Assessment Report

Department: Westmont Ridley-Tree Museum of Art
Academic Year: 2024–2025
Date of Submission:
Department Chair: Judy Larson

Key Question
What is the value of the Museum and its programming for the academic community at Westmont College?

Who is in Charge/Involved?
Judy Larson coordinates. Faculty who use the Museum in their courses are consulted.

Direct Assessment Methods
The nature of art and the impression it has on students is highly subjective, and therefore, very difficult to measure directly. Therefore, we only use indirect methods for this project.

Indirect Assessment Methods
A very brief survey (see Appendix) will be sent to students enrolled in courses that use the Museum. The Director or other Museum staff will note faculty who are bringing their classes to visit the Museum. A survey link will be provided to the instructors and instructors will be asked to forward it to their students, saying that the Museum very much would like to know how the exhibition impacted them.

A separate survey will be sent to all faculty with an invitation to provide input on how they find the Museum valuable.

Major Findings
Recommendations

Collaboration and Communication

This project is a collaboration between the Museum and faculty across campus. We anticipate 4–6 faculty to help in collecting data from students and to provide input themselves. We cannot guarantee ahead of time who will participate, but we expect that 2–3 faculty members from the Art Department and 2–3 faculty members from other departments (English, History, Religious Studies, etc.) will participate. The participation will likely depend on the specific nature of the programming and how it connects to various areas of study.
Appendix: Proposed Surveys

I. Student Survey
   a. If you visited the Museum as part of a class, what was the class?
   b. What exhibition or program did you participate in?
   c. What was the most valuable aspect of the exhibition or program to you?
   d. Is there anything else you would like us to know?

II. Faculty Survey
   a. If you brought a class to the Museum, what was the class?
   b. What was the exhibition or program your students participated in?
   c. How did you use this experience in your course? (Required attendance at the exhibition or program, classroom discussion, written assignment, etc.)
   d. What was the most valuable aspect of the exhibition or program for your goals as an instructor?
   e. Is there anything else you would like us to know?