

# VIEWFINDERS: A School to Museum Program 2017-2018



**THE VIEWFINDERS PROGRAM** is an elementary school partnership program active in many Indianapolis schools. The program offers teacher training in Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), which is a facilitated arts-based method that develops students' vocabulary, reasoning, and critical thinking skills. Though the discussion is about a work of art, the skills that students develop as they make observations and support their ideas with evidence are relevant in all subject areas.

Additionally, Viewfinders connects teachers with a year of VTS curriculum for use in the classroom, offers IMA staff for school site visits, and engages classes in VTS-specific field trips to the IMA campus. These serve as a capstone to the VTS experiences throughout the year.



## AUDIENCE:

Elementary School Students and Educators

## PROGRAM PARTNERS:

Elementary schools in the Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS), as well as Washington and Pike Township school districts

## ENROLLMENT:

2,500 students and teachers (1,900 on tours)

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- Connect educators with resources and training to implement an arts-based teaching approach that works across disciplines
- Provide students with a lifelong tool for interpreting art and feeling competent in museum contexts

## TOTAL INVESTMENT:

