



801 South 10th Street ■ Omaha, NE 68108 ■ Phone: 402.444.5071 ■ Fax: 402.444.5397 ■ www.durhammuseum.org

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The Joslyn Art Museum Contact:

Amy Rummel (arummel@joslyn.org)
Director of Marketing & Public Relations
Office: 402.661.3822

The Durham Museum Contact:

Shawna Forsberg (sforsberg@durhammuseum.org)
Director of Marketing & Public Relations
Office: 402.444.5071, Ext. 560
Cellular: 402.660.8299

The Durham Museum, Joslyn Art Museum Celebrate 80th Birthdays with Architectural Tours, Family Birthday Celebration

(Omaha, Nebr.) – In 1931, the city of Omaha became home to two facilities, one a grand station serving rail travelers in lavish style and one a bastion of culture, presenting visual art and music performances in a stunning pink marble building. Union Station, home to The Durham Museum, and Joslyn Art Museum both turn 80 this year. The public is invited to celebrate these beloved institutions with special programs this summer!

“Decades of Deco” Architectural Tours

Completed in the same year as the Empire State Building, Union Station, home of The Durham Museum, and Joslyn Art Museum are two of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the US. And the similarities don't stop there! Both buildings were constructed by Peter Kiewit Sons', have powerful quotations and figures representative of the institution's purpose engraved on their exteriors, and are marble marvels.

This summer, Durham and Joslyn offer a unique tour exploring these architectural gems. Led by docents Jean Johnson and Marita Camp, this combined walk-about in and around both buildings will inspire and entertain! From their stunning “wraps” — Durham in breathtaking terra cotta and Joslyn in shimmering Georgia Pink marble — to the cool interior of Durham's Suzanne and Walter Scott Great Hall and Joslyn's Storz Fountain Court, participants will love what they learn about Art Deco and these Omaha treasures, from their patterned floors to their soaring ceilings and all the amazing details in between.

Tour dates (advance reservations required): June 14, 23; July 2, 12, 21, 30. Tours prices: \$10 Joslyn/Durham Members; \$15 General Public.

All tours begin at The Durham Museum at 11 am; guests provide their own transportation to Joslyn. The tour program will be concluded at approximately 12:30 pm. Lunch is available for purchase in Joslyn's Café Durham. Space is limited; reservations required. Register at www.joslyn.org. With questions, call (402) 661-3862 or e-mail sseverson@joslyn.org.

Birthday Celebration

On Sunday, August 21, from noon to 5 pm, join us for a swinging day of fun for families at The Durham and Joslyn. Reminisce about the 1930s while exploring the trains and exhibits at Durham and the galleries and gardens at Joslyn. Where to start? Either place! Paid, discounted admission of just \$5 for an adult and \$4 for a child (18 and younger) earns guests a wrist band good for the day at both museums! Each organization will feature special activities for all ages (watch for a release this summer). More details at durhammuseum.org and joslyn.org.

About Joslyn Art Museum

Joslyn Art Museum is a major regional resource for the collection, preservation, and interpretation of the visual arts. Dedicated to excellence and celebrating art in all its variety, the Museum maintains a collection of art historical significance, ranging from antiquity to the present, with special emphasis on 19th- and 20th-century European and American art. Through its collection, exhibitions, and education programs, Joslyn Art Museum seeks to foster appreciation and enjoyment of art for the benefit of a diverse audience.

The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster, Baron Foster of Thames Bank, as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, library, café, and shop.

Museum Admission: \$8 adults; \$6 senior citizens (62+) and college students (with ID); \$5 ages 5-17; free for children four and younger and Joslyn members. The general public is admitted free on Saturdays, 10 am to noon. Group rates available for 10 or more with advance reservations. Call (402) 661-3833 or e-mail groupsales@joslyn.org. Increased admission for some special exhibitions. Museum Hours: Tues-Sat, 10 am-4 pm; Sun, noon-4 pm; closed Mon and major holidays. Extended hours for some special exhibitions.

About The Durham Museum

The Durham Museum, making its home in Omaha's beautiful art deco Union Station, is home to permanent exhibits that preserve Omaha's vibrant history, traveling exhibits covering subjects ranging from history and culture, to science and industry, and many entertaining, educational, family-oriented activities. The Durham Museum is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and has strong ties with the Library of Congress, National Archives, and The Field Museum. Admission is free for members and children age 2 and under; \$7 for adults; \$6 for seniors; and \$5 for children 3-12. For information about The Durham Museum please visit the museum's Web site at www.durhammuseum.org.

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