

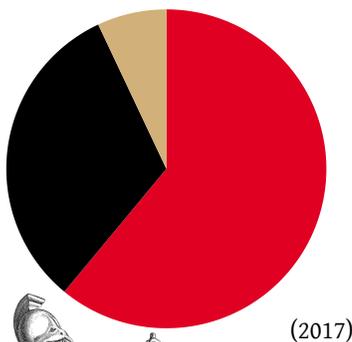
SHOULD MUSEUMS BE FREE FOR EVERYONE?



Going to a museum can feel like an adventure. You might see dinosaur bones, old airplanes, or paintings from long ago. Cincinnati has many museums that help people learn about art, science, and history. Some, like the Cincinnati Art Museum, are always free for everyone. Others, like the Cincinnati Museum Center, home to the Children's Museum and the Natural History Museum, usually cost \$10 to \$20 to visit, though sometimes they have special free days or discounts. Some people say these fees help museums stay open, while others think they are not fair to everyone. This raises an important question: should museums be free for everyone, all the time?

Museum Admissions

- Charge Admission (61%)
- Free Admission (32%)
- Suggest Donation (7%)



Did you know?

In 2018, more people went to an art museum, science center, zoo, or aquarium than a professional sporting event!



By: Faith Rider

YES, MUSEUMS SHOULD BE FREE

Free admission lets everyone explore art and history, not just those who have the money for tickets. Museums are not like regular businesses. Their goal is to teach, inspire, and protect important objects and stories for the public. In 2018, ticket sales made up only about 8% of museums' total earnings, so most funding comes from other sources anyway! When ticket costs are removed, more people visit, and museums can welcome visitors from many backgrounds. They can still earn money from food, gift shops, memberships, or special exhibits. Museums should act like libraries and be places that belong to the whole community.

NO, MUSEUMS SHOULD CHARGE ADMISSION

Running a museum costs a lot of money. Ticket sales help pay for electricity, staff, and keeping the exhibits in good shape. Without the money from admissions, museums may need to cut programs or exhibits. Tickets also ensure museums don't get too busy, which could harm the museums' objects. Crowded galleries can also make visits less enjoyable because people might have to wait longer or can't see displays clearly. Some also believe paying a small fee helps people value the experience more. Charging for entry can help museums stay open and continue their work!