

ADULT EDUCATION AND YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

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ADULT EDUCATION

The OI's adult education classes continued to have very strong attendance in 2021–22 and continued to take place online over Zoom. Three classes were attended by more than seventy people, and two others had more than eighty participants—the largest classes the Adult Education program has ever seen.

In summer 2021, Yorke Rowan, OI research associate professor; Bruce Williams, OI associate; Rachel George, University of Chicago PhD student in anthropology; Delphine Poinot, associate researcher at the Unité Mixte de Recherche, Archéologie et Philologie d'Orient et d'Occident, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique; and Tasha Vorderstrasse, OI university and continuing education program coordinator, jointly taught “Rock Art in the Ancient Near East, North Africa, and Beyond”; in addition, Vorderstrasse taught “Red Sea and Indian Ocean Trade,” and Foy Scalf, head of the OI Research Archives, taught “Reading the Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead.” Fall 2022 classes included “A View from the Conquered: Lower Nubia during the Egyptian New Kingdom,” taught by Lindsey Weglarz, assistant dean of students for admissions in the University of Chicago's Division of Social Sciences; “Photography in Focus: Exploring Local Photographers in the Ottoman, Qajar, and Russian Empires,” taught by Polina Kasian, former OI assistant director of development, and Vorderstrasse; and “Trade across Ancient and Medieval North Africa,” a free, OI members-only class also taught by Vorderstrasse. In winter 2022 the classes offered were “Tutankhamun: Celebrating the Centennial of the Discovery of His Tomb,” taught by Emily Teeter, OI associate; “Introduction to the Sumerian Language, Script, and Culture,” taught by Colton Siegmund, PhD student in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC); and “Archaeology of Gandhara and Arachosia,” taught by Harrison Morin, lab assistant in the Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes and staff member of the Afghan Heritage Mapping Project, and Vorderstrasse. Spring classes were “Images from Late Antique Iranian World: Creation and Reception,” taught by Poinot, and “Queens and Princesses in the Ancient World,” taught by Vorderstrasse. Summer 2022 classes began in June with “Central Asia before the Achaemenids,” taught by Teagan Wolter, PhD student in NELC.

Another goal of the Adult Education program was to share with other members of the University of Chicago community the lessons learned through the transition to online-only programming. To that end, Vorderstrasse and NELC PhD student Rebecca Wang, who had previously taught in the program, gave a talk titled “OI Adult Education Program: Changing Technologies and New Challenges” at the 2022 Symposium for Teaching with Technology.

In addition to adult education classes, online teacher workshops were also offered. In fall 2021 Vorderstrasse led three workshops, titled “Studying Persons with Disabilities in the Ancient and Medieval Middle East and North Africa,” “Studying Enslavement,” and “Studying Trade in Antiquity.”

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In winter 2022, teacher workshops included “Studying Queens and Royal Patronage,” led by Lex Ladge, PhD student in art history, and Vorderstrasse; “Studying Mobility in the Ancient World,” led by Hannah Moots, OI postdoctoral scholar, and Vorderstrasse; and “Studying Interpretation: Edmonia Lewis and Cleopatra,” led by Vorderstrasse.

The Community Scholars program continued online via Zoom. Vorderstrasse gave a virtual talk titled “Antoin Sevruguin: A 19th Century Armenian-Iranian Photographer” for the Glencoe Public Library. Foy Scalf gave three lectures for local senior living communities, two for The Admiral at the Lake and one for The Clare.

In-person University of Chicago student tours resumed at the OI Museum—the only guided tours available in the museum in fall 2021. Nearly 150 University of Chicago students attended these tours; although the OI postcolonial tour was the most popular, other tours covered Egypt and Nubia, nationalism in Iraq and Palestine, and the Islamic exhibit cases. In addition, activities were arranged for nearly 150 sixth-grade humanities students at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. Though fewer in number, winter and spring 2022 tours included those on medicine, highlights of the collection, two on ancient Mesopotamian and Egyptian law, and one that looked at ancient life and community. We also organized a tour of the Arts + Public Life special exhibition *Relic* for docents.

YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

Charlie Kolodziej stepped down from his role as education facilitator lead but stayed on as a facilitator throughout the academic year. The programming was administered by Kirsten Forsberg, PhD student in anthropology, until Kate Hodge became the OI’s new Youth and Family Programs coordinator in February 2022. Samantha Suppes, PhD student in NELC; Chloe Brettman, undergraduate student in history; and Catie Witt, PhD student in NELC, served as additional education facilitators for the 2021–22 academic year.

Summer 2021 programs included several virtual events: “Wild Animals of the Nile,” presented by Sasha Rohret, PhD student in NELC; “Myths and Magic!”; and “Secret of the Mummies.” In fall 2021, virtual field trips for K–12 schools continued as they had during the 2020–21 school year with “Artifact Analysis,” “Myths and Magic!” and “Secret of the Mummies.” Showcasing the power of virtual platforms for reaching new audiences, these popular virtual events allowed the OI to connect with students across the United States whom we would never have been able to reach through traditional, in-person programming.

In March 2022 the OI Museum reopened in-person gallery, tour, and educational offerings. From March to the end of the academic year, the museum saw 1,082 people register and come for tours and educational programs. Of these visitors, 682 (63 percent) were students. The museum hosted 27 self-guided tour groups, 10 docent-led tour groups, and 8 educational programs. In addition, the museum hosted two annual events—the Persian Nowruz (New Year) Celebration and Ancient Game Day (see Annual Programs below)—as well as two weekend educational programs: Movie Night at the Museum and South Side Girls Astronomy Camp (see Other Programs below). These four programs brought an additional 497 visitors.

Finally, the Education department updated the OI’s visitor reservation system and information about programming on the OI website. These updates created a more streamlined and user-friendly experience for guests and staff members alike.

Field Trip Highlights

Even though we restarted in-person field trips without marketing them, eight educational programs were taught by the OI Museum between March and the end of the academic year. Facilitators Samantha Suppes and Catie Witt, with the help of Kate Hodge, taught these programs. Two of the programs were “Time Travelers,” a program for kindergarten through fourth-grade children that focuses on daily life and clothing in ancient times. One film-and-tour option was reserved, with students viewing the OI documentary *Breaking Ground* and going on a guided tour. For middle- and high-school students, facilitators taught two artifact analysis programs that focused on “backwards archaeology”—using observation of and inferences from artifacts to understand archaeological context. Finally, three “Ancient Innovators” programs focused on developing hypotheses about ancient inventions. A total of 220 students participated in these field trips. The OI Museum hosted an additional 464 students on self-guided and docent-led tours. The total number of students at the OI Museum during this time was 684, from self-guided tours, docent-led tours, and educational programs.

Annual Programs

In March and May, in-person events included the Persian Nowruz New Year Celebration, which coincides with the spring equinox and is celebrated by millions in Central and Western Asia, and Ancient Game Day. One hundred fifty people attended the Nowruz Celebration, which we hope to expand even further next year.



Nowruz
celebration

Saturday, March 12
1–3 P.M.

**In-person at the
OI Museum**

Celebrate the delight of the coming Persian New Year—Nowruz! Visit a Haft Seen table, explore the galleries, hear from OI scholars, enjoy a scavenger hunt, and take activities home to continue the celebration.

Free for members and children
\$5 suggested donation for adults

All ages. Registration recommended:
<https://bit.ly/34H3R0Z>

Street parking is available. Please check Eventbrite for more information.

 oi100.uchicago.edu/fjs   Sponsored by the Federation of Zoroastrian Association of North America and the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago.



**MOVIE NIGHT
AT THE MUSEUM**

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 3-6:30 P.M.
FEATURING "NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM"

EXPLORE THE OI AFTER HOURS!

SEARCH THE COLLECTIONS WITH SCAVENGER HUNTS, GADGETS TO THE ANCIENT WORLD THROUGH ARTS AND CRAFTS, AS THE MUSEUM CLOSES. WE WILL HOST A PIZZA PARTY AND FAMILY-FRIENDLY SCREENING OF NIGHT IN THE MUSEUM IN BEASLEY HALL. BEFORE EMBARKING ON A NIGHT-TIME TOUR, SEE A PEEK AT WHAT GOES ON WHEN THE OODGES GET LOCKED!

\$11 FOR MEMBERS
\$7 FOR ADX MEMBERS

ALL AGES. REGISTRATION REQUIRED!
<https://bit.ly/34H3R0Z>

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Event posters designed by Josh Tulisiak, the OI’s manager of exhibition design and production.

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Ancient Game Day took place during alumni weekend and saw approximately 130 people enter the OI Museum between noon and 2:30 p.m. while the event was happening. Ancient Game Day focuses on games from the ancient world, such as Egyptian *senet*, the Royal Game of Ur, mancala, and chess. Participants play ancient games and can make their own game in the OI's LaSalle Banks Education Center. Though the event is normally held outside, this year the rainy weather forced it into the galleries, where many people took part in the festivities.

Other Programming

With the reopening of the OI's galleries came two programs. Movie Night at the Museum, a collaboration with OI Membership, consisted of a viewing of the movie *Night at the Museum* and an after-hours gallery tour. The successful event attracted some 135 people, about 75 percent of whom paid \$7 per ticket because they were not members of the OI. Data from a post-event survey showed that attendees were interested in returning for a second movie night.

We also partnered with a South Side Girls Astronomy Camp to host a STEM-themed tour and program, including take-home bags for the students. While we expected twenty to twenty-five people to participate, about fifty attended. This program will serve as a foundation for a new partnership with Juliet Crowell, education and outreach manager for the University of Chicago's Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics.

Now that in-person programming and events are back in full swing, we have a packed schedule through fall 2022. We have new and exciting programming coming as well!
