

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation's Experience: Facilitating Accessibility and Inclusion Across Cultures and Communities

November 1, 2025

GUGGENHEIM





Grand Canal view of the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni



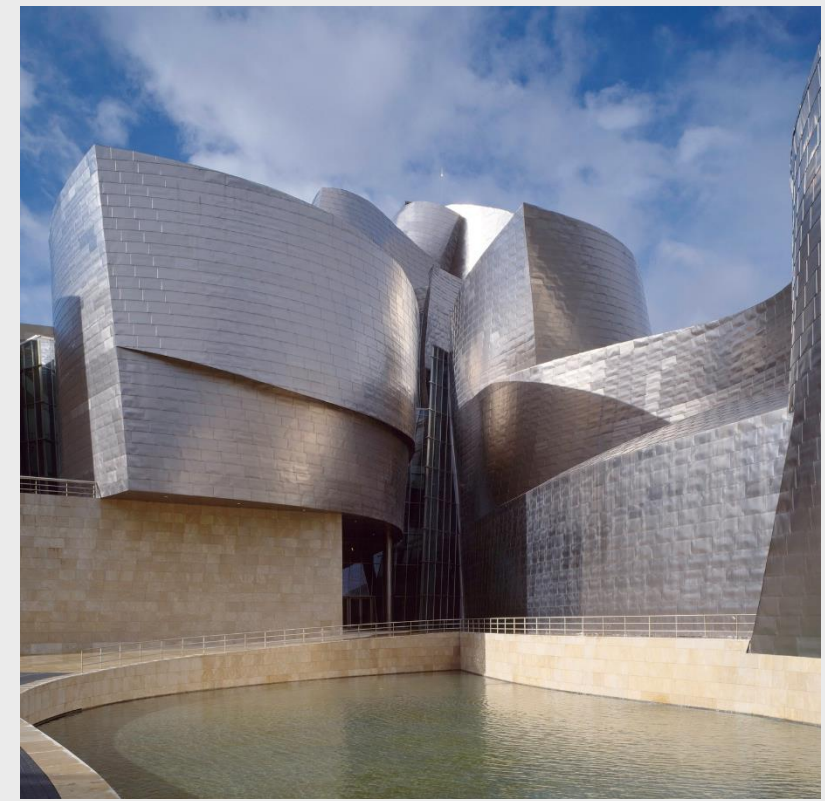
Interior view of the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni



Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
New York, USA
Photo: David Heald



Peggy Guggenheim Collection
Venice, Italy
Photo: Matteo De Fina



Guggenheim Museum Bilbao
Bilbao, Spain
Photo: David Heald

Mission

Committed to innovation, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation collects, preserves, and interprets modern and contemporary art and explores ideas across cultures through dynamic curatorial and educational initiatives and collaborations. With its constellation of architecturally and **culturally distinct museums**, exhibitions, publications, and digital platforms, **the foundation engages both local and global audiences.**



Engaging Local Communities in Venice

Venice's complex social landscape—shaped by depopulation and overtourism—requires the museum to balance global reach with strong local engagement, making residents its core audience and fostering inclusion, cohesion, and belonging.



Photo: Matteo De Fina



Photo: Arianna Ferraretto



Photo: Fei Xu

Double Meaning: Tactile Tours at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection



Photo: Arianna Ferraretto



Photo: Arianna Ferraretto



Photo: Arianna Ferraretto

Double Meaning Masterclass

The most recent Double Meaning Masterclass focused on the Optical Art displayed in the exhibition *Marina Apollonio: Beyond the Circle*.



Photo: Fei Xu



Photo: Fei Xu

Double Meaning: In Your Hands

Tactile reproductions, available throughout the exhibition spaces and at the Ticket Office, enable blind and partially sighted visitors to explore the museum independently.



The Museum as You've Never Seen It Before

Blind cultural mediators guided participants through the temporary exhibition *Marcel Duchamp and the Lure of the Copy*, offering a distinctive and engaging interpretation of Duchamp's readymades.



Photo: Arianna Ferraretto



Photo: Arianna Ferraretto

lo vado al museo / من ميرم موزه / Müzeye gidiyorum / I go to the museum / Я ИДУ В МУЗЕЙ / Je vais au musée / ฉันไปที่พิพิธภัณฑ์ / Mo lo si museum / МЕН МУЗЕЙГЕ БАРАМЫН / Ngenda mu museum / أذهب إلى المتحف / Pupunta ako sa museo / 私は美術館に行きます / زه موزيم ته خم

I Go to the Museum fosters social inclusion for people with a migratory background, using a translanguaging approach that values participants' languages and cultures.



Photo: Arianna Ferraretto



Photo: Arianna Ferraretto



Photo: Arianna Ferraretto

I Go to the Museum

The program encourages intercultural dialogue, empowering participants and creating meaningful connections with the museum’s collections.



Photo: Arianna Ferraretto

I Go to the Museum

The translanguaging is also applied in school visits with linguistically diverse student groups.



Photo: Arianna Ferraretto



Participants in the galleries



Estate a Palazzo participants

Summer at the Palazzo

Estate a Palazzo engages people over 75 in workshops, tours, and creative activities, promoting lifelong learning, social connection, and community inclusion.

The Role of the Community

Understanding and listening to the audience is essential for shaping programs, from co-design to active participation. This approach ensures the museum remains a vibrant space for social connection, dialogue, and empowerment.



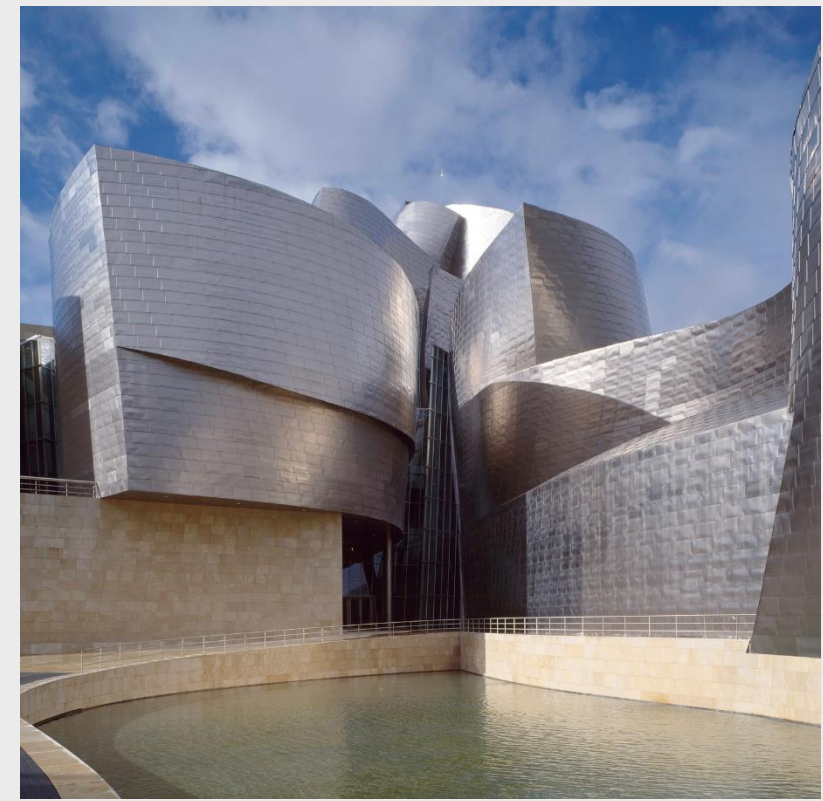
Photo: Arianna Ferraretto



Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
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Peggy Guggenheim Collection
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Guggenheim Museum Bilbao
Bilbao, Spain
Photo: David Heald

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation and Its Global Network





Mind’s Eye participants. Photo: Filip Wolak



Mind’s Eye program: Jenny Holzer. Photo: Filip Wolak

Mind’s Eye Program

Verbal description touch tours and artmaking workshops designed for participants who are blind or have low vision



Mind's Eye Program: Jenny Holzer



Hilma af Klint
Photo: Filip Wolak



Only the Young: Experimental Art in Korea, 1960s–1970s
Photo: Filip Wolak



Eva Hesse
Photo: Filip Wolak

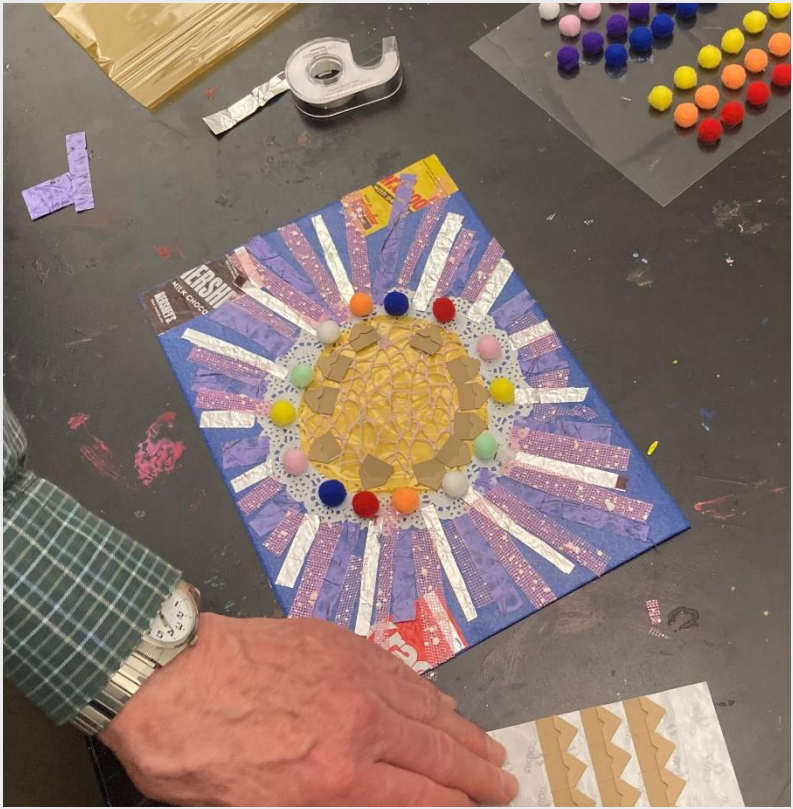
Tactile Objects for Exhibitions



Eva Hesse
Photo: Filip Wolak



Gego
Photo: Filip Wolak



Beatriz Milhazes
Photo: Karen Bergman

Tactile Artmaking Activities

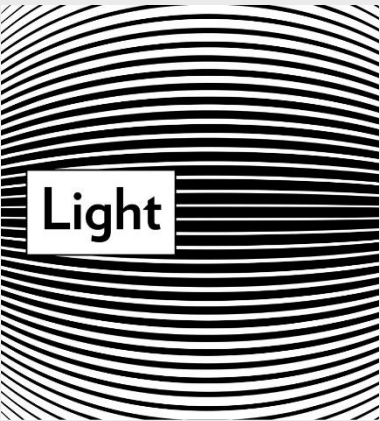


Describing our Largest Work of Art

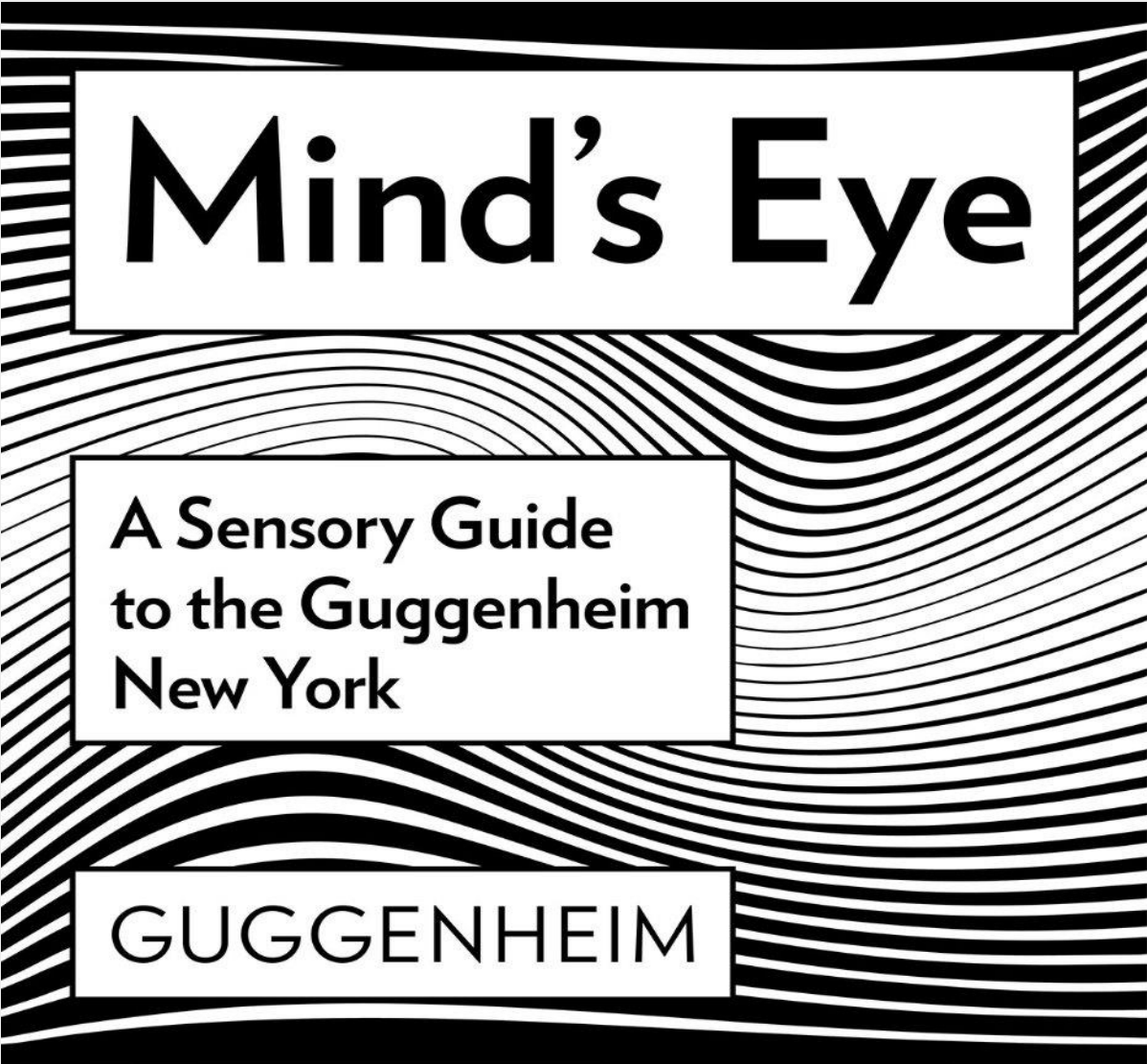
The Mind's Eye community asked for a verbal description of the iconic Frank Lloyd Wright museum building.

Mind’s Eye Sensory Guide

An audio experience describing the museum’s architecture and the sensorial experience of moving through it, centering blind and low vision experts at every stage of the production process.



Audio track titles



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Public Programs

Programs for Accessibility and Inclusion

Double Meaning: Tactile Tours at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection

Mind's Eye

I Go to the Museum

Estate a Palazzo

International Fellowship Program


The Mind's Eye audio guide initiative is a cross-constellation collaboration featuring verbal descriptions of artworks across collections and an architectural sensory guide to each museum of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation.

The digital resources produced are accessible for blind and low vision audiences and encourage close and slow looking for all listeners. The audio tracks are available in multiple languages and hosted on the Foundation's various websites.

The Mind's Eye project's goals are to increase access to places and works of art through multisensory exploration and to create a center- lived experience through audio content featuring individual sensory experiences.

Mind’s Eye Digital Constellation Project


The Mind’s Eye digital project with Venice and Bilbao aims to provide access to each Guggenheim location through description of art and architecture.



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Access the Art and Architecture of Every Guggenheim

The Mind's Eye project aims to provide access to each Guggenheim location through descriptive audio content.




Experience the Architecture of the Guggenheim New York

This audio guide features New Yorkers' voices and uses precise, evocative language to convey the Frank Lloyd Wright museum's architecture and the sensorial experience of moving through it.

This content is available in [Deutsch](#), [Español](#), [Français](#), [Italiano](#), and [普通话](#).

Experience the Mind's Eye Sensory Guide to the Guggenheim New York →




Experience the Architecture of the Guggenheim Bilbao

This audio guide features a diverse cast of voices from the blind and low-vision community and invites listeners to deeply explore visual and other sensory aspects of the Frank Gehry-designed building.

This content is available in [Deutsch](#), [Français](#), [Euskara](#), [Español](#), [Italiano](#), and [普通话](#).

Experience the Mind's Eye Sensory Guide to the Guggenheim Bilbao →




Experience Artworks in the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice

Explore detailed verbal descriptions of key artworks in the Peggy Guggenheim Collection.


This content is available in English and Italiano.

Listen to verbal descriptions of collection artworks




Description of Capricious Forms, 1937

Vasily Kandinsky



Description of Striped, 1934

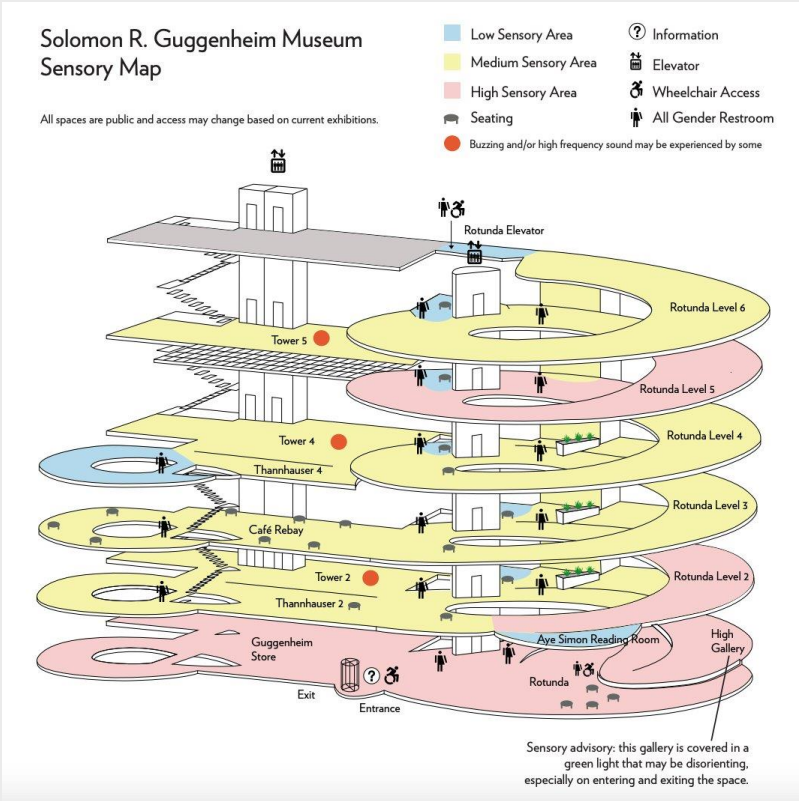
Vasily Kandinsky



Description of Gloomy Situation, 1933

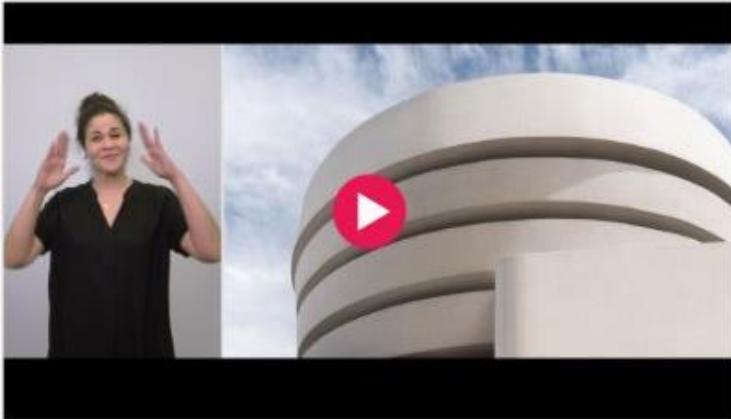
Vasily Kandinsky

Verbal Description Audio Tracks



Sensory Map to the Museum

Watch an American Sign Language welcome message



Watch Alexandria Wailes sign a welcome message from the Guggenheim.

Welcome video in American Sign Language (ASL)

Accessible Resources

Resources including recorded verbal descriptions, videos in American Sign Language, and a sensory map to the museum invite visitors to explore the museum independently and comfortably.



ASL Tour: *Only the Young*
Photo: Filip Wolak



Artmaking Workshop in ASL
Photo: Karen Bergman



Artmaking Workshop in ASL
Photo: Filip Wolak

Tours and Workshops in American Sign Language (ASL)

Partnering with Deaf educators invites agency in the co-design of programs and nurtures authentic connections with the d/Deaf community.



Sound/Off: An Evening of Poetry
Photo: Chad Unger



"Sixth Stanza" with Poet-in-Residence Meg Day
Photo: David Heald

Public Programs and Content in Sign Language

Claiming the Rotunda as DeafSpace in its unique design,
offering clear sight lines and freedom of movement.



Late Shift with Jerron Herman
Photo: Filip Wolak



Alt-Guggenheim: Ramps
Photo: Ed Marshall

A site for disability aesthetics

The body and its variations are a source of creativity. Programming in collaboration with disabled artists brings out the many ways our building is already a powerful site for disability aesthetics—and gives us further insight into how we can offer an even more welcoming experience for all visitors.

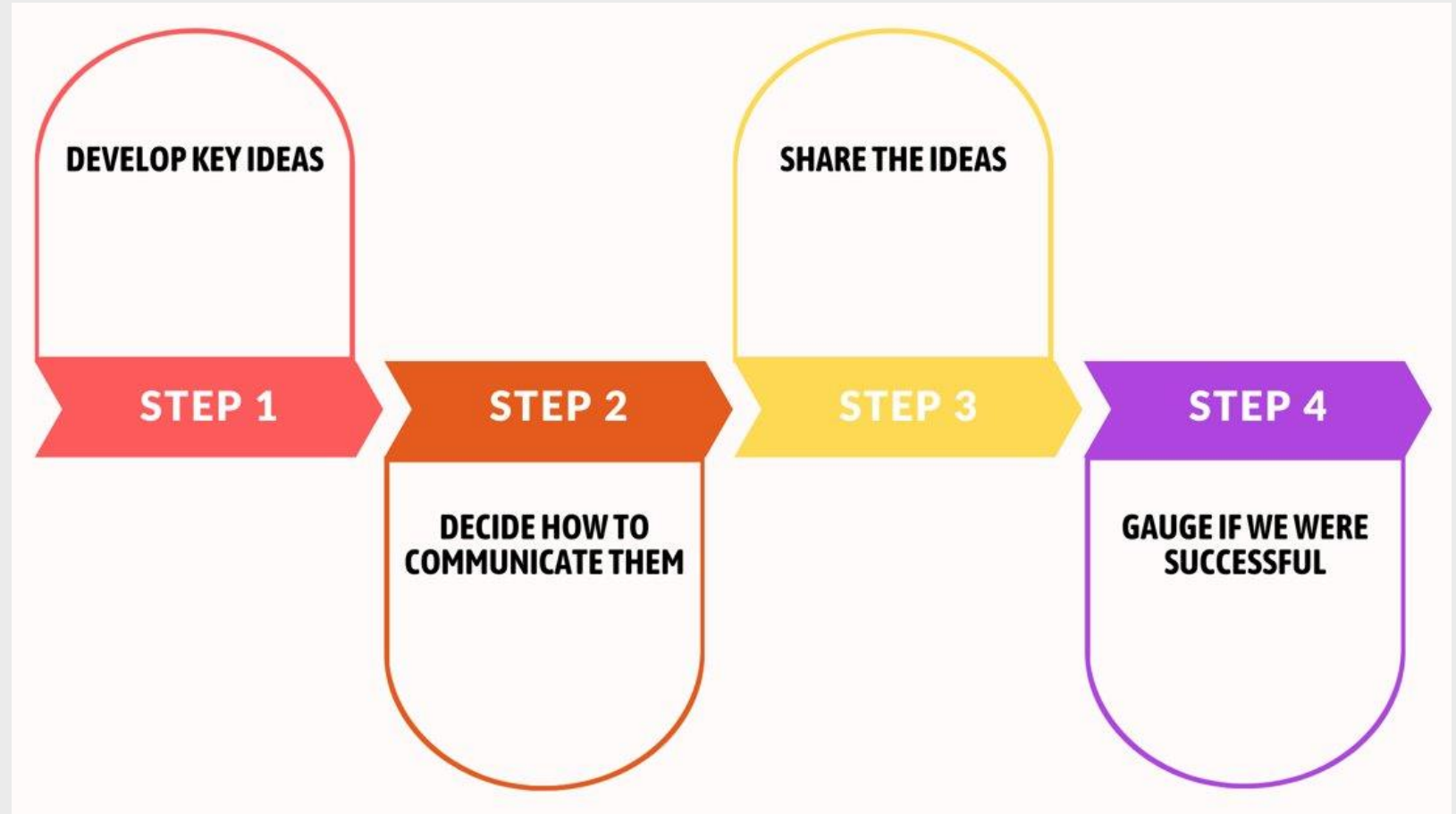
Guggenheim Interpretive Plan

An interpretive plan is a strategic roadmap to intentionally consider our audience first.

It focuses on how visitors experience our exhibitions, collection, and architecture through:

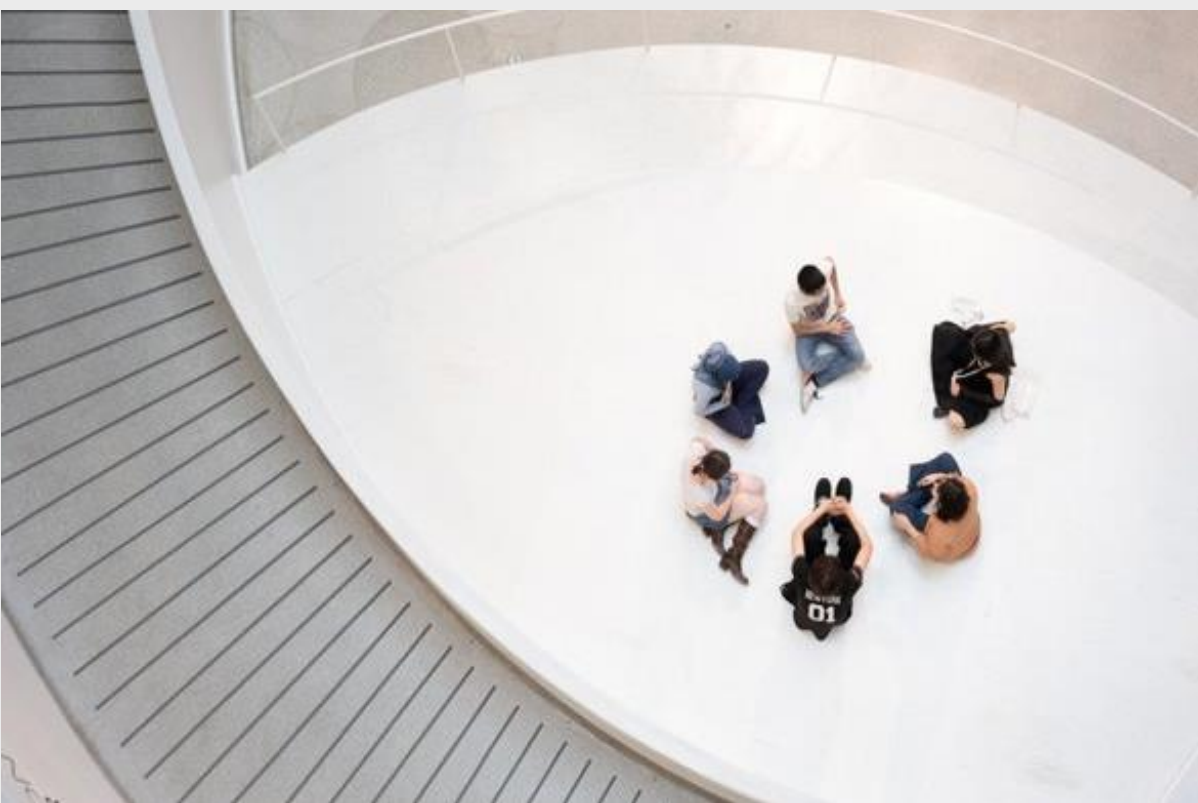
- in-gallery didactics (wall text and labels)
- programs and tours
- signage and navigation tools
- web- and app-based materials
- interpretive spaces

Effective interpretation ensures that everyone can access, experience, and make meaning from art.





A program at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection



A program at the Guggenheim New York

Key takeaways

- Collaboration
- Being authentically glocal
- Listening

Thank You!

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