

The New SAM Downtown Opens May 5 with a Free 35-hour Marathon Celebration

Saturday and Sunday, May 5th and 6th, 2007
SAAM also Free All Weekend

SEATTLE, April 23, 2007—The Seattle Art Museum invites the public to celebrate the grand opening of the new and expanded downtown museum in a festivity-filled 35 hour marathon beginning at 10:00am Saturday, May 5 and ending at 9:00pm Sunday, May 6, 2007. Admission is free all weekend but will require timed entry tickets. Tickets are only available on site May 5 and 6.

The new building doubles the museum's public and exhibition space, with two floors that can be viewed free of charge. The airy, light-filled lobby, called the Brotman Forum, welcomes visitors with Cai Guo-Qiang's powerful installation of nine cars tumbling across the two-story space. Below the Brotman Forum, at street level, are a spacious new museum shop and TASTE restaurant. Visitors ascend from the Brotman Forum to two floors of galleries installed with SAM's renowned collection of art from across cultures and eras. Allied Works Architecture's design seamlessly connects the new building to the existing museum building, completed in 1991.

Free shuttles will be running between SAM's three sites, picking visitors up on the corner of 2nd Avenue and University Street from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 5 and 6: SAM Downtown, Seattle Asian Art Museum and the Olympic Sculpture Park. The Seattle Asian Art Museum will be free all weekend and the Olympic Sculpture Park is free year round.

Also available will be free shuttles running from several YMCA locations and SAM from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. The YMCA's include Meredith Mathews East Madison YMCA and Shoreline/South County YMCA in Seattle, and Highline YMCA in Burien.

Saturday, May 5th, 10:00 a.m. – 11:59 p.m.

- 10:00 a.m. • Ribbon Cutting and Dedication Ceremony with SAM Director Mimi Gates, Governor Christine Gregoire, Mayor Greg Nickels and other officials.
- 11 a.m. • Total Experience Gospel Choir performs in the Brotman Forum

- Noon • Ropeworks Performance Troupe jump roping performance at the South Hall entrance
- 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. • Josephine Howell
- Noon- 5 p.m. • Milo the Balloon Artist
- Caricatures by Sam Day in the outdoor tent
- 1 p.m. • Bishnutz on Buckets with Electronics performance at the South Hall entrance
- 2 p.m. • Andre Feriante guitar performance in the Brotman Forum
- 4 p.m. • Rouge performing French Cabaret music in the Brotman Forum
- Adefua African Music and Dance Company Drums performance at the South Hall entrance
- The Tallboys at the First and Union Entrance
- 6 p.m. • The Alma Villegas Quintet Latin music performance in the Forum
- Bishnutz on Buckets at the South Hall entrance
- 7 p.m. • 80's Dance Duo Fankick!
- 8 p.m. • Central Services and Andrea Wittgens pop music performance in the Brotman Forum
- 9 – 9:30 p.m. • Fire Dancing by Pyrosutra at the South Hall Entrance
- 10 p.m. • Sun Tzu Sound

Sunday, May 6th 12:00am-9:00pm

- 12 a.m. • KidHops in the Brotman Forum
- 2 a.m. • Swank in the Brotman Forum
- 4 a.m. • Surrounded by Ninjas: DJ/ electronica in the Brotman Forum
- 8 a.m. • Munjuru in the Brotman Forum
- 10 a.m. • Angelo Pizaro Duo guitar performance in the Brotman Forum
- Alaskan Kuteeyaa Dancers South Hall entrance
- 11 a.m.– 5 p.m. • Face Painting by Lisa Lang in the outdoor tent
- Noon • Ragdharma Ensemble performance of Indian music in the Brotman Forum
- Oval League at the South Hall entrance

- Noon – 5 p.m. • Milo the Balloon Artist
- 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. • Live Painting by Ethan Harrington
- 2 p.m. • Hans York featuring Jon Hamer on bass in the Brotman Forum
- Bakra Bata Music and Dance Ensemble at the South Hall entrance
- 4 p.m. • Marco Trio performance in the Brotman Forum
- Bishnutz on Buckets with electronics at the South Hall entrance
- The Tallboys at the First and Union entrance
- 6 p.m. • Garfield High School Jazz Combo performance in the Brotman Forum

There will also be roaming performers throughout the weekend at First Avenue and Union Street and around the museum.

More information is at www.seattleartmuseum.org or 206-654-3100.

Grand Opening Weekend presented *Presented by* Washington Mutual; Event Sponsor, Safeco Insurance; Media Sponsors, Seattle Times, Seattle PI, King 5, Kong 6/16, and Northwest Cable News.