



# Welcome to the Hoyt Sherman Place Curriculum Guide! 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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.



## **Table of Contents**

[Welcome to the Hoyt Sherman Place 6-8 Curriculum!](#)

[K-12 Social Studies & Visual Arts Iowa Core Standards](#)

[Lesson Plans for Middle School: Pre-Tour](#)

[Prepare for Your Hoyt Sherman Place Visit](#)

[Lesson Plans for Middle School: Post-Tour](#)

[Teacher's Guide to Hoyt Sherman Place History](#)

[Supplemental Activities for Students](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Thank You to Our Sponsors](#)





## **Welcome to the Hoyt Sherman Place 6-8 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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## K-12 Social Studies & Visual Arts Iowa Core Standards

### Iowa Core Social Studies

#### 6-8 History Curriculum: Analyze Change, Continuity, & Context

**SS.6.22:** Analyze connections among historical events and developments in various geographic and cultural contexts.

**SS.7.24:** Analyze connections among historical events and developments in contemporary global issues.

**SS.8.21:** Analyze connections among early American historical events and developments in broader historical contexts.

### Iowa Core Visual Arts

#### 6-8 Visual Art Curriculum: Connecting

**VA.Cn.11.1.6a:** Analyze how art reflects changing times, traditions, resources, and cultural uses.

**VA.Cn.11.1.7a:** Analyze how response to art is influenced by understanding the time and place in which it was created, the available resources, and cultural uses.

**VA.Cn.11.1.8a:** Distinguish different ways art is used to represent, establish, reinforce, and reflect group identity.





## Lesson Plans for Middle School Students: Hoyt Sherman Place

### Pre-Tour Lesson Plan: Contextualizing Hoyt Sherman Place

**Grade Level:** 6th-8th Grade

**Subject:** Social Studies & Visual Arts

**Duration:** 60 minutes

**Social Studies Standards:** SS.6.22, SS.7.24, SS.8.21

**Visual Arts Standards:** VA.Cn.11.1.6a, VA.Cn.11.1.7a, VA.Cn.11.1.8a

**Objective:** Students will explore the historical significance of Hoyt Sherman Place, its impact on Des Moines and Iowa, and how its art and architecture reflect cultural and historical contexts.

#### Materials Needed:

- Projector or smartboard
- Images and historical documents related to Hoyt Sherman Place
- Research materials (books, articles, internet access)
- Markers, colored pencils, glue, pencils, paper
- Hoyt Sherman Place website- online collections & art gallery
- Hoyt Sherman Place PowerPoints and/or [Historic Places Video](#)
- Timeline template

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#### Lesson Outline:

##### 1. Introduction to Hoyt Sherman Place (20 minutes)

Students will examine the historical and cultural importance of Hoyt Sherman Place and its connection to global events.

- **Background Information:** Introduce Hoyt Sherman Place, discussing its evolution from a family home to a theater and art museum. Highlight key events like the construction of the theater and the role of the Des Moines Women's Club. Use PowerPoints, website, or video to guide overview.
- **Discussion:** Show a picture; Has anyone been to Hoyt Sherman Place before? What are your first impressions?
- **Historical Context:** Explore how Hoyt Sherman Place mirrors broader historical events, such as the Civil War, World War I, and early 20th-century cultural shifts.



## 2. Social Studies- Historical Connections Activity (30 minutes)

Students will create a timeline linking events at Hoyt Sherman Place with early 20th-century history and discuss how the building reflects global changes.

- **Task:** Create a comparative timeline linking events at Hoyt Sherman Place with broader historical events, analyzing how the building's changes reflect or respond to global developments. Use the provided template or create your own to document images and text supporting findings. Work individually or in pairs.
- **Discussion:** Share findings in small groups. Prompt discussions with questions about how these connections illustrate broader historical and cultural shifts. Come back together as a full class to discuss common themes or do a gallery walk.

## 3. Visual Art- Art Collage and Analysis (30 minutes)

Students will analyze Hoyt Sherman Place's art and architecture, create a timeline collage, and reflect on how these elements show changing values and cultural contexts.

- **Image Analysis:** Examine and discuss images of Hoyt Sherman Place's art and architecture. Identify features and styles reflecting cultural/historical contexts and changing times/traditions.
- **Create the Collage:** Step 1- Divide the paper into sections for different time periods or styles; 2) Glue images onto each section to show art and architecture progression or create your own images; and 3) Add captions explaining how each image reflects its era's values and identity.
- **Reflection:** If time permits, write a brief reflection on how the artwork and architecture in the collage illustrates changing values and cultural contexts in society.

## 4. Closure (10 minutes)

Students will review what they've learned and get ready for their visit to Hoyt Sherman Place.

- **Summary:** Recap key points about Hoyt Sherman Place's historical significance.
- **Preparation:** Review what students will see and do during the tour, emphasizing how they will gather information for their post-tour activities. Review museum guide and expectations. Bring a notebook and pencil to visit.
- **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 Middle School Students: Hoyt Sherman Place

### **Post-Tour Lesson Plan: Reflecting on Hoyt Sherman Place**

**Grade Level:** 6th-8th Grade

**Subject:** Social Studies & Visual Arts

**Duration:** 60 minutes

**Social Studies Standards:** SS.6.22, SS.7.24, SS.8.21

**Visual Arts Standards:** VA.Cn.11.1.6a, VA.Cn.11.1.7a, VA.Cn.11.1.8a

**Objective:** Students will analyze and synthesize their observations from the tour to understand how historical events and art reflect broader historical contexts and cultural changes.

#### **Materials Needed:**

- Projector or smartboard
- Journal or notebook
- Student notes from the tour
- Research materials (books, articles, internet access- Hoyt Sherman Place website)
- Poster paper, paper, construction paper
- Markers, colored pencils, glue, pencils, paper, paint
- Hoyt Sherman Place PowerPoints

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#### **Lesson Outline:**

##### **1. Reflective Discussion (20 minutes)**

Students will discuss their tour observations and connect them to historical and cultural contexts using guiding questions.

- **Discussion:** Share and discuss tour observations in pairs or small groups, connecting them to historical and cultural contexts. Use notes and guiding questions from the tour experience to facilitate conversation. Come back as a full group to find common themes.
- **Prompt Questions:** What was the most interesting thing you learned? Did any features or styles stand out? How has the building changed over time? Any surprises or new insights? What world events may have had the greatest impact on this space? What was your favorite part? Would you visit again?



## 2. Social Studies- Comparative Analysis Project (30 minutes)

Students will create and present a project linking Hoyt Sherman Place's history with key historical events, focusing on its milestones, cultural impact, and artistic evolution.

- **Activity:** Analyze the connections between Hoyt Sherman Place's history and significant historical events or trends.
- **Task:** In groups, create a presentation (poster, digital slideshow, or report) highlighting: 1) Historical milestones, 2) Cultural impact on Des Moines, or 3) Artistic and architectural evolution.
- **Presentation:** Share findings with the class and encourage follow-up questions. Allow time for feedback and discussion.

## 3. Visual Art- Artistic Response (30 minutes)

Students will create artwork inspired by Hoyt Sherman Place, reflecting its historical and cultural significance, and present their work with explanations.

- **Plan Your Artwork:** Choose elements from Hoyt Sherman Place to include in your artwork, reflecting its historical and cultural significance.
- **Create Your Artwork:** Use provided materials to draw, paint, or create a mixed-media piece based on your observations.
- **Questions:** Consider: What inspired your artwork? How are elements from Hoyt Sherman Place featured in your piece? How does your work reflect historical changes or values? What message does your artwork convey?
- **Sharing:** Present your artwork to the class and provide a brief description. Invite follow-up questions. Allow time for feedback and discussion.

## 4. Closure (10 minutes)

Students will summarize key learnings and reflect on the interplay between history and art.

- **Summary:** Recap key learnings from the tour and activities. Discuss how understanding historical context and artistic expression enhances comprehension of cultural and historical significance.
- **Reflection Prompt:** How does Hoyt Sherman Place reflect its time, and what does it teach us about preserving history through art and architecture? Reflect individually and write freely. Share out, if guided to do so.
- **Extra Time:** Explore the student supplemental materials at the back of this guide.

## **Teacher's Guide to Hoyt Sherman Place History 19<sup>th</sup> 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.*

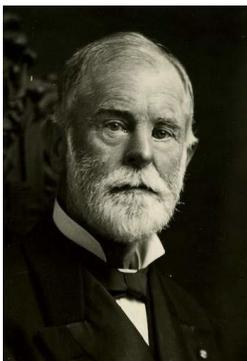
Born in 1827, Major Hoyt Sherman was the youngest son of eleven children. His family included older brothers, John Sherman, the writer of Sherman Anti-Trust Act, and Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman. President Abraham Lincoln appointed him the Army Paymaster at the start of the Civil War.

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

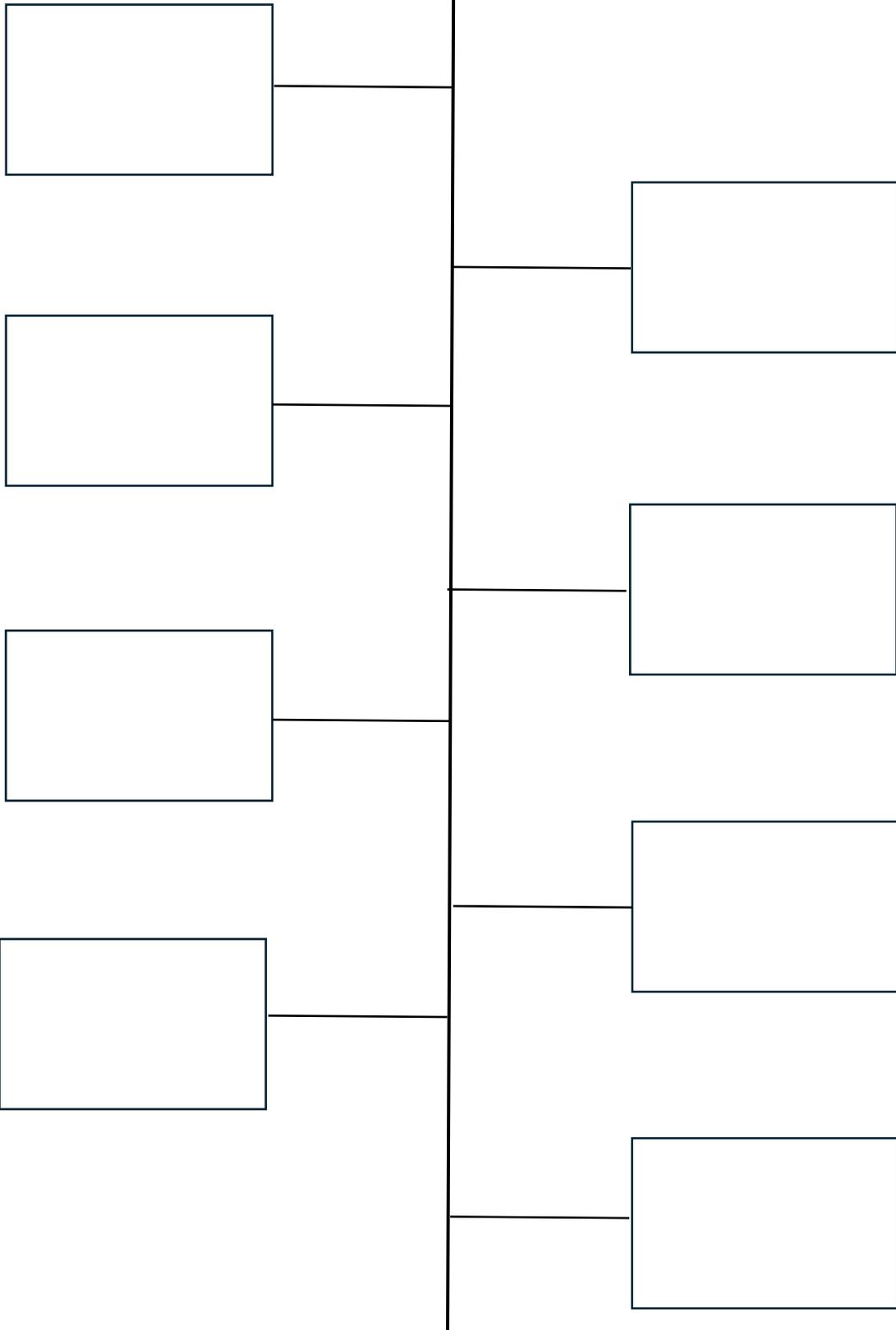
During the pandemic, the mansion's second floor was restored, including Hoyt and Sara's bedroom and a room dedicated to the memory of their daughter, Helen Sherman Griffith. The rooms include period-appropriate light fixtures, original paint colors, flooring and décor. A Research and Archive Library 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](mailto:roeder@hoytsherman.org) or (515)452-0610.

### Timeline (Pre-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

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MAHAARB CIOLLNN

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RZAAHYC LATYOR

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## **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](mailto: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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