



The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art

The Ringling Legacy

Welcome



Welcome to The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. The Ringling Museum is the legacy of John Ringling (1866-1936) and his wife, Mable (1875-1929). John Ringling bequeathed this Museum of Art and its collection, *Cà d'Zan* mansion, the historic grounds and gardens on 66 acres overlooking Sarasota Bay, to the people of Florida. The State took possession of the estate in 1946. In 2000, the State of Florida transferred stewardship of the Ringling to Florida State University, establishing one of the largest and

most unique university cultural facilities in America.



The Museum of Art

John Ringling made his fortune through real estate transactions, railroads, and the famous circus he owned with his brothers. John and Mable amassed an impressive art collection of over 600 paintings, diverse sculptures, and decorative art objects. To house this collection, they built an art museum which was completed in 1929 and first opened to the public in 1930.

The Ringlings' collection is highlighted by Peter Paul Rubens' *Triumph of the Eucharist* series, the only example of a large-scale cycle by Rubens displayed outside Europe.

The Ringlings also gathered important works by Poussin, Hals, Velázquez, De Heem, Cranach, Pietro da Cortona, Guercino, and other major Renaissance and Baroque artists. This internationally acclaimed Old Master collection consists of many works of art that are among the most celebrated and rare in this country.



Additionally, the Ringlings acquired a vast collection of Cypriot antiquities, as well as several Gilded Age rooms from the former Astor mansion. The collection has since grown to more than 16,000 objects, including the Koger Collection of Chinese ceramics, significant holdings of 20th century and contemporary works, and decorative arts.

Cà d'Zan Mansion



The Ringling winter residence, *Cà d'Zan* (Venetian dialect for “House of John”), is one of America’s great mansions. This magnificent home was designed by New York architect Dwight James Baum and built between 1924 and 1926. *Cà d'Zan* evokes the style of the Venetian-Gothic palaces Mable admired during the couple’s travels. After a comprehensive six-year restoration (1996-2002), the historic home reflects its original opulence and eclectic style in architecture and decorative arts and provides a glimpse of the good life during the “Roaring ‘20s.”

Circus Museum

John Ringling forever linked the circus with Sarasota when he moved the winter quarters of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus here from Bridgeport, Connecticut. In 1948, A. Everett Austin, Jr., the Ringling Museum’s first director, established the Circus Museum, the first in the United States to collect and display artifacts that document the rich history of the American circus. On display are rare handbills and posters, photographs, costumes, performing props, a miniature circus, and elaborately-carved and painted circus wagons.



Historic Grounds and Rose Garden



When the Ringlings first arrived, the plantings on the estate were typical of the area — native palms, oaks, and pines. Mable Ringling added a collection of exotic plants including sausage, breadfruit, and monkey-puzzle trees. According to local legend, the Banyan trees were a gift from Thomas Edison, who had a home in Fort Myers, Florida, and visited the Ringlings in Sarasota. The Royal Palms were imported from Cuba. Other exotic plants came from the nursery the Ringlings maintained on Longboat Key.

Mable’s Rose Garden was completed in 1913, just one year after the Ringlings purchased the property. The design was patterned after a wagon wheel motif. With hundreds of rose plants, the Garden today consists of roses introduced between 1867 (the first hybrid tea) and as recently as 2002, with the debut of the “Mable Rose.”

General Information

General Admission includes the Museum of Art, *Cà d'Zan* mansion, Circus Museum, historic grounds and gardens. Admission to the Museum of Art is free on Mondays. Admission to *Cà d'Zan* and the Circus Museum is not included. Supplemental fees for special exhibitions and other events may be charged.

Advance Tickets

Reservations for *Cà d'Zan* tours, education programs, and special events are strongly recommended. Call 941.358.3180.

***Cà d'Zan* Mansion Tours**

Tours of the mansion are reserved with your general admission purchase in the Museum of Art lobby or by calling Advance Tickets.

Group Tours

To arrange a group tour for adults, call 941.358.3176. For information on student group tours, call 941.359.5762.

Restaurants/Snacks

The Banyan Café offers a wide variety of soups, sandwiches, salads, and desserts. Lighter fare is available at the *Cà d'Zan* Bayside Café and the Museum of Art Courtyard Café (November through April).

Museum Gift Stores

Museum shops are located in the Museum of Art and *Cà d'Zan* mansion. Discover unique gifts, reproductions, jewelry, books, posters, note cards, and much more. Call 941.359.5732 to place gift orders by phone.

Special Events and Facility Rentals

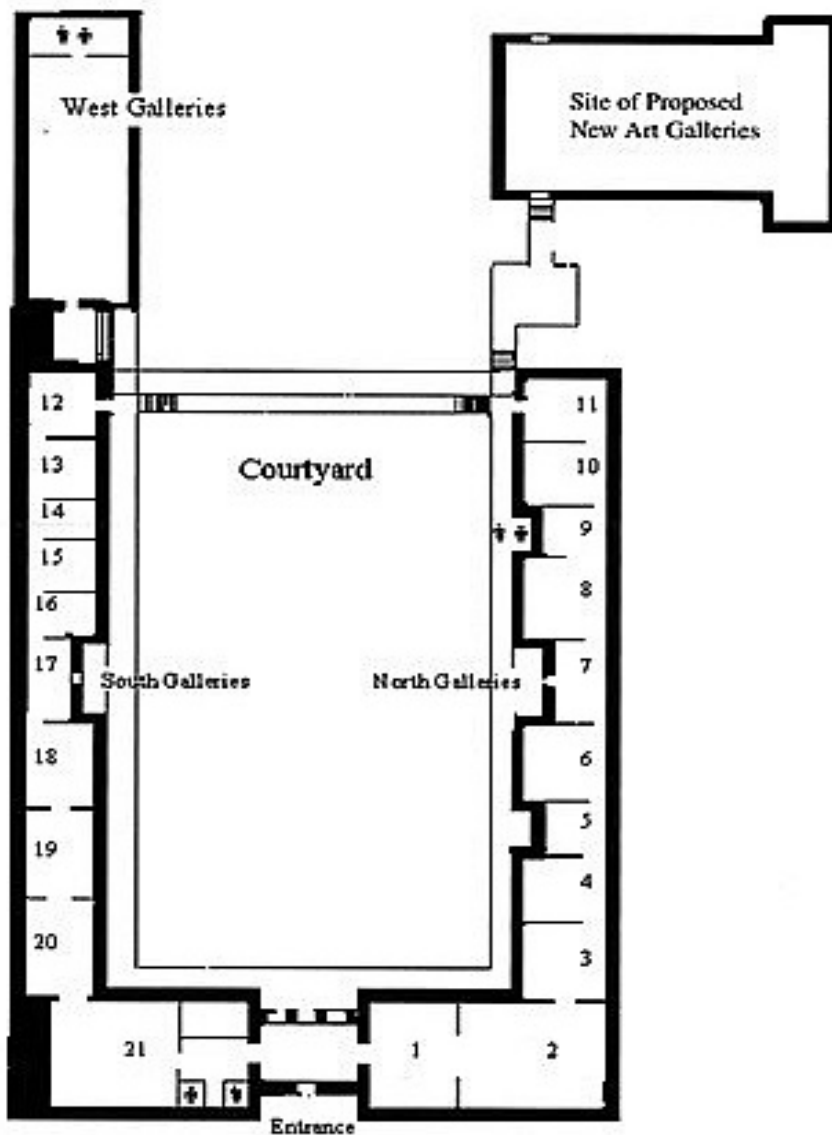
Some Museum facilities are available for corporate and private functions, weddings, and photo shoots. For details, call 941.359.5733 or e-mail rentals@ringling.org.

Join Today and Save

Apply today's admission toward membership and enjoy a full year of free admission to the estate, newsletters, gift shops, restaurant discounts, and more. Memberships begin at \$50. Call 941.359.5478 or e-mail membership@ringling.org for details.

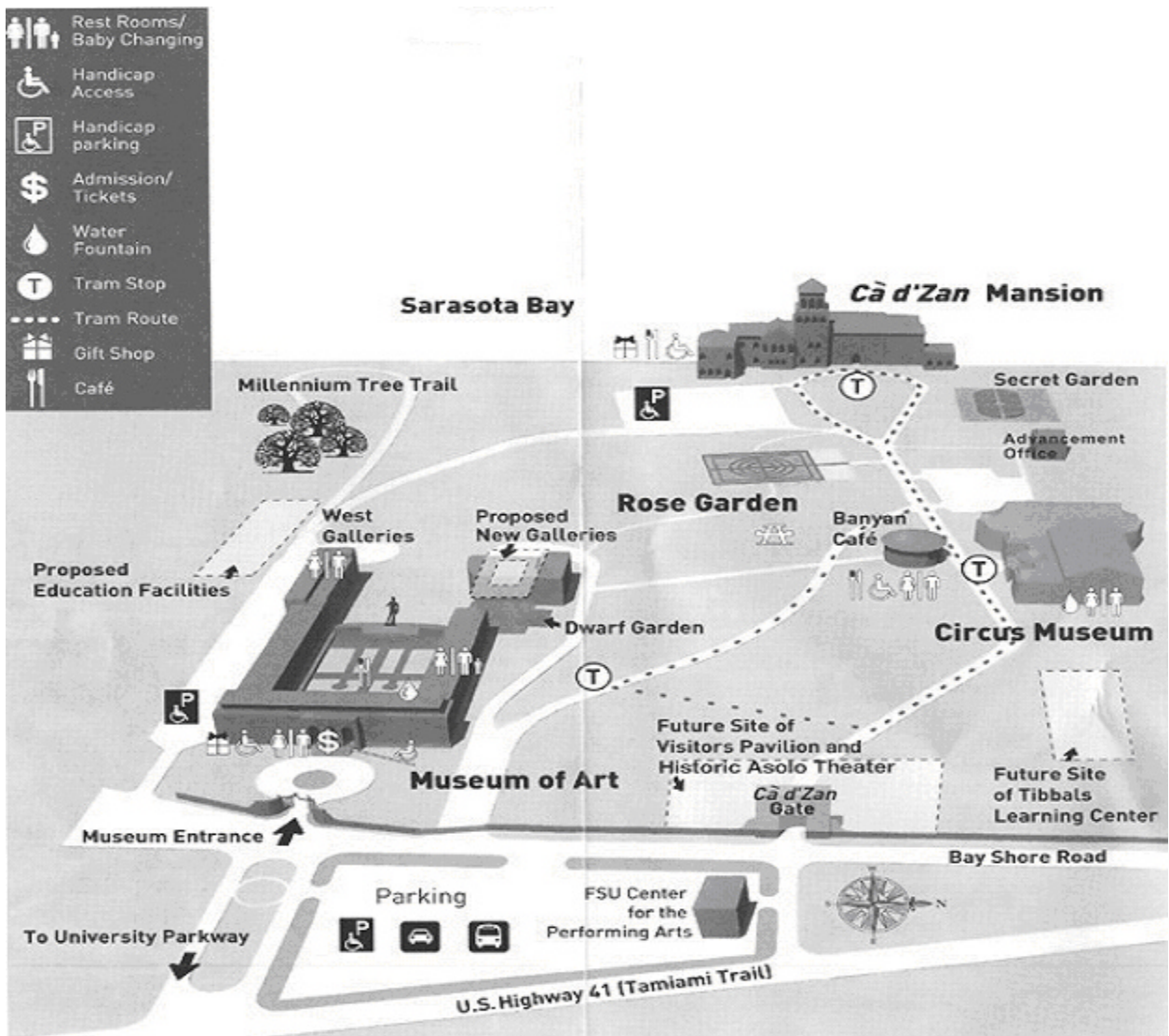
Wheelchairs are available in the Museum of Art, Circus Museum, and Cà d'Zan; only small strollers are allowed in Cà d'Zan. Backpacks are not permitted in the Museum's attractions. Photography is permitted for personal, non-commercial purposes; however, tripods, lighting equipment, and flash are not allowed. No images taken on the estate may be reproduced without written permission. During special exhibitions, photography may not be permitted.

Gallery Guide to the Museum of Art



Gallery 1	The Eucharist Series	Gallery 11	The Age of Rembrandt
Gallery 2	The Eucharist Series	Gallery 12	Education Gallery
Gallery 3	European Renaissance	Gallery 13	Flemish Art -1600/1700
Gallery 4	Renaissance Italy - 1300/1500	Gallery 14	The Age of Velazquez
Gallery 5	Florence and Rome -1500/1600	Gallery 15	Rococo Europe -1700/1800
Gallery 6	Northern Italy -1600/1700	Gallery 16	Tragedy And Comedy
Gallery 7	Rome and Paris -1600/1700	Gallery 17	Decorative Arts -1700/1800
Gallery 8	High Baroque -1600/1700	Gallery 18	The Grand Tour
Gallery 9	Counter-Reformation Art	Gallery 19	The Cream Salon
Gallery 10	Dutch Art -1600/1700	Gallery 20	The Astor Library

Museum Grounds



The programs and exhibitions offered at the Museum are made possible with your generous donations. Most cash gifts to the Museum are tax deductible. The Museum is open seven days a week, 10:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m., except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.



THE JOHN AND MABLE
RINGLING MUSEUM OF ART
The State Art Museum of Florida
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

5401 Bay Shore Road • Sarasota, Florida 34243
(941) 359-5700 Fax: (941) 359-5745
www.ringling.org
info@ringling.org

Advance Tickets 941.358.3180

This brochure is available in an alternate format upon request.