

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ISABELLA  
STEWART GARDNER  
MUSEUM**

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Celebrates Community at  
Three **FREE** Family-Friendly *Neighborhood Nights*  
*Gardner Museum invites members of surrounding communities—especially the Fenway, Mission Hill,  
Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, and Dorchester—to discover and explore the museum.*

**Thursdays | July 8, July 22 + August 5, 2010 | 5:00-8:00 pm | FREE to all!**



BOSTON, JUNE 21, 2010 – The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum opens its doors to the surrounding communities this summer with a series of three **free** music- and art-filled *Neighborhood Nights* – especially for the museum’s neighbors from the Fenway, Mission Hill, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, and Dorchester.

A summer tradition in the Fenway, these special evening celebrations feature an array of family-friendly activities, including live entertainment, art-making projects, and gallery games. *Neighborhood Nights* are also a great opportunity for the museum’s neighbors to revisit the museum’s three floors of galleries, discovering new treasures in the collection.

*Neighborhood Nights* at the Gardner Museum take place on three Thursday evenings – July 8, July 22, and August 5 – from 5-8pm. Admission includes all activities and performances, as well as access to the museum’s three floors of galleries. Tickets are free but limited and may be picked up in advance at the museum’s front entrance from 11am-4pm, Tuesday through Thursday the week of each event.

This summer’s *Neighborhood Nights* are made possible in part through the support of Bank of America, the official school and community partnerships sponsor of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

“Each summer, *Neighborhood Nights* at the Gardner invite the museum’s neighbors to discover an oasis of art and beauty in their own backyard,” says **Peggy Burchenal**, *Esther Stiles Eastman Curator of Education and Public Programs*. “The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum was established for the education and enjoyment of the public forever, and this spirit of community engagement is particularly evident at events like *Neighborhood Nights*.”

Each of this summer’s three *Neighborhood Nights* events features a special theme that guests can explore through gallery activities, live entertainment, games, and hands-on art-making activities. *Here’s what’s in store:*

**JULY 8: Splendor Indeed! ~ *An Enjoyable Summer's Evening Soiree***

Celebrate the summer arrival of plants and flowers in the Museum's courtyard with a host of family-oriented events, including a garden of flowering activities. Families can also plant their very own flowers to take home!

**JULY 22: Art Alive ~ *Here, There, and Everywhere!***

Bring the family for an evening of your favorite art—brought to life! Listen to live music, create your own artworks, play a museum trivia game, and take a chance at winning a prize.

**AUGUST 5: Lions, Tigers & Bears, Oh MY! ~ *Guardians, Gate Keepers, and Other Mysterious Creatures***

Go on a friendly adventure as you hunt for and learn about the museum's animal guardians and other formidable creatures. Be enchanted by amazing animal stories, magnificent works of art, and delightful live music.

Bank of America is the official school and community partnerships sponsor of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Additional funding for *Neighborhood Nights* is generously provided by Bingham McCutchen, the Josephine and Louise Crane Foundation, the Mabel Louise Riley Foundation, the Rowland Foundation, and The Yawkey Foundation. The Gardner Museum receives operating support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Special thanks to the museum's *Community Advisory Committee*: Stephen Bell, John Hancock Financial Services; Allouma Clair and Marlene DaCosta, Beth Israel Hospital; Barbara Jones Finley and Celeste Scott, Dana Farber Cancer Institute; Crystal Moore, Massachusetts General Hospital; Frank Oglesby, MBTA; Nicole Reid, Consultant; and Alan Wade, Massport.

**ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM • *A Unique Environment for Learning* • 280 The Fenway Boston MA 02115 617.566.1401 [www.gardnermuseum.org](http://www.gardnermuseum.org) • Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm • \$12 adults; \$10 seniors; \$5 students; \$2 off with same day Museums of Fine Arts admission; FREE children under 18, everyone on his or her birthday, and all named "Isabella" •** Built in the style of a 15<sup>th</sup>-century Venetian palazzo, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum is a magical place, unlike any other museum in the world. With three floors of galleries displaying over 30 centuries of art surrounding a lush indoor courtyard garden, this unique space fires the imagination and offers a one-of-a-kind experience and opportunity for learning and engagement in all the arts have to offer. In 2007, the Gardner Museum completed an important three-year, Department Of Education (DOE)-funded study into the effects of arts education on the development of critical thinking skills in young children. The study found that elementary school students from Boston public schools who visited the Gardner repeatedly to learn to look at and talk about art showed significant improvements in critical thinking skills crucial for learning. Gains in skills including close observation, interpretation, and problem solving demonstrate that visiting museums is a valuable learning experience for school-age children, and complements the education they receive in school. More information about this study and the importance of arts in education is online at: <http://www.gardnermuseum.org/education/tta/tta.html>.

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**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

**Brittany Duncan** *Publicist* w 617 278 5106 [bduncan@isgm.org](mailto:bduncan@isgm.org)

**Katherine Armstrong** *Public Relations Director* w 617 278 5107 c 617 956 2565 [karmstrong@isgm.org](mailto:karmstrong@isgm.org)

**EDITORS' NOTE:** This release announces an upcoming series of three **FREE community events at the Gardner Museum** in the Fenway – featuring local artists, performers, musicians, and guests of all ages from neighborhoods including the Fenway, Mission Hill, Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, and Dorchester.

Members of the media are encouraged to attend and cover these free, highly-visual community events. Artists, performers and guests are available for advance and/or at-event interviews by request.