

ARLIS/NA + VRA 3rd Joint Conference 2016 | Seattle
Poster Session

I Spy With my Little Eye: Connecting Libraries and Art Through Storytime — *Gwen Mayhew*, Assistant Museum Librarian, Instruction and Interlibrary Services, Metropolitan Museum of Art and *Naomi Niles*, Associate Museum Librarian, Nolen Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art

The Metropolitan Museum of Art has been offering storytime sessions for young children since the 1920's. In its current iteration, storytime is offered eleven times per week in the Nolen Library, the Museum's public facing library, and draws 17,000 visitors per year. Storytime has become a vital program for the library and has greatly helped to improve our recognition across the museum. In conjunction with colleagues in Education, the program is aligned with the Museum's mission and educational goals. Readers for storytime come from departments across the Museum, including curatorial, security, and merchandising. In the last few years, the Library has had the opportunity to take part in museum-wide programs by conducting storytime in the galleries. We have also experimented with producing storytime sessions for targeted audiences such as children on the autism spectrum and Spanish-language speakers. As the program grows we continue to emphasize the importance of holding this program in the library. Highlights some of the effective (and not so effective) approaches to this program, and include ideas on how other libraries can create successful storytime sessions of their own. Overall, this is a low-cost, but potentially high impact program that can help expand the number and types of visitors to any art library.