilitate gallery conversations, helping to make works of art engaging and accessible to all visitors.

In addition to conducting walkthroughs and discussions, docents gather feedback and reflections from visitors on their museum experience. This input is essential for understanding audience needs and improving the museum's accessibility, inclusivity, and overall appeal.

While docents facilitate learning for audiences at the museum, participating in the programme also encourages lifelong learning opportunities for them, ranging from the reflective to the experiential.

The forthcoming Volunteer Docent Programme cycle is scheduled to commence on 4th of July 2026, and will continue through the end of June 2027. This term encompasses two initial months of intensive training followed by active engagement within the museum spaces. Participants are expected to commit a minimum of three hours per week to their docent duties. Furthermore, docents are required to participate in pertinent training modules throughout their tenure and attend monthly cohort meetings. These sessions will typically be organized on a mutually convenient Saturday each month following the conclusion of the formal training period.

Docent positions are open to any adults of age 18 and above who have an interest and or prior experience in history, art, and education, and who can initiate conversations with visitors. Docents are expected to commit a minimum of three hours weekly, alongside participation in monthly debrief

sessions which would be organised on the second Saturdays of every month in addition to training modules. Active participation in both training and monthly debriefs is mandatory for all participants. Please be advised that extended absences or inconsistent participation may lead to discontinuation from the programme.

Docents are expected to commit a minimum of three hours per week to their docent duties. Furthermore, docents are required to participate in pertinent training modules throughout their tenure and attend monthly cohort meetings that would be held on second Saturdays of every month.

The roles and responsibilities of a docent are as follows-

- Commitment to comprehensive sensitisation and walkthrough training facilitated by the Docent Programme Coordinator
- Presence within exhibitions, public areas and museum exteriors to foster public engagement and offer wayfinding support
- Acting as the first point of contact to welcome and introduce visitors to the Museum of Art & Photography
- Efficiently and courteously addressing feedback, comments and inquiries from MAP's diverse audiences
- Leading interpretive walkthroughs of museum exhibitions for the general public following completion of training
- Imparting detailed information regarding gallery spaces, current exhibitions and the museum's programme schedule
- Utilising specialised knowledge of museum content to facilitate and guide learning within museum spaces
- Igniting curiosity by facilitating dialogue and using collection objects to spark new ideas and questions among visitors
- Proactively resolving visitor issues or escalating complex concerns to the Docent Coordinator as required.

What is expected of the applicant?

- Possessing the flexibility to problem-solve and adapt proactively within a dynamic environment
- Demonstrating reliability and a commitment to upholding the standards and expectations established by Museum leadership
- Deep-seated interest in contemporary art, photography, and cultural heritage, coupled with a passion for continuous learning

- Proactive enthusiasm for engaging with and supporting the Museum's diverse visitor demographics
- Proven interpersonal and communication skills to ensure a welcoming visitor experience and effective resolution of enquiries
- Confidence and poise when presenting to or facilitating dialogues for public groups of various sizes
- Collaborative mindset with the ability to work effectively within a multidisciplinary team structure
- Proficiency in Kannada, Hindi, or Indian Sign Language (ISL) is not mandatory but highly advantageous.
- Active participation in both training and monthly debriefs is mandatory for all participants.
- Please be advised that extended absences or inconsistent attendance may lead to discontinuation from the programme.

Note- This is a volunteering and unpaid position open to individuals above 18 and residing in Bangalore.

Equality & Diversity

MAP is an equal opportunities employer. We oppose all forms of discrimination and believe that all people, regardless of their identity or membership of any group deserve to be treated equally, consistently and fairly.

We welcome creativity, excellence and different perspectives that individuals of all backgrounds and abilities bring to our work.

Application process

All candidates must complete an on-line application and provide complete and accurate information. Please note, only selected candidates will be further contacted and candidates in the final selection step will be subject to reference checks based on the information provided.