



Welcome to the Hoyt Sherman Place

Curriculum Guide!

3rd-5th Grade

MISSION: Hoyt Sherman Place creates outstanding experiences for the cultural, historic and educational benefit of Iowa's residents and communities.

VISION: Hoyt Sherman Place will be a premier historic cultural center in Iowa, working with national and local partners to present outstanding performances, celebrate Iowa's history and grow arts and culture in the region.



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Welcome to the Hoyt Sherman Place 3-5 Curriculum!

This curriculum is designed to meet the needs of educators across various disciplines, from art to social studies and beyond. Understanding the demands of your schedule, we've crafted a flexible program that can be adjusted to fit your calendar while aligning with core educational standards and meeting diverse student needs.

Within this packet, you will discover contextual information about Hoyt Sherman Place, along with educational resources. These materials are intended to enrich your visit, where students will explore the Mansion, Art Gallery, and Theater. The accompanying guides aim to deepen students' cross-curricular understanding of Iowa's history and visual arts. Students will build skills in critical thinking and creativity. Additionally, worksheets provided at the end of this packet offer further activities for classroom or at-home engagement beyond the visit.

Thank you for your dedication to your students and for providing them with opportunities to explore and learn about Des Moines' history. We are delighted to welcome you to Hoyt Sherman Place and trust that you will find our curriculum to be a valuable and enjoyable resource for your classroom!

You can show your support for Hoyt Sherman Place by sending thank-you letters, colorful drawings, or other creative works to our esteemed corporate sponsors. As a 501(c)(3), these gestures of appreciation are deeply meaningful to our sponsors and significantly aid us in securing grants that ensure the preservation and future of this historic venue. Please send your thank-yous to Hoyt Sherman Place via mail or email, and we will handle the rest!



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HOYTSHERMAN.ORG



K-12 Social Studies & Visual Arts Iowa Core Standards

Iowa Core Social Studies

3-5 History Curriculum: Analyze Change, Continuity, & Context

SS.3.22: Compare and contrast events that happened at the same time.

SS.4.20: Compare and contrast events that happened at the same time.

SS.5.21: Describe the connections between historical developments that occurred within the same time period.

Iowa Core Visual Arts

3-5 Visual Art Curriculum: Connecting

VA.Cn.11.1.3a: Recognize that responses to art change depending on knowledge of the time and place in which it was made.

VA.Cn.11.1.4a: Through observation, infer information about time, place, and culture in which a work of art was created.

VA.Cn.11.1.5a: Identify how art is used to inform or change beliefs, values, or behaviors of an individual or society.





Lesson Plans for 3rd-5th Grade: Hoyt Sherman Place

Pre-Tour Lesson: Contextualizing Hoyt Sherman Place

Grade Level: 3rd- 5th Grade

Subject: Social Studies & Visual Arts

Duration: 60 minutes

Social Studies Standards: SS.3.22, SS.4.20, SS.5.21

Visual Arts Standards: VA.Cn.11.1.3a, VA.Cn.11.1.4a, VA.Cn.11.1.5a

Objective: Students will explore the history and development of Hoyt Sherman Place and prepare for their visit by studying its historical context and artistic features.

Materials Needed:

- Projector or smartboard
- KWL chart
- Research materials (books, articles, photos, Victorian examples, internet access)
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils, glue, pencils, scissors, tape, paint, note cards
- Construction paper, poster board
- Research worksheet
- Hoyt Sherman Place PowerPoints and/or [Historic Places Video](#)

Lesson Outline:

1. Introduction (20 minutes)

Students will share their prior knowledge and learn about the history of Hoyt Sherman Place.

- **Historical Overview:** Provide a simplified history of Hoyt Sherman Place, highlighting its transformation from a family home to a theater and art gallery. Use images and a timeline to illustrate key events, overlapping with worldly events. Use PowerPoints, website, or video to guide overview.
- **KWL:** Complete the "K" (Know) section of a KWL chart. Students will share what they already know about Hoyt Sherman Place and its historical context.
- **Discussion:** Full class, pairs, or small groups: Why is Hoyt Sherman Place important to Des Moines?, How has Hoyt Sherman Place changed over time?, What did you notice about the art?

2. Social Studies- Research an Artist or Hoyt Family Member Project (30 minutes)

Students will research and present information about an artist or Sherman family member, focusing on their background and connection to Hoyt Sherman Place.

- **Choose a Subject:** Option 1: An artist featured at Hoyt Sherman Place (e.g., Otto van Veen, William Trost Richards, John Christen Johansen). Option 2: A member of the Sherman family (e.g., Major Hoyt Sherman, Helen Sherman, General Tecumseh Sherman). Other options can be found on our collections page.
- **Research:** Use the provided materials to find information about the chosen subject. Focus on their background, achievements, and connection to Hoyt Sherman Place.
- **Worksheet:** Collect information on the name, key facts, connections to Hoyt Sherman Place, and interesting facts.
- **Create a Presentation:** Draw a picture of the artist or family member and include information from the worksheet.
- **Presentation or Gallery Walk:** Have each student briefly share their project with the class or organize a gallery walk. Save time for feedback.

3. Visual Art- Creating Art Inspired by the Victorian Era (30 minutes)

Students will create art inspired by American and European Victorian art styles to connect with the artworks they will encounter during their gallery visit.

- **Introduction to Art Styles:** Discuss key features of American and European Victorian art. Highlight common themes, techniques, and styles. Show examples.
- **Art Project:** Using the provided materials, students create artwork reflecting their chosen style of American or European Victorian art. Encourage attention to detail and stylistic elements from the examples shown.
- **Sharing:** Present artwork to the class, explaining how they incorporated Victorian or American art styles into their piece. Encourage students to reflect on how the piece demonstrates understanding of time and place to enhance their knowledge for their visit.

5. Closure (10 minutes)

Students will write questions about Hoyt Sherman Place and review expectations to prepare for their visit.

- **KWL:** Complete the W (What to Know) part of a KWL chart. What questions do you hope to answer? What are you interested in learning about?
- **Quick Write:** Jot down questions on history or art in notebooks to ask museum staff before their visit. Bring a notebook and pencil to the visit.
- **Recap:** Review what students will see on the tour. Emphasize the importance of understanding historical and artistic contexts. Review the museum guide.
- **Extra Time:** Explore the student supplemental materials at the back of this guide.

Prepare for Your Hoyt Sherman Place Visit

At Hoyt Sherman Place, we offer a historic mansion, an art gallery, and a theater. To ensure the safety of both your group and our artifacts, please review the etiquette guidelines before your visit.

What is Museum Etiquette?

Following the rules of Museum Etiquette helps make sure students have a fun and safe time at Hoyt Sherman Place. It's a lot like school: be kind, respectful, and follow the guidelines while you're here.

Students

1. Stay with Your Group

Always stick together with your friends or adults from your group.

2. Take Your Time

Look closely at everything and enjoy learning at your own pace.

3. Walk, Don't Run

Move calmly and carefully to avoid accidents and respect the quiet atmosphere.

4. Keep Hands to Yourself

Be gentle and avoid touching objects or people.

5. Use Inside Voices

Speak softly to respect others who are exploring the museum.

6. No Flash Photography

Avoid using bright lights when taking pictures to protect the artifacts.

7. Eating Permitted at Tables

If you're hungry, eat only at designated tables to keep the museum clean.

8. Stay Engaged

Ask questions, learn new things, and have fun exploring.

Teachers/Chaperones

1. Supervise

Keep an eye on children and ensure they always stay close.

2. Be a Role Model

Be a model for students by following museum rules and treating others and the artifacts with respect.

3. Keep Count

Make sure everyone in your group is present and accounted for.

4. Connect and Encourage

Engage with exhibits and encourage others to explore and learn respectfully.



Lesson Plans for 3rd-5th Grade: Hoyt Sherman Place

Post-Tour Lesson: Reflecting on Hoyt Sherman Place

Grade Level: 3rd- 5th Grade

Subject: Social Studies & Visual Art

Duration: 60 minutes

Social Studies Standards: SS.3.22, SS.4.20, SS.5.21

Visual Arts Standards: VA.Cn.11.1.3a, VA.Cn.11.1.4a, VA.Cn.11.1.5a

Objective: Students will analyze their experiences at Hoyt Sherman Place to understand how historical events and artistic elements shape its significance and reflect broader cultural trends.

Materials Needed:

- Projector or smartboard
- Student notes from the tour
- Large poster boards or cardboard for display
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils, glue, pencils, scissors, tape, paint, note cards, paper
- Access to images and information about artworks from Hoyt Sherman Place (printouts or digital) including Hoyt Sherman Place PowerPoints
- Impact video
- Concentric circles

Lesson Outline:

1. Introduction and Discussion (20 minutes)

Students will share their observations from the tour and compare to their pre-tour expectations.

- **Discussion:** Full class, pairs, or small groups: Discuss the tour experience using notes to guide conversations. Compare observations and insights with pre-tour expectations, referring to the KWL chart and pre-written questions (hopefully answered on the tour).
- **Connections:** Explore global events during this period (e.g., Civil War, World Wars I and II, The Great Depression, Civil Rights Act). Use concentric circles to compare and contrast these timelines with Hoyt Sherman Place's development and history.

2. Social Studies- Museum Guide for A Day (30 minutes)

Students will use their knowledge of Hoyt Sherman Place to create and present their own guided tours.

- **Preparation:** Divide students into small groups. Each group will review their research notes and select key elements of Hoyt Sherman Place to include in their tour.
- **Tour Creation:** Groups will create a short script or outline for their tour, highlighting the chosen elements and their significance based on the period and its connection to world events. Assign specific parts of the tour for each group member to present. Include visuals, if possible. Practice before presenting.
- **Class Feedback:** Allow time for asking questions and providing feedback to each group following each presentation.
- **Discussion:** Reflect on what was learned from each presentation and discuss how creating the tour enhanced their understanding of Hoyt Sherman Place.

3. Visual Art- Create an Art Gallery Exhibit (30 minutes)

Students will design and present an art gallery exhibit showcasing key aspects of Hoyt Sherman Place's art collection and explaining its significance.

- **Gallery Planning:** Divide students into small groups. Each group will review their research on the artworks from Hoyt Sherman Place, brainstorm ideas for their exhibit, and focus on key pieces, artists, and the artworks' historical and cultural contexts.
- **Gallery Creation:** Each group will create a display on poster board or cardboard. The exhibit should include information about the artworks, images of the artworks (drawn or painted), and details about the artists.
- **Share Exhibits:** Groups will present their exhibits to the class, explaining the significance of each artwork and its relevance to Hoyt Sherman Place.
- **Feedback:** Allow time for asking questions and providing feedback to each group.
- **Discussion:** Discuss what was learned about the art collection at Hoyt Sherman Place and how creating the gallery exhibit deepened their appreciation of art.

5. Closure (10 minutes)

Students will share what they learned about Hoyt Sherman Place and discuss how understanding historical and artistic contexts enhances their appreciation.

- **KWL:** Complete the L (Learned) part of a KWL chart. Discuss what was learned.
- **Recap:** Summarize the key points learned during the tour and reflection activities. Discuss how historical context has changed their perspective on history and art. What was your favorite part? Would you go again?
- **Extra Time:** Explore the student supplemental materials at the back of this guide.

Teacher's Guide to Hoyt Sherman Place History 19th Century:

Feel free to inquire about borrowing the "Historic Buildings of Iowa: Des Moines" DVD to provide history of Hoyt Sherman Place long with four other historic builds across town.

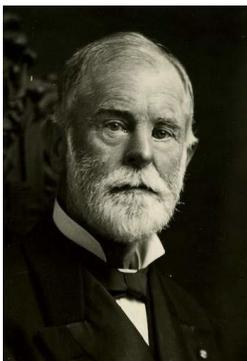
Born in 1827, Major Hoyt Sherman was the youngest son of eleven children. His family included older brothers, John Sherman, the writer of Sherman Anti-Trust Act, and Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman. President Abraham Lincoln appointed him the Army Paymaster at the start of the Civil War.

Hoyt Sherman arrived in Des Moines in 1848, and shortly thereafter, he was appointed Postmaster. He built the first post office and bank, he served on the town council, and he was very involved in local and state politics. In 1850, Hoyt purchased five acres of land for \$105. Upon his return from the war, Hoyt teamed up with others and created Equitable of Iowa Insurance Company. During this time, he also gave his counsel, his time, and his money to ensure Des Moines had schools, including a college and a waterworks system.

In 1877, the Sherman family home was completed with the help of architect William Foster. It was noted in writings to be, "a society showplace of the grandest scale." Among its distinguished guests in history were General Sherman, General Grant, General Sheridan, and Major McKinley. Sherman and his wife, Sara, raised five children, Frank, Addie, Charles, Arthur, and Helen, in the home. Major Hoyt Sherman passed away in January 1904, and his estate transferred to his heirs. They later gifted the entire estate to the city of Des Moines, with the caveat that it forever be called Hoyt Sherman Place.

In 1893, Hoyt Sherman rented his home to The Sisters of Mercy from Davenport, Iowa. Within the walls of the home, the sisters created the first Mercy Hospital. It held 52 beds and operated for nearly two years.

The Des Moines Women's Club, founded in 1885, built a gallery adjacent to the mansion. The space became the first public art museum in Des Moines. Hoyt Sherman Place is still home to the Des Moines Women's Club today.



Major Hoyt Sherman



Hoyt Sherman Place, 1877



Teacher's Guide to Hoyt Sherman Place History 20th Century-Present:

Hoyt Sherman Place stood empty after Hoyt's death until 1907 when members of Des Moines Women's Club leased the home from the city for \$1 per year.

The Des Moines Women's Club invited many guest speakers to Hoyt Sherman Place to entertain and to educate. They began raising funds for the construction of a 1,400-seat theater in 1917. When the United States entered WWI that same year, all plans were put on hold. Construction of the theater began in 1922. Des Moines Women's Club also began construction of a second gallery called the Byers Room to house the art collection presented to them by Major S.H.M. and Margaret Byers in 1912. Major Byers served under, and became a close friend of, Hoyt Sherman's brother, General William T. Sherman. In 1923, the 1,400-seat theater was completed. In its first two decades including Helen Keller and John Philip Sousa (1925), Amelia Earhart (1933), and Grant Wood (1939).

In 1977, Hoyt Sherman Place was listed on The National Register of Historic Places, a designation given to significant buildings in American history.

In 1995, the Hoyt Sherman Place Foundation was formed to preserve and enhance the landmark. The Foundation's mission is to create outstanding experiences for the cultural, historic and educational benefit of Iowa's residents and communities.

In 2004, a \$4.7 million-dollar restoration project was completed to restore the spaces to their original grandeur. Additional enhancements include air conditioning, lighting, 1,252 refurbished historical seats in the theater and interior upgrades in the art gallery.

In 2020, *The Hoyt Sherman Place: The Next 100 Years* Capital Campaign successfully raised \$5 million to build the Center for Artists and Education, which includes rehearsal and classroom spaces, dressing rooms, a green room, private meeting spaces and an administrative office suite. The project also added a VIP donor lounge to the theater mezzanine level, and the new east wing created lobby space for lawn events and includes additional public restrooms.

During the pandemic, the mansion's second floor was restored, including Hoyt and Sara's bedroom and a room dedicated to the memory of their daughter, Helen Sherman Griffith. The rooms include period-appropriate light fixtures, original paint colors, flooring and décor. A Research and Archive Library was also created to view special documents.

In 2023, Hoyt Sherman Place Theater celebrated its 100th anniversary season.

Supplemental Activities for Students

Please have students bring a notebook and pencil for taking notes or drawing during the visit. School visits may include a historical/architectural scavenger hunt, art observation stations, or museum bingo upon request. If you require any lunch spaces, materials, or accommodations, please notify the Education Programs Coordinator in advance at roeder@hoytsherman.org or (515)452-0610.

KWL (Pre-Tour)

K (Know)	W (Wonder)	L (Learned)

Research on Artist or Important Person (Pre-Tour)

Name: _____

Birthday: _____

Death Date: _____

Key Facts:

1.

2.

3.

Connections to Hoyt Sherman Place:

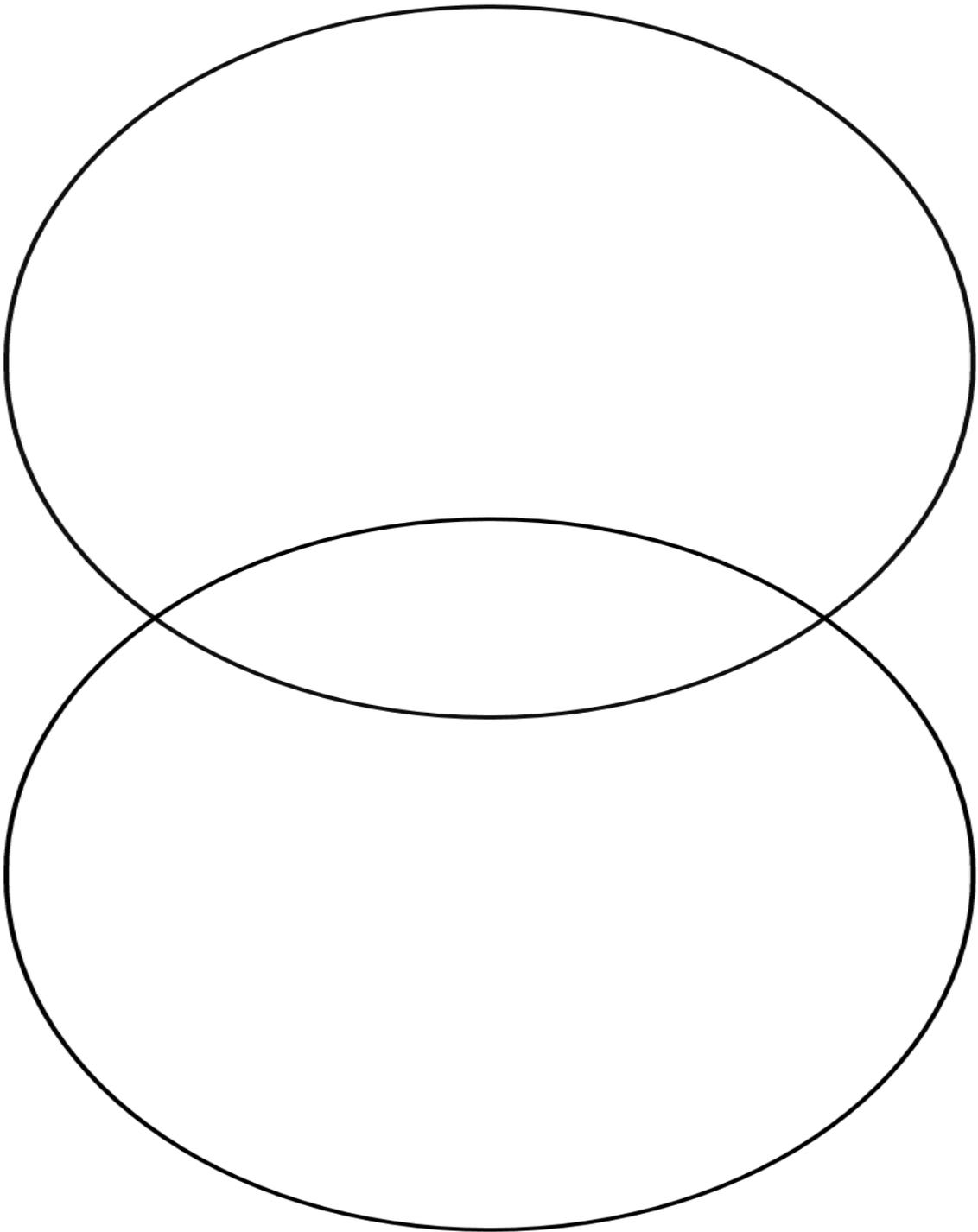
Interesting Facts:

Photo:





Compare/Contrast (Post-Tour)



Hoyt Sherman Place Word Search

T D Y X Z R G M C I U A S H N
H M B T S T E Y E G M E U I A
E J D J I Y Q T N R C U C S I
A I L D X N Q V S N C I X T R
T Y I U G S U L A A F Y Z O O
R A F G E O A M L E M H O R T
E W M A W N R J M D F T O Y C
S O G M D O G F W O V F S Z I
S I F M F A H H K J C B J O V
I S A R L S M N O I S N A M P
C R E L N G I I T Y K P F X Y
K P E N L A I N N E T N E C N
A R C H I T E C T U R E N A O
Y R E S T O R A T I O N W L Z
G M E Y M G L Z M Y N N D M S

Architecture

Centennial

Community

Gallery

History

Hoyt

Iowa

Landmark

Mansion

Mercy

Performances

Postmaster

Restoration

Theater



Hoyt Sherman Place People Unscramble

HTOY SHNRAEM

CUHEMSET ANMREHS

EMIAAL ARTERAH

LLNEEH LKELRE

RJAOM ESBRY

JNOH IPILPLH OAUSS

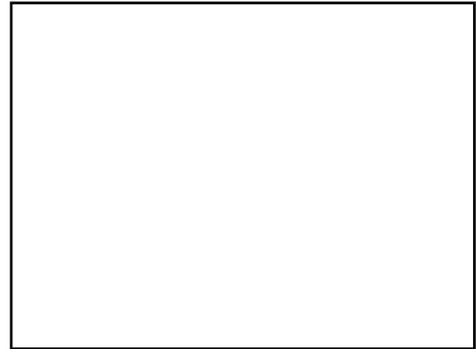
MAHAARB CIOLLNN

RZAAHYC LATYOR

Field Trip Review



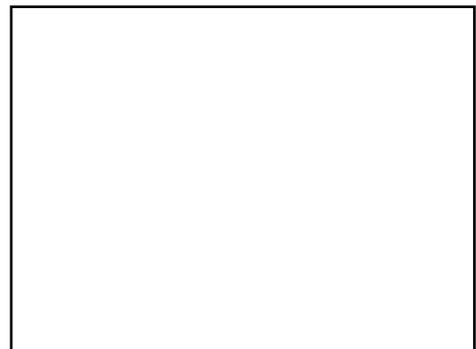
Interesting Art or Object



What Did You Learn?



Best Moment



Would You Go Back?



FAQs

How do I get to Hoyt Sherman Place?

Hoyt Sherman Place is located at 1501 Woodland Avenue, Des Moines IA, 50309.

If you are coming from the east side of Des Moines, take Interstate 235 westbound through the downtown area. Exit 7 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway exit. At the 2nd stoplight, turn left onto Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway, a one-way street, heading south. Go five blocks (3 stoplights) and turn left on Woodland Avenue. Keep heading east on Woodland Avenue five blocks, and Hoyt Sherman Place will be on your left-hand side, on the northwest corner of 15th Street and Woodland Avenue.

If you are coming from the west side of Des Moines, take Interstate 235 eastbound. Take Exit 7A for Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway. Turn right onto Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway, heading south. Go four blocks (2 stoplights) and turn left on Woodland Avenue. Keep heading east on Woodland Avenue five blocks, and Hoyt Sherman Place will be on your left-hand side, on the northwest corner of 15th Street and Woodland Avenue.

When is Hoyt Sherman Place open?

Administrative Office: Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Box Office: Monday-Friday from 10:00 AM-5:00 PM

If no events are occurring, patrons are welcome to do self-guided tours during open hours. If an event is occurring or being set up, some spaces may be unavailable for self-guided tours. Unless an event is scheduled, the facility is closed on weekends and evenings. Docent led tours can be arranged by contacting Emily Roeder at roeder@hoytsherman.org or by visiting our [tours page](#).

Is Hoyt Sherman Place accessible?

Yes. Accessible parking is available in the main parking lot located on the east side of the venue on the corner of 15th Street and Woodland Avenue.

- An accessible ramp leads from the main parking lot to the east-facing Box Office door and to the front lawn.
- An elevator is in the Box Office lobby on the lower-level east side of the venue. The elevator accesses the main floor and balcony lobbies in the theater.
- Accessible lifts are also available to access the mansion and art gallery.
- Accessible restrooms are available in the restroom annex connected to the Box Office lobby located on the lower-level east side of the venue.

How do I get information on classes or events?

Visit our website at <https://hoytsherman.org/> for all classes and events. Call [515.244.0507](tel:515.244.0507) for further questions.

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Star Contributors



Community Partners

