

iPod Touches for Art Carts FAQ

What are the iPod touches used for on the Art Carts?

- They're pre-loaded with music related to each of the 10 Art Carts.
- They are also a great tool for look up and sharing information, video, photos, and more via the MIA's website, ArtsConnectEd (www.artsconnected.org), Google, etc.

How many iPod touches are available?

Two. More may be added, if there seems to be a demand for them.

Where are the iPod touches stored?

- You will find the iPod touches in the Tour Office. The iPod touches (and iPads for tours) are stored and charged on the shelf in the library.
- There is also a pair of rechargeable speakers for each iPod touch.
- When returning an iPod touch and speakers to the Tour Office, please reconnect the iPod and the speakers to the charging station on the shelf in the library. This will recharge the devices and sync them to add any new content that's available for the next user.
- PLEASE NOTE: iPod touches and speakers cannot leave the building.

Do I need to reserve an iPod touch for my Art Cart shift?

- No. They are available on a first come, first served basis. If there is an iPod touch on the shelf in the Tour Office, you can assume it is available for your use at the Art Cart. (Be sure to take a set of speakers too.)
- PLEASE NOTE: If there are more than 2 Art Carts scheduled on the same day at the same time, please take only one device (digital camera or iPod touch), so that we can spread the technological wealth among as many Art Carts as possible. If there are only 1 or 2 carts scheduled at the same time, then feel free to take the camera (also first come, first served) and an iPod touch.

What content is loaded onto the iPod touches?

- There are playlists with music specific to each of the 10 Art Carts.
- Also loaded onto the iPod touches are the same short videos available on the iPads (for tours)
- See the specialized user guide for the iPod touch on Art Carts for specific instructions on accessing pre-loaded music and videos on the iPod touches.

How do I add content?

- For now, we ask that you let Amanda know if there is music you'd like added to any of the 10 albums we've developed on the iPod touches. At some point in the future, we may invite you to add your own music.
- Videos will be automatically synced via the tablet computer to match those available on the iPads (used on tours). Refer to the iPad training handout for information on creating content.

What if I don't like a song on the playlist for the Art Cart I am staffing?

Feel free to play the music you enjoy, skipping selections you don't.

Can I use my own iPod, iPhone, or iPad?

Yes, however the MIA is not responsible for your device. We recommend you use the devices provided by the museum.

Can I use an iPad on the Art Cart?

- For now, no. The iPads are for tours and must be reserved in advance. Please do not use them for Art Carts.
- Once we have used the iPod touches on the Art Carts and the iPads on tours for several months, we can reassess if these are the best devices for the needs of each teaching and learning environment.

Best Practices

- Set up the iPod touch and speakers and play ambient music (as we used to do with CD players on some Art Carts) continuously throughout your Art Cart shift. Choose a volume that is audible, but not overwhelming to visitors at the Art Cart and in other nearby areas of the gallery.
- To access other content, such as video, simply pause the music and access the other content you wish to share.
- Like any good prop, the iPod touch should enhance understanding of the museum's collection and be used judiciously. Avoid making the iPod touch the focal point of any discussion.
- Practice, practice, practice: Be familiar and comfortable with operating the iPod touch and accessing the information you want.
- Be sure to hold the device so that visitors can see any images or videos you are sharing.
- For your own security and privacy, it is recommended you not use museum devices to access personal or professional e-mail or other password protected accounts. If you do, please be certain to log off when you end your session.
- Please share your ideas and experiences in the iPod/iPad comment book kept near the devices and tablet computer on the shelf in the Tour Office library.