AWARENESS OF SLU MUSEUMS

Fall 2017

A Project of the Pius/Medical Center Libraries Assessment Committee

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose of Study

During Fall Semester 2017, the Pius/Medical Center Libraries Assessment Committee conducted a study of Saint Louis University's students, faculty, and staff about their awareness, perceptions, and expectations of the three main Saint Louis University museums, Cupples House, Museum of Contemporary Religious Art (MOCRA), and Saint Louis University Museum of Art(SLUMA). This study consisted of a ten-question online survey followed by a series of four focus groups. The museums have been under the administration of Dean of Libraries David Cassens since July 1, 2016. Dean Cassens requested this study for the purposes of collecting and analyzing data for a vision statement for the museums to be prepared by David Brinker, Assistant Director of the Museum of Contemporary Religious Art. The response to the survey was excellent; we received 976 responses to the survey and 23 participants in the follow-up focus groups. This rate of response leads the committee to believe that respondents were eager to offer their thoughts about the museums.

Findings

Awareness and Use of Museums

- 74% of survey respondents were aware of Cupples House, 69% of MOCRA, and 58% of SLUMA
- During their first year at SLU, 79% of students heard about Cupples House, 60% about MOCRA, and 32% about SLUMA
- Students first heard of museums from professors in their classes, fellow students, or by walking in. 45% had heard of a museum, but not SLUMA
- Majority of faculty first heard about museums within their first five years on campus: 67% of Cupples House, 66% of MOCRA, and 68% of SLUMA
- Faculty first heard about museums from colleagues, SLU Newslink, a campus ad/flyer, by walking in, or other

Perception and Use of Museums

- For each museum, at least 21% of the respondents first visited the museum on their own with the most popular museums for these independent visits being Cupples House, followed by SLUMA, then MOCRA
- Majority of respondents had never visited a SLU museum. For those who had visited a museum, most had visited 1 to 2 times. For those who had visited more than 3 times, they visited Cupples House the most.
- The survey responses indicated that Cupples House had the most visits during the past year, so it may be the most popular, the most convenient or both
- Perception questions found that museum patrons most enjoyed the exhibit space, the artwork, and self-guided tours
- Cupples House is the most popular museum, but 20% and 16% of the respondents most enjoyed the artwork in SLUMA and MOCRA, respectively. Cupples House was less appreciated for its artwork or exhibit space.

Expectations of Museums

- 13% indicated no clear expectations regarding museums
- 11% commented on lack of awareness and need for better publicity
- Positive comments about the range and diversity of exhibits
- Twenty-two respondents were interested in exhibits with some kind of local connection to the history of SLU, the Jesuits, and/or St. Louis
- Closer connection with the university's educational mission, enriching the university curricula
- Desire for a variety special events to be held at museums

Focus group comments echoed those above, and the respondents expressed their gratitude at being asked for their opinions.

Future Actions

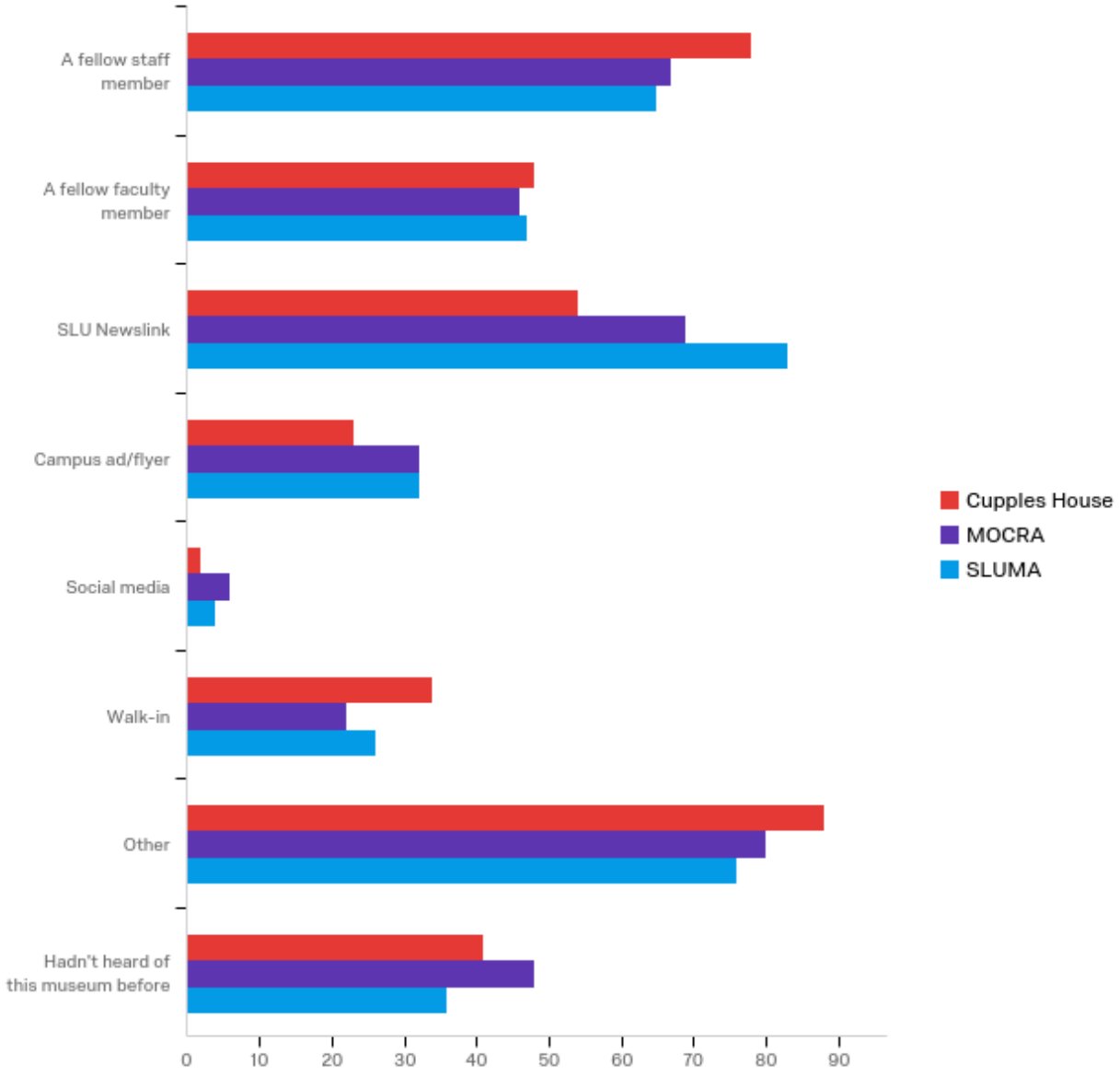
Goals

- Increase promotional efforts of museums benefits to students, staff, and faculty
- Cultivate relationships with faculty to make them aware of course-related benefits of particular exhibits or artists

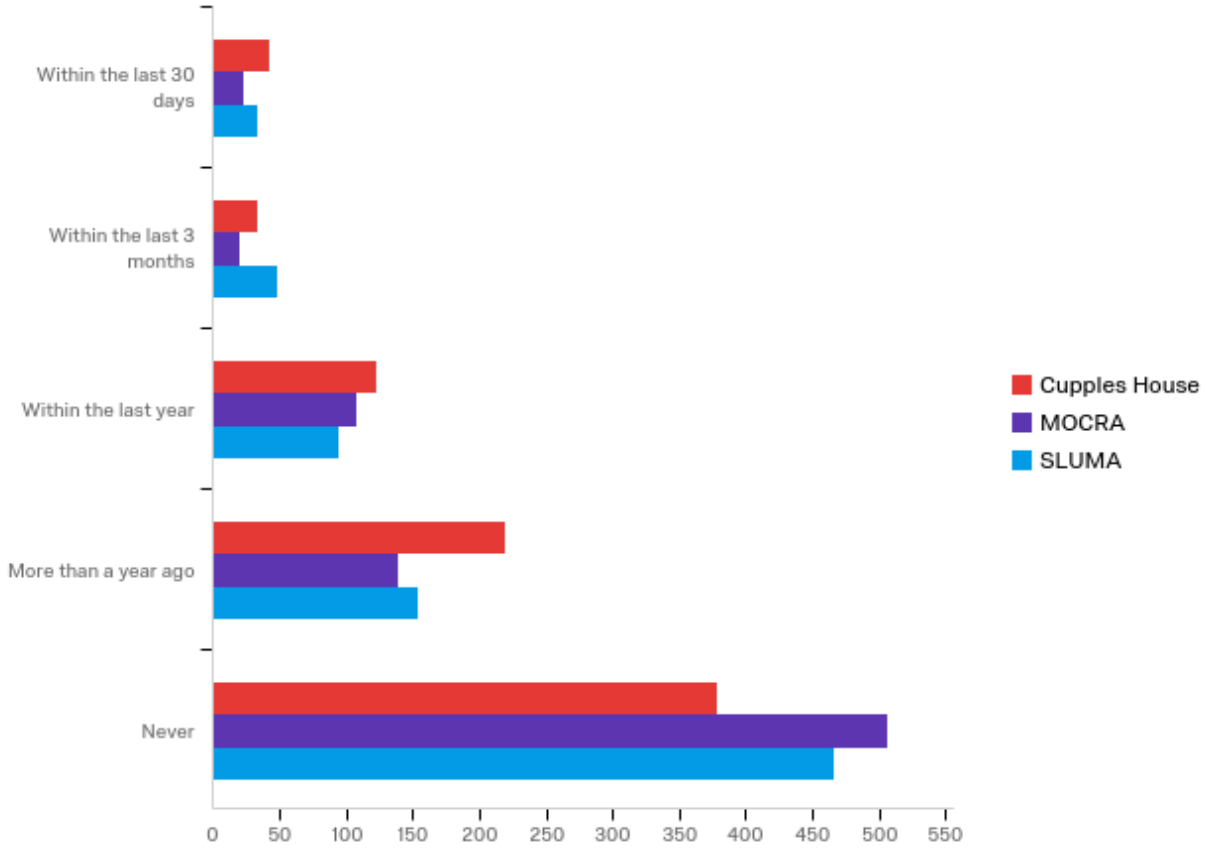
Implementation

- Formulate a marketing plan to faculty, emphasizing the improved academic outcomes for students who visit museums
- Work with faculty to increase integration of museums with course curricular needs
- Increase visibility of museums through signage, social media, Newslink
- Change or expand museum hours
- Offer social events for students or targeted audiences
- Consider forming an advisory board with a Development staff person on it
- Collaborate with other museums outside the University and with Grand Center arts programs

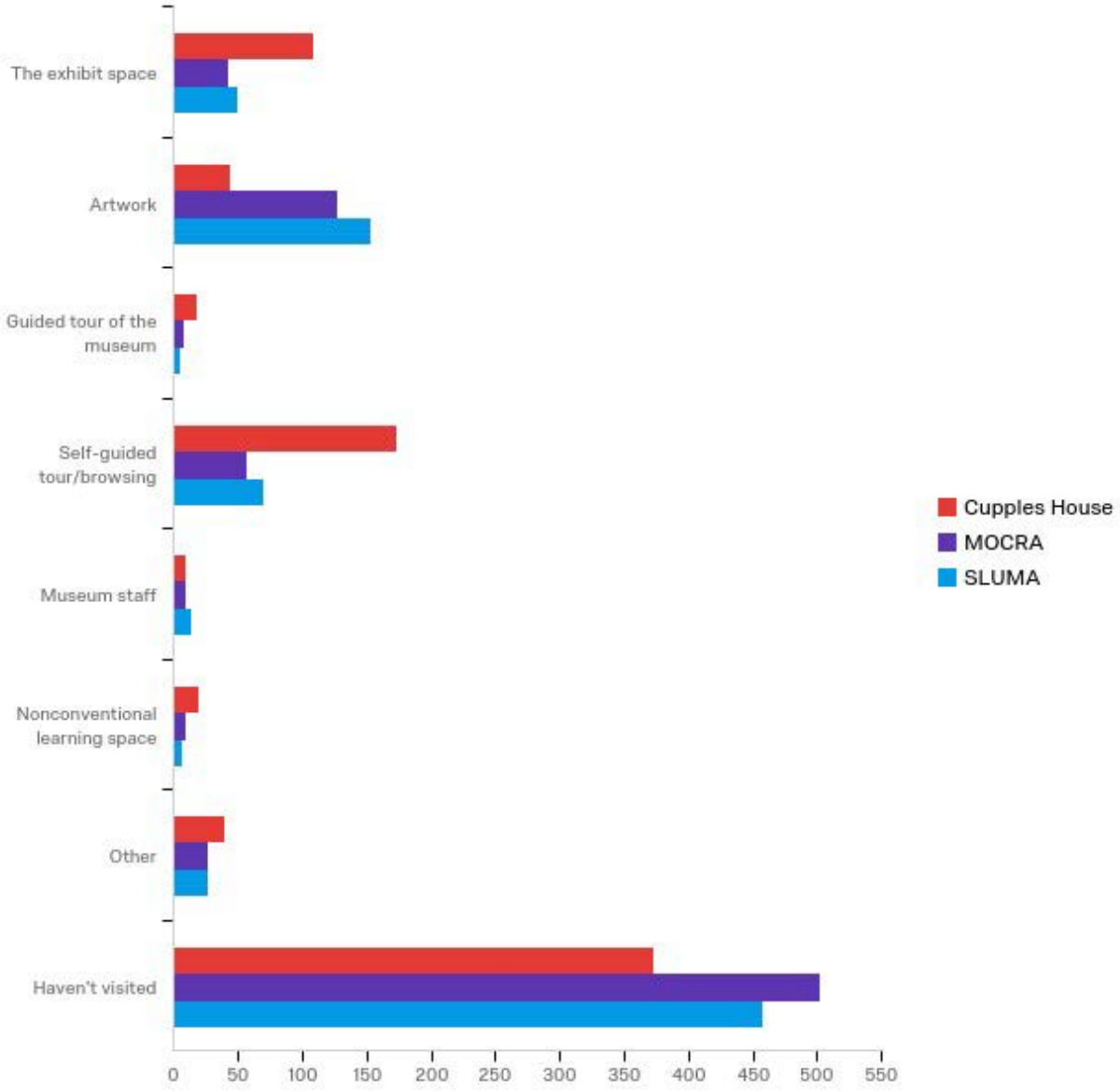
How Faculty and Staff First Heard about SLU Museums



Respondents' Most Recent Visits to SLU Museums



What Respondents Most Enjoyed about SLU Museums



MAIN REPORT

Introduction and Overview

The Saint Louis University museums have been under the administration of the Dean of Libraries, David Cassens, since July 1, 2016. In fall 2017, the Dean asked the Pius/Medical Center Libraries Assessment Committee to conduct an assessment of awareness, perceptions, and expectations of the museums by campus faculty, students, and staff. The results are to be used in a vision statement by the museums prepared by David Brinker, Assistant Director, Museum of Contemporary Religious Art, at the request of the Dean of Libraries.

Participants

Full-time and part-time faculty, staff, and undergraduate and graduate students were invited to complete a 10-question survey. The second stage of this study invited the same group plus targeted patrons of the museums to participate in focus groups. These focus groups were conducted after the survey to expand on certain topics from the surveys.

Method and Procedure

Two methods of data collection – an online survey and focus groups – were used to ascertain the SLU community's awareness and perceptions of the SLU museums contributions to teaching, research, and general cultural knowledge. The libraries have a small coterie of library faculty and staff who have been trained over the past few years to conduct focus groups, and eight volunteered for our four planned sessions.

Online survey

The survey was open from October 2–16, 2017, and received 976 responses from faculty, students, and staff. See Appendix A for survey questions.

Focus Groups

Four focus groups were held on November 7, 8, and 9, 2017. The 23 participants included five faculty members, four students, and 14 staff members. Eight Pius and Medical Center librarians and library staff facilitated the focus groups. The facilitators recorded the focus groups and took notes in which all participants' anonymity was maintained. See Appendix B for the questions asked in each session.

Findings

Selected Findings about Awareness

The first few questions of the survey were used to gauge patron's current awareness of SLU Museums. All patrons were asked "Before taking the survey, which SLU museums were you aware of?" (See Appendix A, Q2.) The responses to this question were quite positive: 74% of patrons were aware of Cupples House; 69% of patrons were aware of MOCRA; and 58% were aware of SLUMA. If a patron identified as not being aware of any SLU museum, they skipped any remaining awareness questions. All other survey questions surrounding awareness had separate results for students, and for faculty/staff.

Students were asked "When did you first hear about the SLU museums?" (See Appendix A, Q2a.) It was encouraging that many students heard about each of the SLU museums their very first year on campus. The survey results showed that during their first year at SLU, 79% heard about Cupples House, 60% heard about MOCRA, and 32% heard about SLUMA.

Students were then asked a follow-up question: "How did you first hear about the SLU museums?" (See Appendix A, Q3a.) Most of the responses centered on these t: a professor in a class I took, a fellow student, walk-in, other, or hadn't heard of this museum before. The "hadn't heard of this museum before" response was concerning for SLUMA, with 45% of students stating that they have heard of a SLU museum, but it was not SLUMA.

Faculty and staff were asked "When did you first hear about the SLU museums?". (See Appendix A, Q2b.) The overwhelming majority first heard about SLU museums "within my first five years on campus as faculty or staff." The results showed that 67% had heard about Cupples House, 66% about MOCRA and 68% about SLUMA during their first five years at SLU.

Faculty and staff were then asked a follow-up question: "How did you first hear about the SLU museums?" (See Appendix A, Q3b.) Faculty and staff first heard about SLU museums in a variety of ways. The most popular responses: a fellow staff member; a fellow faculty member; SLU Newslink; campus ad/flyer; walk-in; or other.

Selected Findings about Museum Use and Perception

In the second part of the survey, students, faculty and staff were asked the same set of questions. Question 4 asked respondents about the circumstances of their first visit to a SLU museum. For each museum, at least 379 respondents (48%) had never visited, indicating either a lack of interest or a lack of awareness (see Appendix A, Q4). However, for all three museums, at least 165 respondents (21%) answered that they had first visited the museum on their own. The most popular museum for these independent first visits was Cupples House with 279 respondents, followed by SLUMA with 187 respondents, and MOCRA with 165 respondents. The other possible responses to this question, "Other" and "With a Class", were chosen by a relatively low number of respondents. Cupples House had the highest number of respondents who answered "Other" with 110 (14%), and MOCRA had the highest number of respondents who answered "With a Class" with 56 (7%).

Question 5 asked respondents how many times they had visited a SLU museum. The majority of respondents answered that they had never visited a SLU museum (see Appendix A, Q5). Also similarly to question 4, Cupples House had the lowest number of non-visitors, with 381. Of those respondents who had visited a SLU museum, most answered that they had visited one or two times. Cupples House had the highest number with 231 (29%), followed by MOCRA and SLUMA. Of those who had visited a museum three or four times, or five or more times, Cupples House also had the highest percentage in each case.

Question 6 asked respondents how recently they had visited a SLU museum. Following the trend set by questions 4 and 5, most respondents again answered that they had never visited a SLU museum (see Appendix A, Q6). Again, Cupples House had the lowest number of non-visitors with 379 (48%). Of those respondents who had visited a SLU museum, the largest number answered that they had visited either within the past year or more than a year ago, and among these respondents, many (342) indicated that they had visited Cupples House. With Cupples House appearing to get the most use among those who completed the survey, it would seem that this museum is either the most popular, the most convenient to visit, or both. In this same timeframe 247 respondents indicated that they had visited MOCRA, and 248 indicated that they had

visited SLUMA. A very small percentage had made recent visits. Within the previous 30 days 42 of the respondents (5%) had visited Cupples House, which was the highest among the three museums. SLUMA ranked the highest for having visitors within the previous 3 months, with 48 (6%).

The first six questions of the survey provide an indication of campus awareness of SLU museums, as well as their popularity. Having this information, it was important to evaluate the perception of the museums among SLU constituents. Questions 7 and 9 on the survey provide the most useful information for evaluating perception. Question 7, which asked respondents what they enjoyed most about the SLU museums, provided quantitative data to address perception. The question provided seven possible answers for those who had visited a museum: The exhibit space, Artwork, Guided tour of the museum, Self-guided tour/browsing, Museum staff, Nonconventional learning space, and Other. Among these possible answers, the exhibit space, artwork and self-guided tour/browsing were the most popular (see Appendix A, Q7). Cupples House was most enjoyed for its space (14%) and for self-guided tours and browsing (22%). However, the artwork was most enjoyed in the other two museums. 153 respondents (20%) indicated that they enjoyed the artwork most in SLUMA, followed by 127 (16%) respondents for MOCRA. Looking at the data for questions 4 through 6, it is clear that Cupples House is the most popular among the SLU museums. However, question 6 also suggests that artwork at MOCRA and SLUMA is more well received than those at Cupples House, which also falls behind the other two museums when combining the enjoyment of both artwork and exhibit space.

Among the other four possible answers to question 7, "Other" was chosen the most, with the three remaining options each being selected by a relatively low number of respondents. Having this information, it was also important to analyze respondents' answers to the final open-ended question of the survey, which give some further indication of SLU community members' perceptions of the SLU museums. Question 9 asked respondents if they had any other questions or comments about any of the SLU museums. There were a total of 323 responses, with most (188) indicating that they had no other questions or comments. Among those respondents who chose to offer comments or questions, many were neutral, or indicated that there needed to be more advertising or sharing of information about the museums, such as hours, locations, and exhibit information. However, a significant number of responses (36) were also positive. One respondent commented:

> "You're doing a fantastic job!! And looking at the art with carefully selected classical music is even more enchanting."

Another added:

> "I've done many things with my class and with off-campus groups at all three museums. The staff has always been helpful. I'm quite happy with them."

There were also a few (7) negative comments. Two of these comments had to do with an apparent failure of the museums to adhere to posted hours on specific occasions. Others indicated a general dislike of one or more museums for various reasons.

Looking at the data from question 4 through 7, and at the comments provided in question 9, it is clear that the museums are highly valued by those that use them. Although many respondents indicated that they had not visited any of the museums, many also indicated through questions and comments their desire for the museums to advertise and make general information more visible. Those who have visited one or more of the museums appear to have benefited from the experience and have a positive perception of the spaces and works on display. Although there were some negative comments from respondents, there were many more

positive comments, further supporting the positive perception of the museums among members of the SLU community.

Selected Findings about Expectations

The most striking aspect of the responses to this question was the lack of any clear expectations regarding the museums on the part of many (48/368 – 13%). This was the largest proportion of respondents that could be grouped in a common category. There was also a large number of respondents who indicated that the museums could do a better job of creating awareness of the presence of these institutions on campus. Forty respondents commented on the lack of awareness and the need for better publicity (11%). The following comment is typical.

> "I would like to raise awareness about [the museums]. Send out more information about them. I don't know what they are about, I didn't even know we had museums at school. The times and dates when they are open should be more widespread."

There is probably a degree of correlation between these two categories of response (lack of expectations need for awareness); as one respondent said:

> "I did not have any expectations due to not aware SLU museums existed."

On the other hand, the lack of expectations does not necessarily correlate with a lack of interest as indicated by the following comment:

> "I don't have any expectations, but am very interested in seeing the museums and exhibits."

Some respondents did not actually speak in terms of "expectations" so much as what they had enjoyed about the museums in the past and (by implication) what they would like to see more of. There was no overall theme emerging from these responses; the range and diversity of exhibits and events mentioned was extensive and included perhaps the majority of exhibits and events held at the museums over the past several years (different individuals having their own favorite). Events and exhibits specified included the Stray Rescue exhibit (mentioned by several), various events at Cupples House, events hosted by SLUMA, community art exhibits, etc.

With respect to types of exhibits desired, again, the range was broad and diverse. Some general themes regarding desired exhibits did emerge, however. Twenty-two responses mentioned that they would be interested in exhibits with some kind of local connection to the history of SLU, the Jesuits, and/or St. Louis. (Although one respondent specifically mentioned a desire for exhibits NOT related to SLU or the Jesuits!) A further 11 respondents indicated a broad interest in historical exhibits.

Another significant group of responses (18) mentioned the importance of some connection/correlation between museum events and exhibits and what takes place on campus with respect to campus programs, curriculum, university mission, etc.; in other words, that there be a closer connection with the university's educational mission. Comments referring to "enriching the university curricula," museum visits "as part of a course," and exhibitions "connected to the courses being offered" exemplify such responses.

Several comments indicated a preference for socially conscious/politically aware art exhibitions.

Another "expectation/desire" mentioned by several was for special events to be held at the museums. The kinds of events specified was quite varied and included wine and cheese receptions, tea parties, events hosted by students, events specifically for students, award/honor presentations, speaker events (by artists, faculty), poetry readings, film nights, conference receptions, holiday/seasonal events, donor events, etc. One response suggested that the museums (especially Cupples House) are perceived more as event venues than museums.

There was a scattering of negative comments, most of which pertained to the cost of operating museums, especially during a time of budget crisis.

Participants' Suggestions and Comments from Survey

See Q8 and Q9 in the survey in Appendix A.

Participants' Suggestions and Comments from Focus Groups

Overall, participants in the focus groups expressed that they were grateful to have been asked for their opinions regarding the SLU museums. They presented numerous examples of how the museums might improve marketing and to meet various needs of students, faculty, and staff.

Purposes for museums' existence

There was a lengthy discussion about what SLU Museums exist for. Participants felt there should be a clear mission and vision for the museums. They saw museums as a multifunctional university unit with education, fund raising, etc. Participants thought that if the museums were more "integral to the curriculum and mission, it would be a natural, more organic way to raise attendance and awareness."

Obstacles: proximity, hours, parking

Many participants mentioned they were not aware of the hours and that it was difficult to go during lunch, but it was also difficult to go to openings on evenings. Flexible hours (e.g., lunch break hours) are necessary due to various needs. Someone suggested that MOCRA events in the afternoons are easier to get to and to plan around. The Law School and schools on the south campus are far, and visitors always need to take shuttles/cars to the museums. Parking could be an issue for off-campus guests and alumni, if it isn't free.

Awareness

Many participants mentioned they were not aware of the events and exhibitions going on. Some participants mentioned MOCRA's podcasts are wonderful. They suggested a few communication channels to improve awareness: 1) present at orientations for new students (including international students) and new faculty; 2) schedule one-on-one meetings with academic departments to discuss what museums can do for the departmental teaching; 3) emails from the museums; 4) social media; 5) postcards work well for internal SLU mail to announce events; 6) Large, clear signage outside museums with events and hours; 7) one museum person to contact for coordination; 8) centralized website linked to the university's homepage, with updated news and events information; 9) creating "Museums & galleries @ SLU" calendar setting available as a convenience to add and receive notifications—could turn it off as needed; as well as other calendars settings, such as "Events at SLUMA," and "Student show opening", etc. 10) weekly or monthly newsletter, like CTTL.

Curriculum integration

In a major reinforcement of the survey comments, faculty asked for advance notice of the exhibits to better plan for instruction (e.g., notice in October for planning the instruction in the coming spring semester). Besides Fine and Performing Arts, any number of disciplines could enrich their curricula and other scholarly activities (e.g., conferences) by having faculty as part of exhibits/events planning. The need for cooperation between museums and departmental curricula and subject education was suggested. Further cooperation was suggested with professional museum staff and faculty from different departments and students' participation with employment/internships, even perhaps developing a Master level class on Museum Studies. Focus group participants liked the idea of distributing a Museum Use guide specific to individual departments, so they learn how to use the museum and who to contact.

Other Suggestions

The rich art collection on campus can be displayed more effectively by using available space across campuses, such as the School of Medicine in Schwitalla Hall, Boileau Hall, and Pere Marquette Gallery. The art collections on campus should be cataloged into an online database for retrieval. Hands-on and experiential learning activities were suggested. Another idea was to form an advisory board with students, faculty, and community members on it. Someone from Development could be on the board or planning committees and raise money at events. Some respondents compared the Library Associates to a possible friends' group that might be started for museums. In order to promote museums with social media tools, one suggestion was to take a photo of museum paintings, sculptures, etc., and post with "Where am I?" or "What is this?" to spur interest. Other ideas included connecting museum exhibits/events with other University events across campuses, bringing new students to the top floor of SLUMA to see the Jesuit exhibit, and collaborating with other museums outside the University and with Grand Center arts programs.

Of course, there were elements of the museums that these participants appreciated which are listed under Question 5 in Appendix C. Examples: they like the impressive spaces; aesthetics and decoration; exhibition topics; tour guides for exhibits; the differences among the three museums; and catering service at receptions. See Appendix C for a full list of the focus group responses.

Assessment Committee Recommendations

The committee concluded that the museums have various opportunities to publicize themselves as museums on this campus, not only as venues for events not connected to museums. At the same time, we realize that the challenges to implementing some of the suggestions are limited staff and budget. Some participants in the survey and focus groups mentioned forming an advisory board composed of faculty, staff, students, and a development staff member.

Students need to know museum hours and see more visible signage, and faculty would appreciate being asked how museums can be integrated into their courses and programs. Just as librarians have to be proactive about letting faculty and students know what we can do for their teaching, research, and learning, museums could contact faculty in academic departments about integrating museums and their exhibits into the curriculum. Perhaps the museums could explore opportunities to collaborate with subject librarians on communication and outreach to faculty.

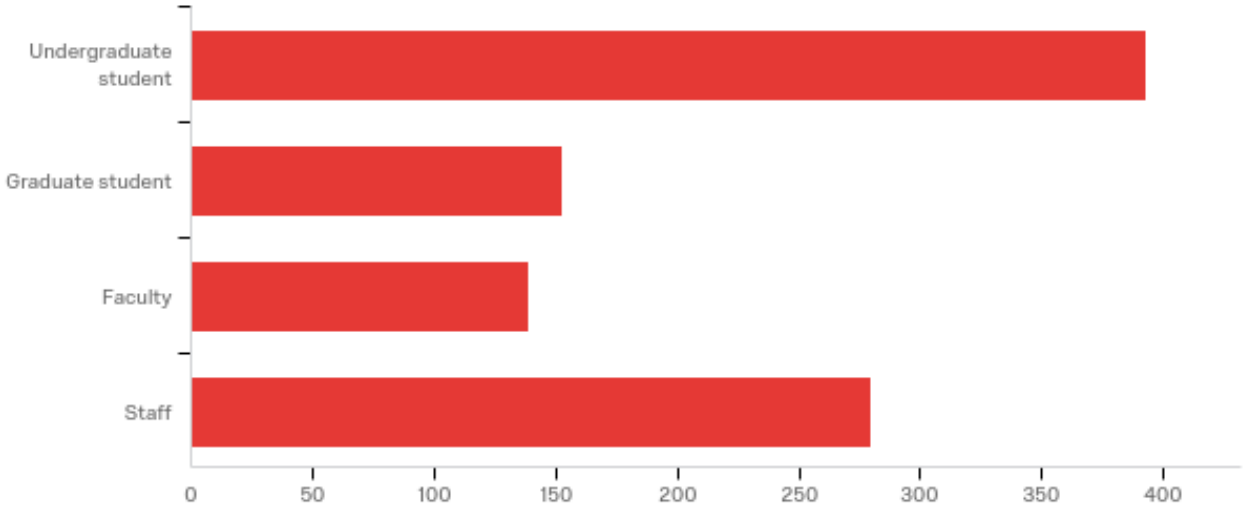
APPENDIX A: QUALTRICS SURVEY QUESTIONS

Introduction

In July 2016, the three Saint Louis University museums – Cupples House, Museum of Contemporary Religious Art (MOCRA), Saint Louis University Museum of Art (SLUMA) – were placed under the administration of the Dean of Libraries. In order to provide better service to the SLU community, we're seeking input about your awareness and use of the SLU museums.

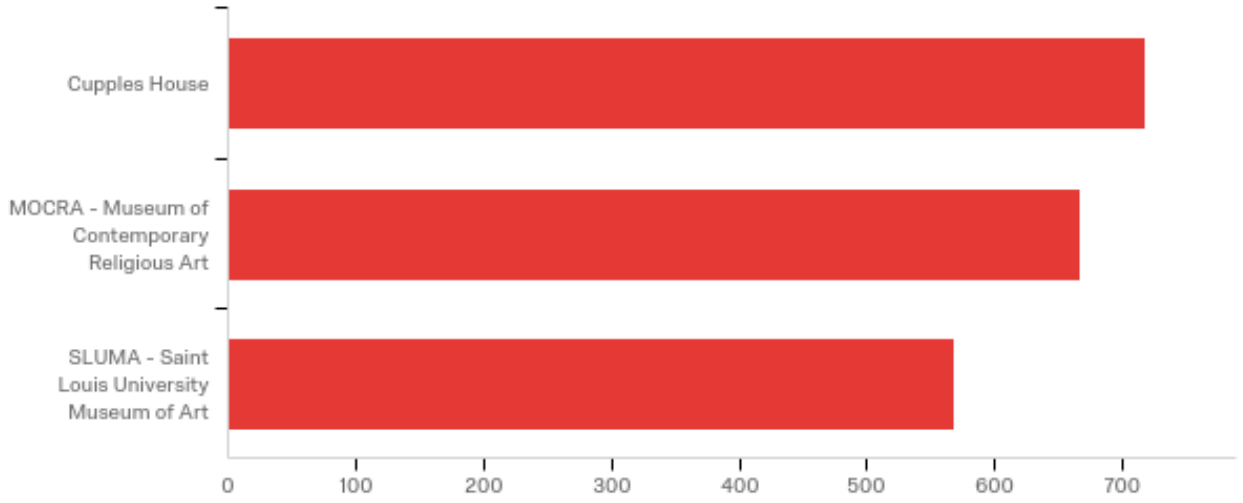
This survey should take between 1 and 5 minutes to complete. Your responses are completely anonymous, so please answer openly and candidly. Thank you!

Q1 - Which of the following best describes your SLU status?



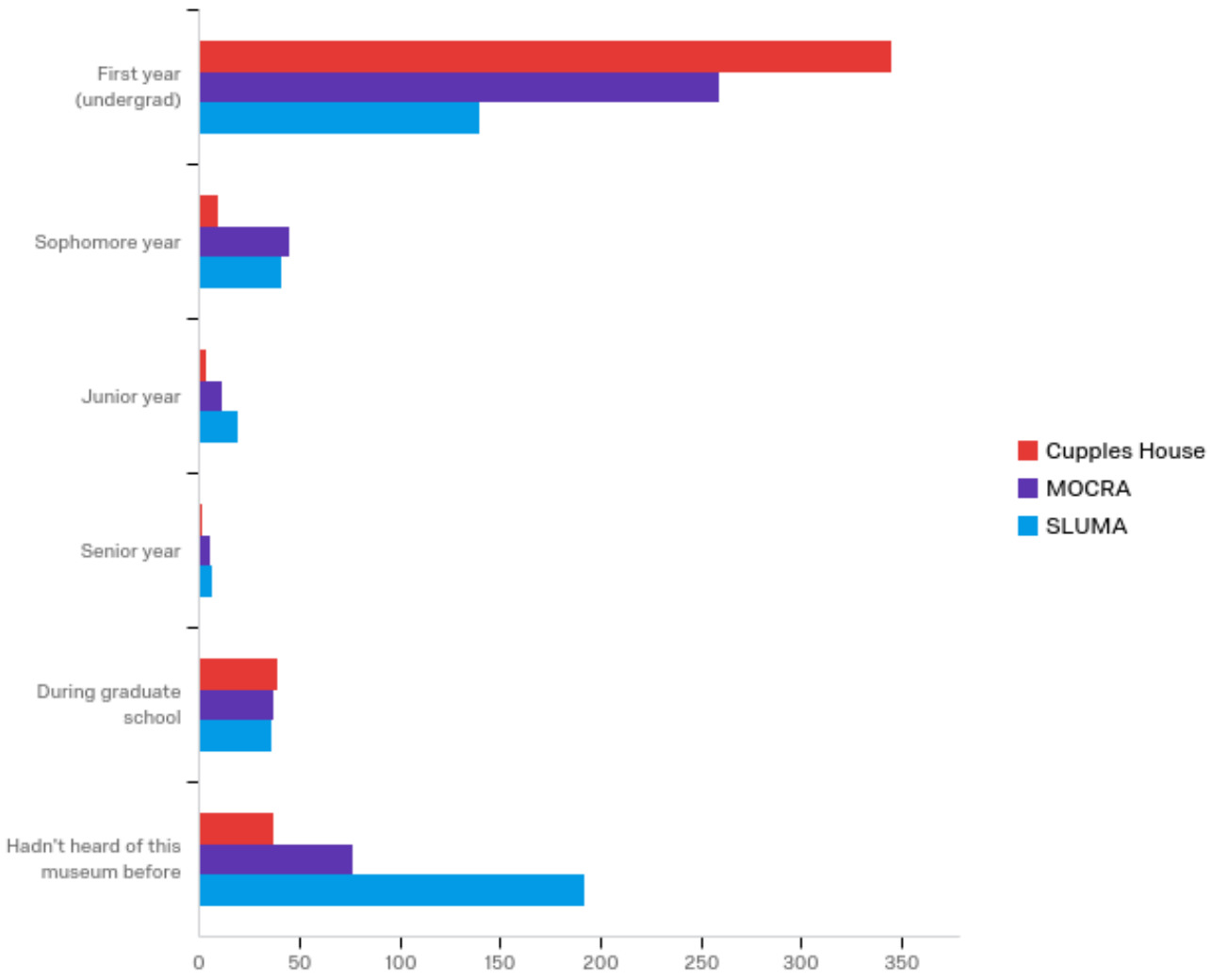
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Undergraduate student	41%	393
2	Graduate student	16%	153
3	Faculty	14%	139
4	Staff	29%	280
	Total	100%	965

Q2 - Before taking this survey, which SLU museums were you aware of? (Check all that apply.)



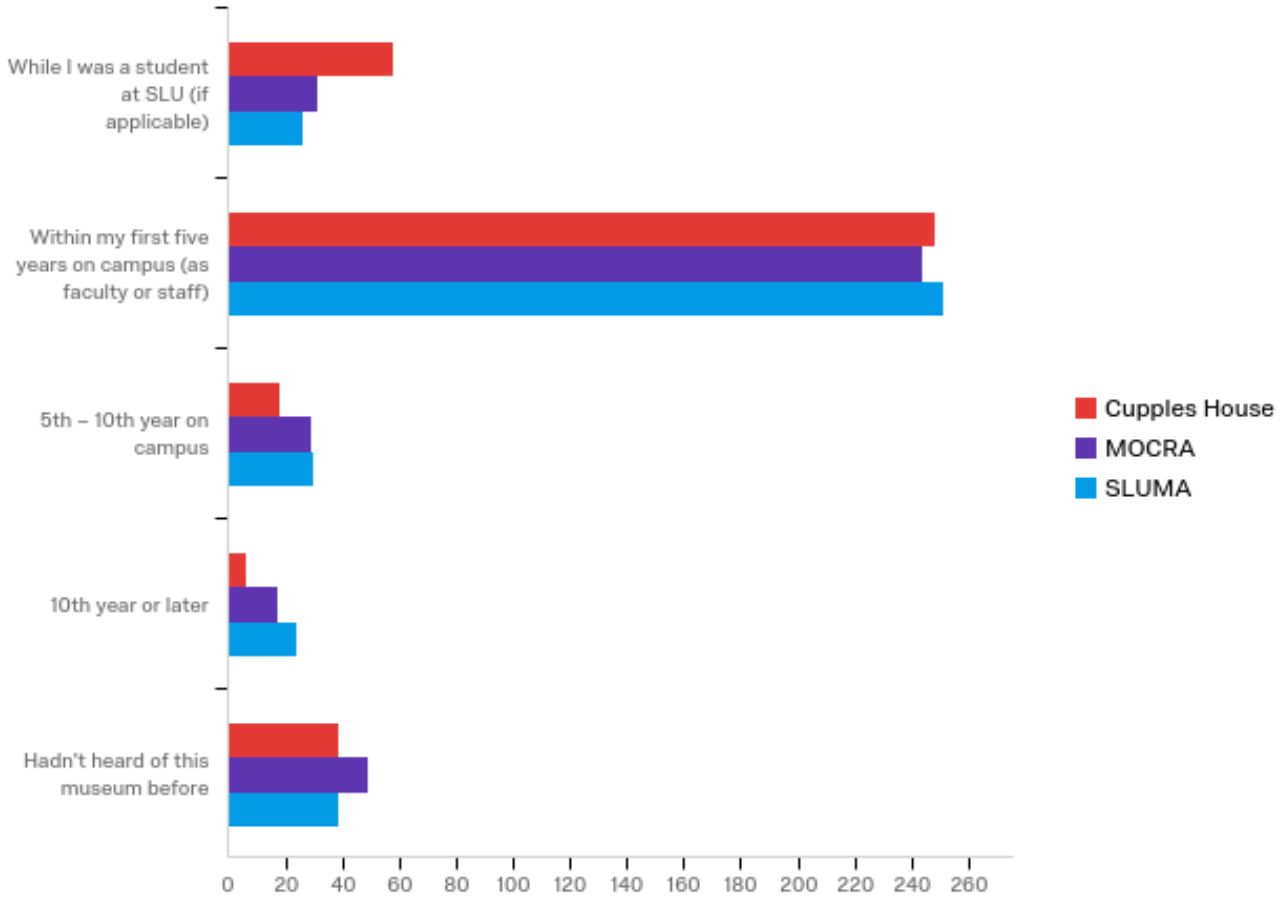
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Cupples House	37%	718
2	MOCRA - Museum of Contemporary Religious Art	34%	668
3	SLUMA - Saint Louis University Museum of Art	29%	569
	Total	100%	1955

Q2a - When did you first hear about the SLU museums?



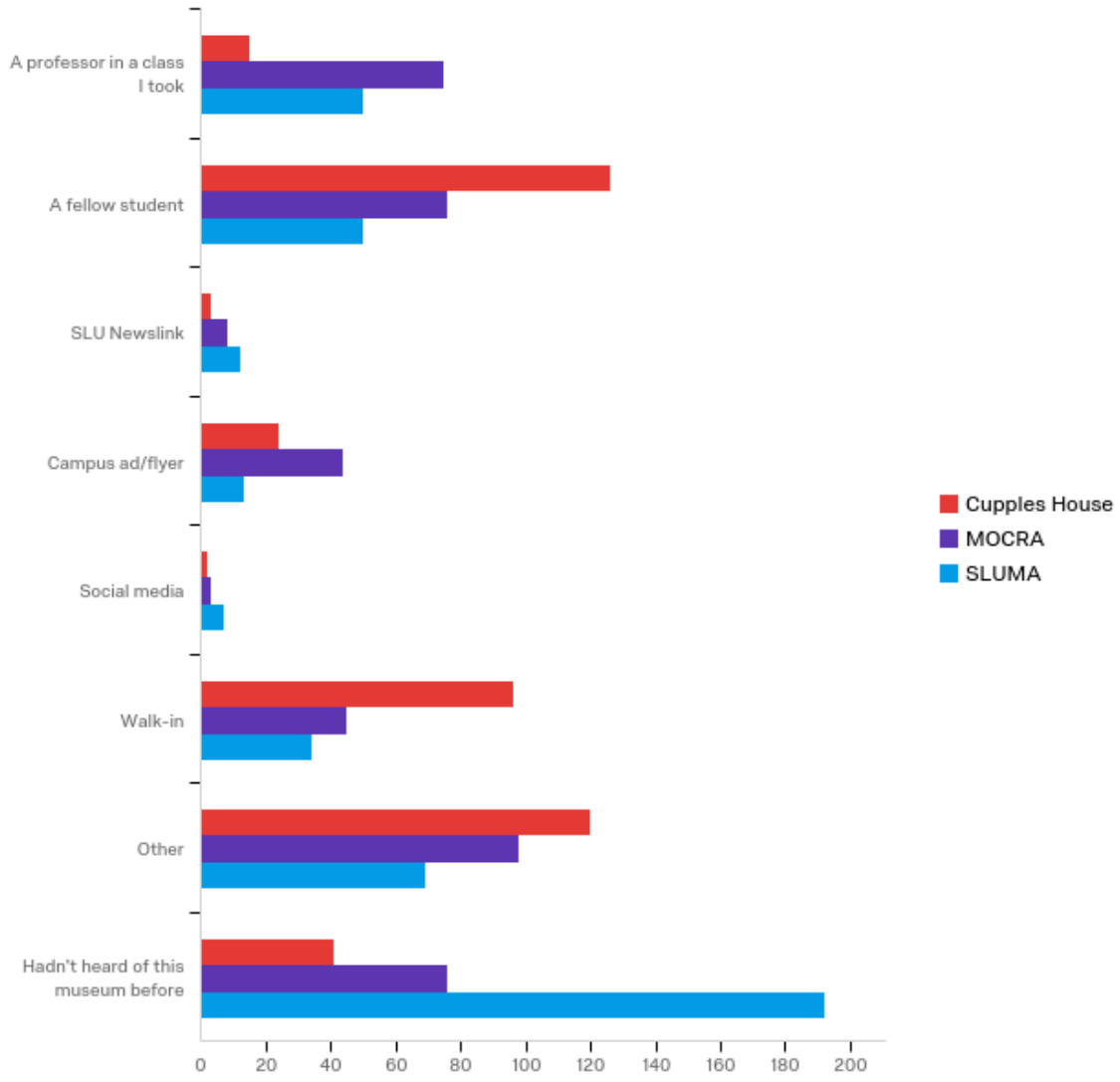
#	Question	First year (undergrad)		Sophomore year		Junior year		Senior year		During graduate school		Hadn't heard of this museum before		Total
1	Cupples House	80%	345	2%	9	1%	3	0.2%	1	9%	39	9%	37	434
2	MOCRA	60%	259	10%	45	3%	11	1%	5	9%	37	18%	77	434
3	SLUMA	32%	140	10%	41	4%	19	1%	6	8%	36	44%	192	434

Q2b - When did you first hear about the SLU museums?



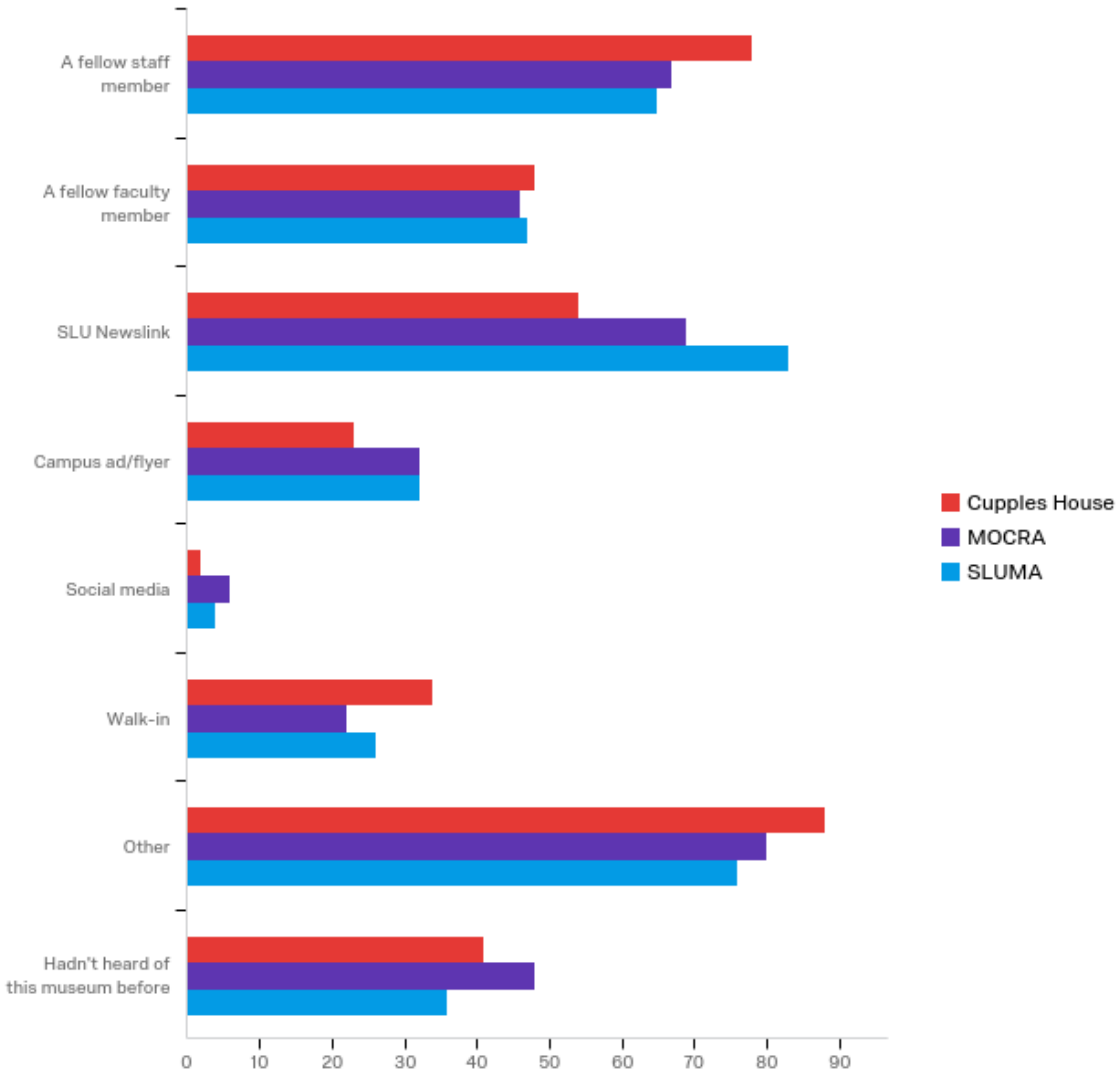
#	Question	While I was a student at SLU (if applicable)		Within my first five years on campus (as faculty or staff)		5th – 10th year on campus		10th year or later		Hadn't heard of this museum before		Total
1	Cupples House	16%	58	67%	248	5%	18	2%	6	11%	39	369
2	MOCRA	8%	31	66%	244	8%	29	5%	17	13%	49	370
3	SLUMA	7%	26	68%	251	8%	30	7%	24	11%	39	370

Q3a - How did you first hear about the SLU museums?



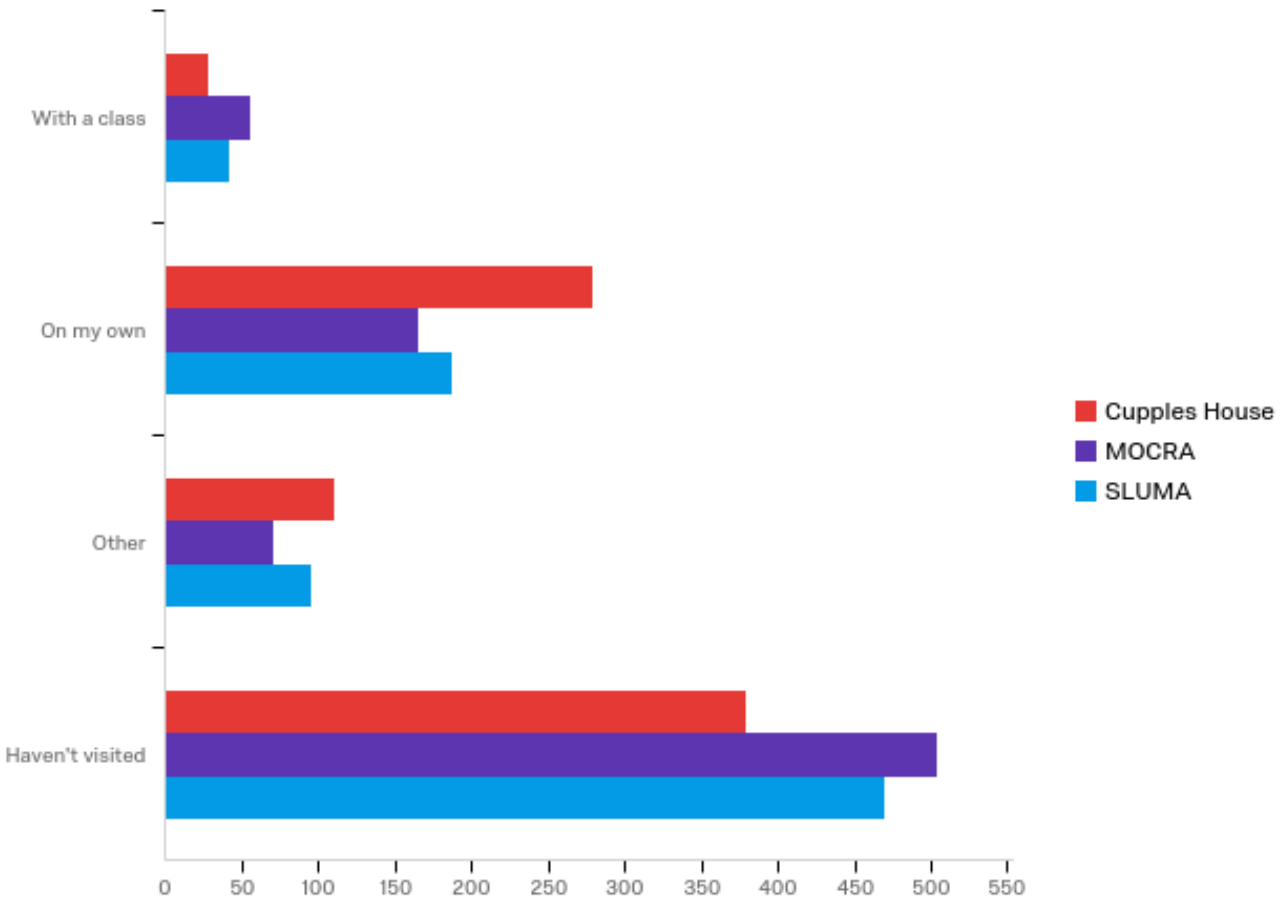
#	Question	A professor in a class I took		A fellow student		SLU Newslink		Campus ad/flyer		Social media		Walk-in		Other		Hadn't heard of this museum before		Total
1	Cupples House	4%	15	30%	126	1%	3	6%	24	1%	2	23%	96	28%	120	10%	41	427
2	MOCRA	18%	75	18%	76	2%	8	10%	44	1%	3	11%	45	23%	98	18%	76	425
3	SLUMA	12%	50	12%	50	3%	12	3%	13	2%	7	8%	34	16%	69	45%	192	427

Q3b - How did you first hear about the SLU museums?



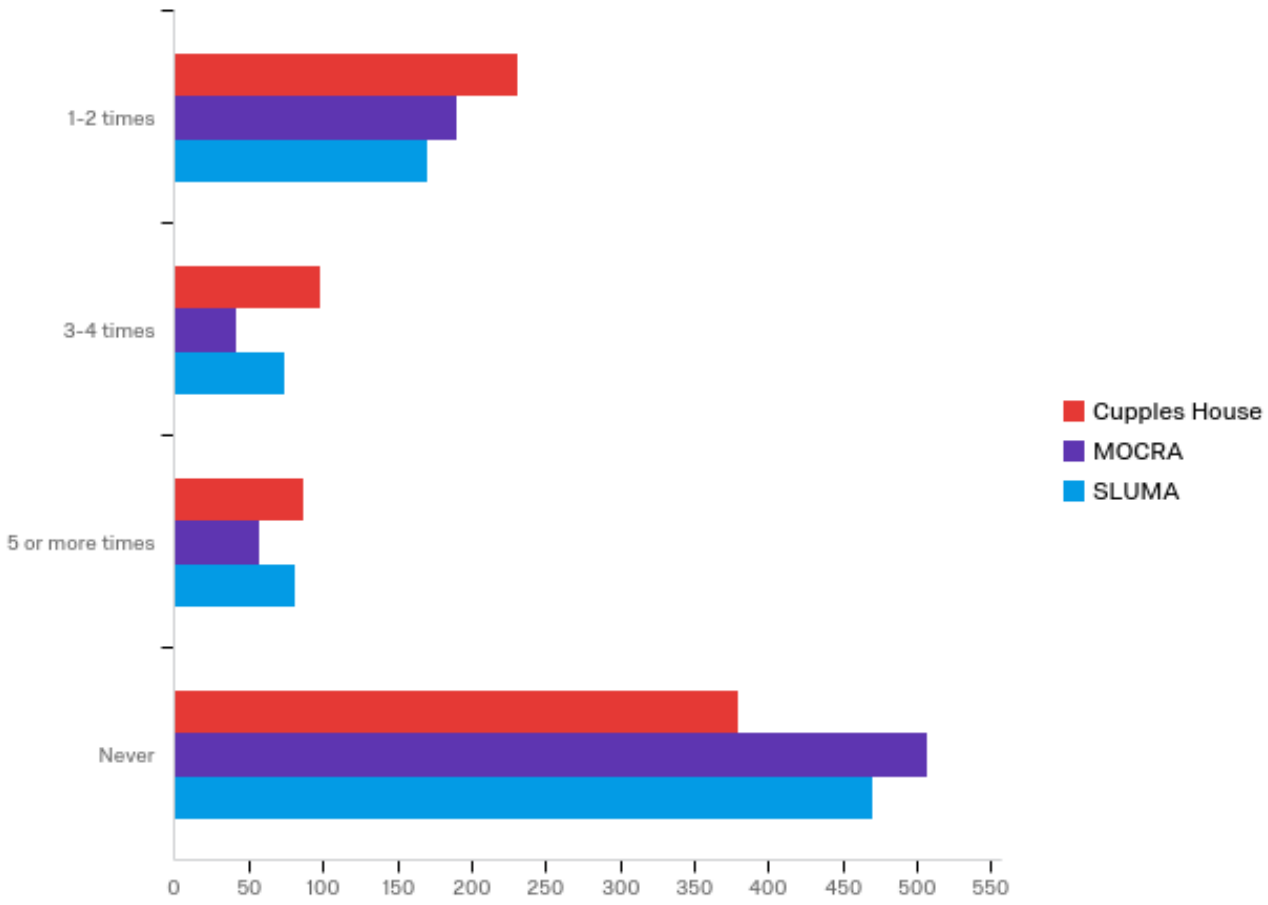
#	Question	A fellow staff member		A fellow faculty member		SLU Newslink		Campus ad/flyer		Social media		Walk-in		Other		Hadn't heard of this museum before		Total
1	Cupples House	21%	78	13%	48	15%	54	6%	23	1%	2	9%	34	24%	88	11%	41	368
2	MOCRA	18%	67	12%	46	19%	69	9%	32	2%	6	6%	22	22%	80	13%	48	370
3	SLUMA	18%	65	13%	47	23%	83	9%	32	1%	4	7%	26	21%	76	10%	36	369

Q4 - Under what circumstances did you first visit a SLU museum?



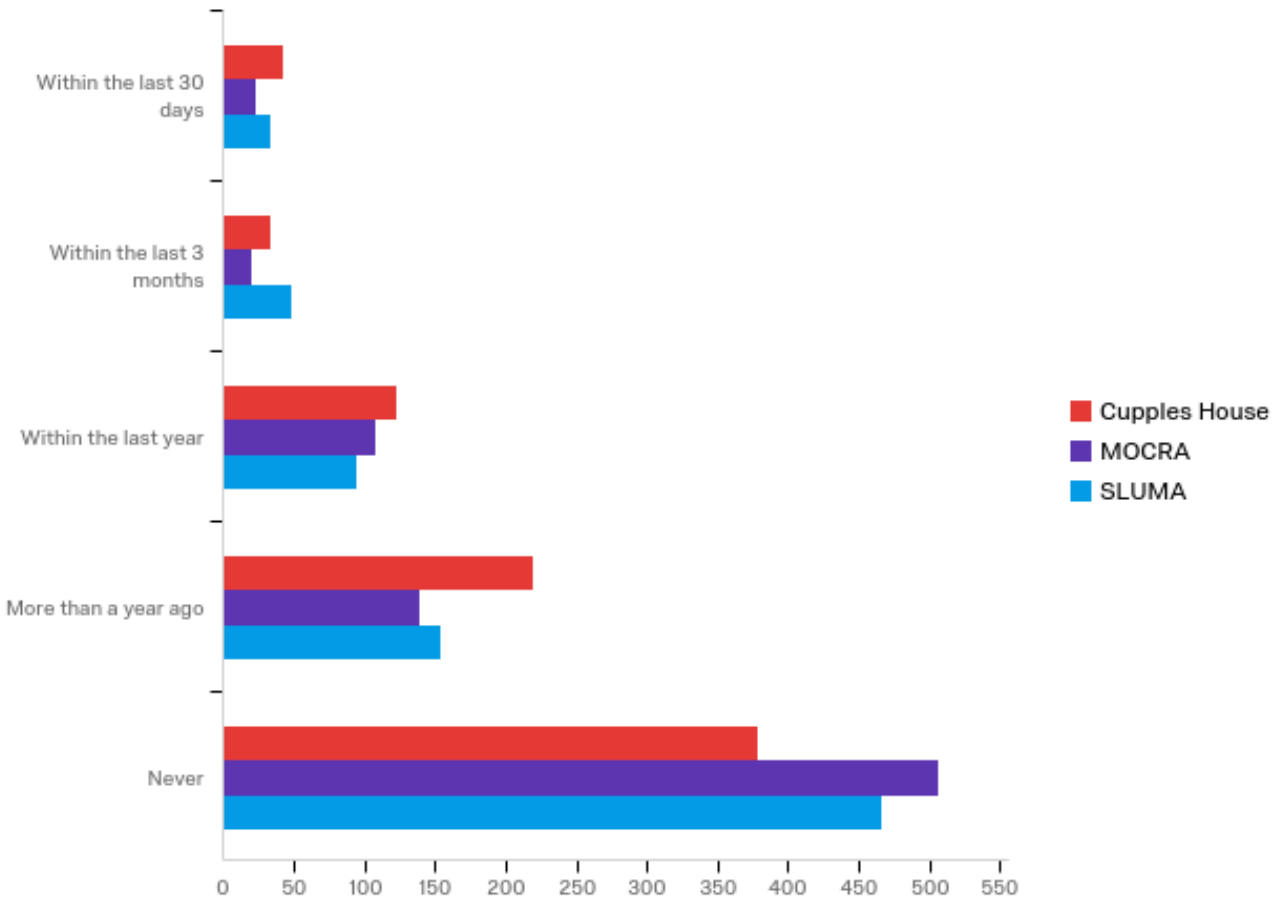
#	Question	With a class		On my own		Other		Haven't visited		Total
1	Cupples House	4%	28	35%	279	14%	110	48%	379	796
2	MOCRA	7%	56	21%	165	9%	70	63%	504	795
3	SLUMA	5%	42	24%	187	12%	96	59%	470	795

Q5 - How many times have you visited a SLU museum?



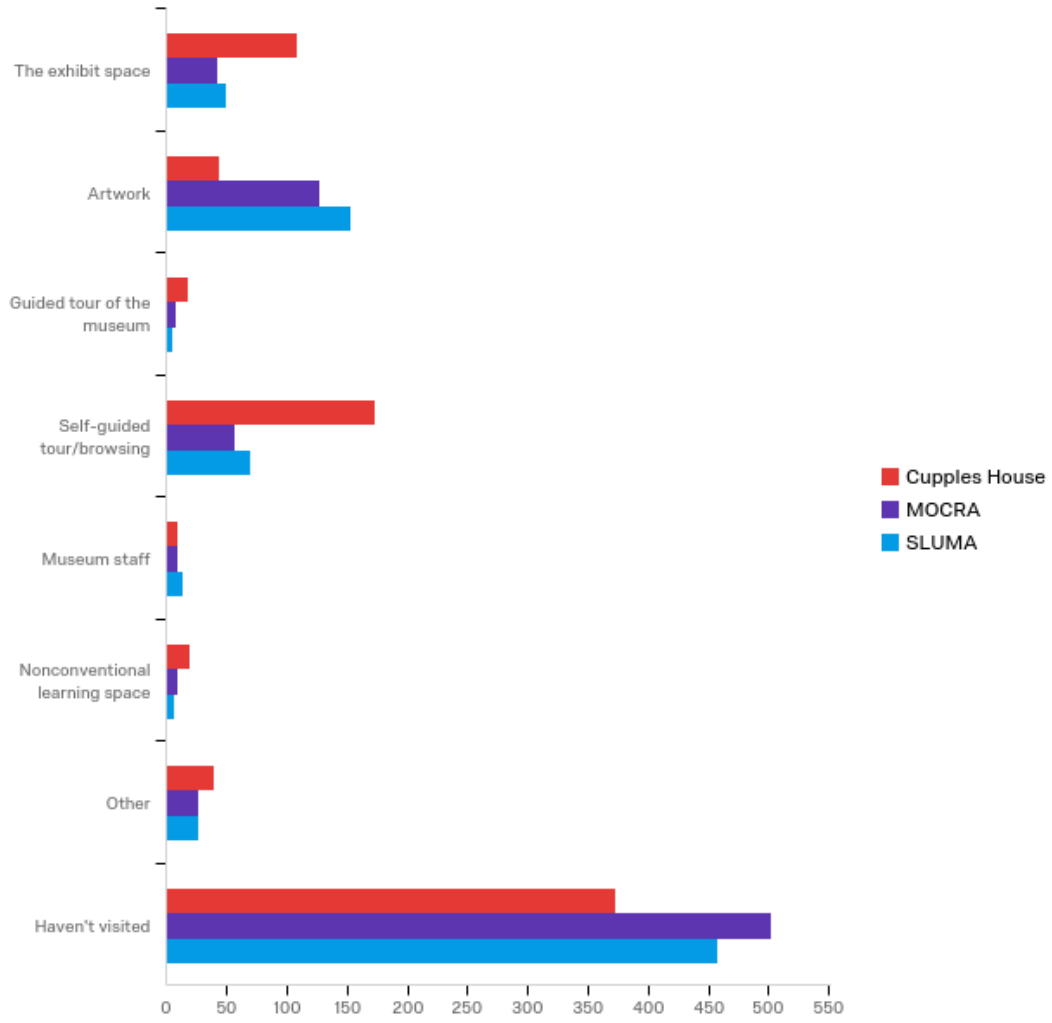
#	Question	1-2 times		3-4 times		5 or more times		Never		Total
1	Cupples House	29%	231	12%	99	11%	87	48%	380	797
2	MOCRA	24%	190	5%	42	7%	58	64%	507	797
3	SLUMA	22%	171	9%	74	10%	81	59%	470	796

Q6 - When was your most recent visit to a SLU museum?



#	Question	Within the last 30 days		Within the last 3 months		Within the last year		More than a year ago		Never		Total
1	Cupples House	5%	42	4%	34	15%	123	28%	219	48%	379	797
2	MOCRA	3%	23	3%	20	14%	108	18%	139	64%	506	796
3	SLUMA	4%	34	6%	48	12%	94	19%	154	59%	466	796

Q7 - What do you most enjoy about the SLU museums?



#	Question	The exhibit space		Art-work		Guided tour of the museum		Self-guided tour/ browsing		Museum staff		Noncon-ventional learning space		Other		Haven't visited		Total
1	Cupples House	14%	108	6%	44	2%	18	22%	173	1%	9	3%	20	5%	39	48%	373	784
2	MOCRA	6%	43	16%	127	1%	8	7%	57	1%	10	1%	10	3%	26	64%	502	783
3	SLUMA	6%	49	20%	153	1%	5	9%	70	2%	14	1%	7	3%	26	59%	458	782

Q8 - What are your expectations of the SLU museums? (For example, what kinds of exhibitions would you like to see, or what kinds of events would you attend at a museum?)

[35 respondents replied "none" or its equivalent. Those non-replies are omitted below to save space.]
Interesting exhibits; openings with refreshments timed to occur when my work day ends (5pm on a weekday).
I haven't been to any of the museums yet so I'm not sure of what expectations I have, but I plan visit them soon!
I would like to raise more awareness about them. Send out more information about them. I don't know what they are about, I didn't even know we had museums at school. The times and dates when they are open should be more widespread.
Would like to see shows that are thoughtfully curated and have strong work.
To show the works of the faculty, staff and students on campus. To keep decorating Cupples House during the christmas season.
Fun and easy to understand
More coordination with other campus programs and events.
Exhibits that exemplify SLU vision for service to others and Jesuit values. Exhibits that illustrate Saint Louis history, Jesuit history, or SLU history. Exhibits that connect with political or social issues. Exhibits that connect with faculty expertise, large research projects.
Cupples House is amazing and consistently impresses people attending functions there. I attend or hold events in Cupples House at least twice a year and it is an ideal venue that shows the university to great advantage. However, staffing is a consistent problem. DPS has little or no knowledge of the building, leading to problems, e.g., with locked doors or lights. Sometimes the door is open and nobody else is present or I am the last person to leave an event and there is nobody to lock up.
I would trust the directors of the museums to curate compelling exhibitions featured renowned artists. I attend openings, artists' talks.
More advertising in the St. Louis community - outside of the SLU campus would be beneficial. This is a service to the community that almost no one is aware of, but it would be enriching and add to the fabric of our community if it were more widely known and utilized. Thanks for surveying.
I believe the purpose of having museums in a University setting is for these to be places for students, first, then the general public, to learn/experience art and how art can impact lives and communicate both good and bad. In other words, the main mission should be educational.
Historical
Billiken Logos Exhibit Diversity exhibits Fashion exhibits Dance Music Art Workshops for Beginners/Intermediate/Advanced
I enjoy exhibitions that can be connected to the courses being offered.
I expect them to be open when they announce they are open. I went to Cupples House last year to see an exhibit and the staff wasn't aware that it was to be open. So they wouldn't let me in. I went back to check on the poster i saw, and yes the exhibit should have been open. What's the deal?
SLUMA should have more connection to the department of Fine and Performing Arts.
I have full faith in MOCRA to find the best artists I have yet to see.
We faculty would love to have more input on what exhibitions are coming, perhaps allowing for opportunities for our classes to be a part of planning/research/writing for them. Especially if they were in any of our art history faculty's areas of expertise, that would help us be able to work with the show and use them for our teaching. We certainly enjoy working with our colleagues at the museums, but we also know how understaffed they are and how hard it is for them to carry out their day to day duties, let alone find time to work with us.
I think the current exhibitions are fine. I would visit SLUMA if the hours were more convenient and better advertised.

SLUMA - The fresh exhibits that are set up and displayed. Cupples - The rich look of the building and its furnishings MOCRA - The religious significance of the displays
would enjoy more exhibits with diverse population & representation for my students to see and prompt class discussions
I like to be left on my own.
St. Louis history
Have a new faculty social event at one of the museums was a helpful introduction to the University and the museums.
Enjoy the variety of exhibits. Like the visiting exhibits more so than the permanent exhibits.
Bring in artists and exhibits have faculty and students vote on favorites to put in SLU's permanent collection and display on campus.
The tree lighting event; quilt exhibits.
I have no expectations. Given the current economic climate at SLU, these museums feel more frivolous and an unnecessary expense.
Art with a purpose; mostly when I have visited there was some unique function going on or some special purpose that space was being used for. In the absence of something special going on, I probably will not plan a trip to a campus museum. I also like to see gift shops with a range of unique and affordable items.
I'm not sure what I would like to see but maybe some more advertisement about what is on display in each museum would be helpful and make me want to visit.
none, they don't provide a lot of meaning to my work at SLU
More contemporary art.
I like the partnership with Stray Rescue for SLUMA and notfication of special exhibits at all of them. Question: If the Jesuits are indeed planning to make a chapel in Boileau Hall, why doesn't MOCRA move to Boileau and let the Jesuit scholastics have their old chapel back? Advantage: Better parking for MOCRA. Maybe MOCRA would clean that space up also.
Art exhibits
wine and cheese meet and greet gift shop MO/IL StL artists young artists' exhibitions (HS, college?) easy parking award/honor events
I like using the museums as a venue for student and faculty work.
I went to an exhibit at the SLU museum and Christmas events at Cupples House - also attended a wedding there years ago. We had a meeting in MOCRA, but I walked throug a bit, but don't konw much about it.
It would be great to have a shuttle dedicated to taking HSC campus faculty and staff to one of the museums each month. Because they are all on north campus, HSC faculty find it harder to enjoy them.
Wine and cheese event for an open house
Any historical educational events would be good.
More artwork on Loan
No opinion--I am at remote site so frequenting them more likely to be through attendance at a meeting held at any of them
I don't have expectations since I haven't gotten to visit two of them. My work hours don't really allow for me to spend much time there--the Cupples house hours are too few and I don't know when MOCRA is open, though it's directly across from my building. (I don't even know how to enter MOCRA, either)
Artwork, sculptures, things that make you look and search for meaning (like the MOCRA artwork, the skull painting was my favorite)
-Guided tours -Pieces from larger museums on loan to SLU museums
More events that interact with campus. Half the time I walk by and I forget that it's even there.
Just more art. There didn't seem to be much
Modern art
To be interesting
I would like to see less classical pieces of art (graffiti, recycle art, etc.)

history of the university, information about notable professors, history on the majors offered here, exhibits that focus on SLU and the surrounding area
MOCRA exhibitions are wonderful--a calming, serene, inspiring space and atmosphere; it would be great for Cupples to be in a position to include more exhibitions, maybe--perhaps treating small sections of the first floor as galleries?--not sure--lovely at christmas, of course...oh!--string quartets, trios, other ensembles, informally--with coffee? must get to SLUMA... thanks for the work of these wonderful spaces...
Statues or artwork of historical or religious significance
I really liked rooms in bloom at Cupples. It really made the rooms come alive. I would like to see less abstract stuff at MOVRA.
I have been a regular visitor to SLU museums over decades. I REALLY got interested when you all had the exhibit of Andy Warhol's balloons. I regularly keep in touch with what is going on through a man who helps set up the shows in MOCRA.
I would like to see traveling exhibits and I would attend events that related to current events and their history
It would be cool if there were spaces to study inside the Cupples house- like desks/tables placed here and there for study space. If this is done, let students know!
The special exhibits at SLUMA should run longer.
I was pleasantly surprised by the art museum. Really loved the contemporary work that I saw there. The hours can sometimes be confusing and inconsistent. There have been times that I have wanted to visit and the museum either wasn't open due to limited hours or it should have been open but wasn't.
I haven't the foggiest idea, I would imagine that they contain pieces that explain the history and community relations involving SLU.
Historical exhibits
I have had a good experience visiting the museums on campus. I believe not enough SLU individuals know about the museums.
Would love to see an event for SLU staff - such as a happy hour or networking lunch - offered at one of the museums. MOCRA has been on my list for a long time to go see; now that I work at the downtown location it's less feasible.
I forgot the name of the temporal exhibit I saw, but it was phenomenal. It was last year (2016), and the exhibit was on photos of women that were on silk, and they were hung up in the middle of the museum (MOCRA).
More international artists and works
I would like to see introductory events and awareness events because many students don't know about the museums.
painting
Welcoming space, interesting art work, events that welcome students
Cupolas house is a lot more on the inside than I expected. It exceeded my expectations.
I probably wouldn't go to any of the museums
I liked attending the stray rescue event. I would attend any event really if I have plenty of notice.
Museums are boring. We don’t need them on campus.
Great paintings.
I wish I had more time to attend. Usually the hours of operation are when I am working so I do not get to enjoy the spaces unless it is for special events or if I am off and in the city one day. However I have enjoyed these places when I do get the opportunity to go. I read about the exhibits as well and think they have been awesome in the past.
Larger profile events. Touring exhibitions, sculpture is a particular passion and I would visit if this was offered
It would be really cool to have presentations by artists or an event with those tiny fancy food things and a bunch of people in pretty clothes looking at the art and conversing softly about how inspired it all is, like in a movie. I would definitely go to an event like that. It'd be like being a grown up with free time and solid financials and culture!
Engaging exhibits that are approachable by all.
I love seeing local and SLU-related stuff!

Exhibits that relate to the St. Louis community as well as show something new and fresh.
I'd like to know more about when special events are going on at them! I went to a really cool exhibit (Nazi persecution of homosexuals) at SLUMA and have seen info about Cupple's House on campus, but nothing about the third museum
I would like to know when and if we're allowed to just walk into SLUMA! I've been in it once to see the persecution of gays in the Holocaust exhibit, and it was very informative, but we weren't sure if we were allowed to walk around outside of the exhibit so we just left.
I would be drawn to exhibits that aren't just SLU or Jesuit themed. I also am drawn to exhibits that aren't politically motivated in nature. One specific exhibit that would draw a huge turnout would be the connection between the movie The Exorcist and the real story that happened in St Louis. Possession is a controversial topic for sure, but it is a part of SLU's history.
Islamic art
I have never been to a SLU museum nor have I really heard other students or professors talk about them. I think it would be beneficial to hold events there as well as promote exhibitions more to students as many are not aware of the space. Personally, I like nature and anything related to animals/insects. I would love to see those types of exhibitions. Furthermore, I think it would be nice to hear more about the engaging and interactive features of SLU museums - many tend to think of museums as stuffy and boring, I think talking about its interactive features would be interesting.
Clean, professional space. I would like to see showcases that deal with local history and have local and university ties.
I love the SLU museums, especially the Cupples House! However, I do wish the hours when they are open would be longer, since I am never able to go and visit, when I actually would love to very soon.
I would like to see nature, we live in a city and our connection with nature is at risk of being lost if we are not reminded.
cool places i can study
I expect to see interesting exhibits with cool stories.
I love realistic, sketches, and landscape art but I don't know anything about them
Tea parties
Free admission is awesome!
To have the upmost respect for each artist and artwork displayed & to provide detailing of the works. I would attend opening nights or special nights for a specific artist or art work.
artwork and exhibitions or musical performances
It would be nice if SLU students had the opportunity to host events at the museums. Also, exhibits that connect SLU to the St. Louis community and provide a space for learning outside the classroom would be appreciated.
Art exhibitions (drawings, paintings; both modern and historic)
I would attend artist talks. I would also attend academic talks if it were about a topic or art I was interested in.
Photography exhibits
contemporary art
to safe keep great historical things
More art in the Lower Level Cupples House. It's a good space but the art exhibits are always kind of sparse.
Maybe more information about Samuel Cupples in his house
Would like to see art exhibitions or maybe watch a performer while enjoying the museum pieces.
I think the museums should be maintained. The wood sills in Cupples House are looking terrible. Sunlight directly on paintings! SLUMA looks like it just does not get any attention. I think it is so sad that we have these lovely assets and very little care is being given to themm.
I just want to see better promotion of the museums among students. I am very much unique in having even visited more than just the Cupples house.
more information should be provided to students. I have all of my classes in the medical campus, and I never know that there is a museum in our university! Not to mention its place and visiting it.

Just more advertising because I had no idea they existed. Just interesting art pieces and collections like Washu has. Also maybe student event nights! Speakers, local shows, etc. Wine nights for older student and professors and grad students. and other types like that to get attendance.
Exhibitions that are diverse across cultures and inclusive of various communities.
I really enjoy the engaging events that SLUMA hosts... bringing art and people together in a lively environment.... people, even strangers discussing what the art means to them or how the event brought them to the occasion.... LOVE IT! I especially enjoy when music (another art form) is combined in the mix. Sometimes "art" and museums can feel so formal and almost intimidating... and discouraging or uninviting to casual art appreciators. I think these events break down those superficial barriers.
Interesting exhibits.
OLDER CAMPUS AND OLDER ST. LOUIS PICTURES
I would expect to see interesting exhibits concerning sections of history that may have not been studied as extensively as others or that provide new insight into history that has been extensively studied. As for events in the museums, I would be most interested in scavenger hunts and interesting lectures related to the exhibits.
There would good to have the history of the university and showing it from past to present tense.
I generally enjoy modern art and photography. I feel like SLUMA is the most appealing venue. I try to see the new exhibits when they change.
I read about the stained glass being unveiled for a specific exhibit last year. I was not able to visit during that time frame. I would love for the stained glass to be unveiled again.
I liked the Cupples exhibit but it should have more promotion so more people visit it. I have not visited the other two.
great artwork and atmosphere
I am unsure.
I expect to know more than when I left.
Stay clean and accessible to all students
Something that couldn't be seen at other local museums.
I actually attend through a cohort in Kansas City and have not attended the SLU museums.
I expect to see a lot of art by college students
I don't know -- I am doing an online course, so the truth is that I am not really interested in on-campus facilities.
Renaissance and Neoclassical art
I would be interested in learning the history of the buildings on campus, especially Kings Daughters.
Artwork, Information about a message being conveyed. Artifacts
SLUMA should continue to be a world-class university museum, with innovative curation and contributing to the overall Saint Louis region's Art Scene. MOCRA should be among the leading exhibitors of religious art in the country and ought to be THE leading religious art museum in the Midwest. It should challenge conventions and contribute to a dialogue on religion in art. Cupples House is probably best seen as an interesting on-campus space that hosts unique exhibits -- maybe more as an extension of the other two museums. It could be well-utilized either as a place for innovative artwork or as a place that contributes to a campus conversation through artwork -- so today, Cupples could be helpful in exploring art and race, for instance.
never been, likely won't
Years ago I participated in several SLU community art exhibits at SLUMA. They were annual, curated events which showcased some very impressive art by non-professional artists. I would loved to see something like that reinstated.
Modern achitecture, immersive art, video art.
They offer a wide range of artwork
I would expect the museums to collaborate more with the humanities disciplines and give grad students an opportunity to use the spaces for learning, teaching, a student-prepared exhibitions. As far as I know that

hasn't happened. And there seemed to be little interest in extending programming from a history dept sponsored conference into the museum spaces (I'm talking about the Vesalius conference from 2015 - the planning committee reached out to SLUMA and MOCRA and never got a response).
I like to attend events at museum's that show case historical events such as "World War II through the eyes of Russia," 9/11 artifacts, and the dead sea scrolls are some examples of events I have attended in the past at other museums.
I keep meaning to go to the Cupples' house. The exterior architecture is amazing!
They are unique and different from other buildings on SLU.
Displays from current students
More advertisements about these
I'm a new student so I have no expectations, I just need to find time to go see the museums.
historical exhibitions
just cool events exhibits and artwork
I had no knowledge that these existed. I am a law student so we are often not told about on-campus amenities.
Educational and historical to both the Church as well as St. Louis
Mostly I enjoy when SLU conferences or such hold receptions (like, the reception for the Manuscripta conference in October each year) in the Cupples house. It's a great place to mingle with other academics while exploring a beautiful collection of art.
I would expect the exhibits to either support the University goals and/or Jesuit history and mission, or any modern day important topic. This would include topics from any faith background.
I have never visited the museums because I wasn't sure if I should just walk in or if there would be tours or what. Maybe some better advertising of the museums would help.
It would be interesting to see student artwork displayed or to have interactive exhibits. I really enjoyed the Desaparcidos exhibit and listening to the artist speak about her experience and her work.
I expected them to be entertaining and engaging. I want to learn more beyond just reading a textbook. I also love history, so maybe a documentary like those shown on history channel or Ken Burns Docuseries.
I would like more people to be encouraged to attend our museums, especialy the cupples homes on campus. Hold some kind of undergraduate/freshman event there.
I've really only gone to the two for events that were being held at each of the museums.
I would like to see exhibits that enliven the imagination. I would also like to see religious art. There can also be art that reflects Social Justice.
Worth
Emerging artists.
I want to have free entrance in the museum Make a museum night
Educational
I would just like to know about events that are already happening
Honestly I have none but I may go check them out now that I know they exist.
I really can't tell when the museums are open to staff/faculty/students or closed. I'd love to visit each one but it isn't something I've had the opportunity to do. Perhaps having more open house events would draw people like me for a visit.
Opportunity to be challenged
I'm open to whatever Petruta puts on..... she is brilliant!
Are all free?
Clean, inviting interior, interesting exhibits
That they have art.
More events and engaging students to attend those events.
The current exhibits are excellent. The more we have the better shall I be pleased.
see more people there
I like to use them as venues for events such as welcoming events, awards

historical and / or diverse
I went to a chocolate and wine pairings event at Cupples house several years ago. That was probably the most fun I've had there. I attend openings/exhibits at SLUMA from time to time. My favorite was probably the Andy Warhol collection.
new exhibits
I would expect to see very conservative, and traditional art pieces
Run down small gallery and understaffed
Events with drinks and small snacks
increase awareness of these museums and what they have to offer
special exhibition on medical humanities
To provide insightful and interesting material
I plan on visiting some if not all of these museums in the next 6 months. I have walked by all of them but have not been in to visit. I would have better input if I had visited.
older history about the school
To be more known. Only knew of Cupples House, but did not know of the other two?
I love the third floor of SLUMA. I do not think people know it is avaiable to see. It needs to be advertised better.
would like to see more of the "focused" kinds of exhibits that you've had in the past at SLUMA, with themes around certain topics and/or artists
Anything related to medicine
Interactive art and exhibits, hands on learning
I expect it to be both a place of education and relaxation. I would attend events if I knew what they were. Also i hate to say it, but most college students are looking for a reason to dress up and at least act sophisticated
Cupples house decorated for holiday season - it is a gorgeous space.
More exhibits and attracting both th the Slu student body and the public.
More modern art
Area University & Highschool Art shows/sales. Private pre-showing to Art school recruiters
More socially conscious art
I would love poetry readings like they have at CAM
Engage the broader Saint Louis community and leverage the museums as the unique and fabulous showcase that they are
I wish they were more publicized! I don't think many people know about them but I wish they did as it would be a fun thing to do to take a break from studying.
I think the combination of art you have now is pretty good.
We have wonderful museums on campus. I am in the Mission office and we have used all of the museums for events.
Learn More ABOUT SAINT LOUIS AND ITS HISTORY AND UNIVBERSTY
I expect to see small exhibits. Nothing terribly fancy yet interesting and thought provoking.
I plan to visit first.
I would like to see something a bit more provocative. Something that promotes discussion about an important topic. Hold some sort of event with drinks for millenials. Get the word out about the exhibits more on social media. Utilize instagram. Find ways to get the campus engaged more.
I would like to see more promotion about the museums, both on campus and on social media. One good things about the other museums on Grand is that they are very active on social media, creating events, and friends of mine are always interacting with their platforms. Getting more notifications about the museums would encourage me to visit more often, keeping it in my thoughts
well known artists to draw a larger crowd of students and alumni
Need more advertising to know what these museums are about.
I have no expectations for the museums since they are an expense to the University budget.

I don't have any expectations, but am very interested in seeing the museums and exhibits.
I have attended the lighting of the Christmas tree (lovely) and several receptions/dinners at Cupples House. I would like to see more holiday or seasonal events held there. I have been to SLUMA just once; it is such a beautiful building. Perhaps more local exhibits, such as the Stray Rescue art exhibit could be held.
I enjoy, and would like more, SLU sponsored events at the museums. It 'gives me a reason' to make the effort to go :)
street art (graffiti to banksy), exhibit highlighting works that question social indifferences that have caused change and ones hoping to
I have enjoyed and volunteered at the Stray Rescue Urban Wanderers exhibit.
If more events were held in these locations such as speakers. Or if special exhibits were advertised and promoted more effectively.
Cocktails at Cupples house. Film nights, poetry readings
I wish the Cupples House was better advertised! It's amazing.
I also find exhibitions that relate in some way to the history of SLU or of St. Louis very interesting.
Exhibits from local artists are always a great way to connect the viewer with the community.
They look Great!
I have expectations for the museums to continue offering an exceptional opportunity to experience works of Art that are tied into the SLU mission and further expand the conversation of our relationship with the Divine. I hope that the University at large will realize the true value of these institutions and budget them accordingly.
Used to enjoy the events at Cupples like Wine Wednesdays and the holiday flower display. I enjoy the art exhibits at SLUMA
I'm a new employee, so I have no expectations. I didn't even know they existed.
St. Louis related history and artifacts.
I have not been to a SLU Museum, but I would expect it to be well organized and worth walking through.
art exhibitions
as a staff member I would hope these make money, either directly or indirectly, for the institution.
I would expect there to be speakers and events held at the museums often.
Hm, well, it's really hard because I don't think they are used enough (by myself, included). An idea that I have is to show a documentary about art or an artist. That way you could get more people to show up and visit the museums -- you could even offer popcorn or some other cheap food that wouldn't break the budget.
Univ. history, specific schools' history Socials that include speakers
Honestly, I just don't know much about them! But the I've definitely considered studying in the Cupples House a few times.
I'd like to be able to actually see artwork in MOCRA. It was closed when I visited and was kicked out after walking in
I haven't visited most of the museums, so they may already have this... but different opening exhibition events or guided tours would be interesting.
I feel like there needs to be more publicity of event or just more events in general.
That they serve as a learning tool for the SLU community, particularly the 3rd floor of SLUMA with its vast collection of Jesuit history. I hope other departments start utilizing these spaces more! They are hidden gems.
Didn't know they existed, so acknowledging them in our introduction to the school is always nice.
interactive
I'd like to see more outreach and student friendly events offered from the museums.
Sadly havent visited any, so wouldn't know what to want or expect
Students artwork or SLU's history
I would like to have both contemporary and classic art pieces as well as a mix of paintings and sculptures
I would like to see local artists
Total waste of money, funds could be put to better use.

I would like to visit
I was not aware that SLUMA existed and i have never gotten around to visiting MOCRA. i would focus on advertising as opposed to hosting more events. or if you do host an event at one of the sites, make it more known
I expect that SLU continues to bring art and history to our community in a comfortable learning environment.
I would attend special events or if a topic caught my attention.
Art exhibitions
I have enjoyed SLU's museums since childhood, when my mother was a board member at Cupples House and through our family's friendship with Fr. McNamee. I would love to see the museums connecting more dynamically and actively with the wider St. Louis community and reaching out beyond SLU's immediate community to include youth programming, elder outreach, and to otherwise connect more deeply with the local arts community in addition to their outstanding work curating and displaying the University's collections.
I had never really heard of the museums so any event that is advertised well
i wish i knew we had them
Mostly, I typically don't know what kinds of things are going on at any of the museums. I would simply like to know more about what goes on; maybe some sort of PR campaign for the museums and what they can offer would be a great start to get people knowing about them and coming in.
I would make university community aware of these museums and probably do a free tour of these museums with a planned schedule (like one group or student community at at time, nursing school, public health, medical school, engineering, etc.)
At the art museum, I would expect exhibits on American artists and an expanded exhibition on Missouri artists (Thomas Hart Benton especially). Within this exhibition, I would expect an expanded display of St. Louis artists and art throughout the nation's history. The art museum should also include art from periods of time before the foundation of the United States. The religious museum should include artwork and manuscripts of major religions currently in existence and an overview look at religious views of the past. By this, I mean provide a flow of the chronological evolution of religion. Begin with the religions of Mesopotamia and Egyptian, move forward through Greco-Roman religions. Include the Germanic and Norse religions along with the religions of the Britons. Wrap up with near eastern religions. Another flow ought to include the religions of Mesoamerica before the European arrival. These religions should include the Aztec, Mayan, Incan, and (especially) the Kahokian cultures. The next branch should include religions of the Far East. I'm less farmilar to these religions, so I don't know what came before Buhdism, Hinduism, and Toaism, but these religions and any precursors ought to be included. I don't recall the other museums of the list because I was unaware the university had any museums, but I would assume there is a small general history museum of the United States and the broader world. Aaron Swinger
I haven't been to an event at MOCRA or Cupples in many years. Are there events there? I thought Cupples was almost totally closed off to the public? You had an election event at the SLUMA that I enjoyed. My husband teaches high school social studies and he also enjoyed it.
LOVED Cupples House, also attended a reception there during parent's weekend last year. More social gatherings like that would be great!
That they remain open.
Neat exhibits would be amazing, much like how MOCRA had a Warhol exhibit a few years back, or how SLUMA has the political exhibit during election years, I really love the limited time exhibits that the museums have to offer. Using the spaces for galas or student events would be incredible too!
It would be interesting to tie these into the history of the university
NOTIFICATION OTHer than Newslink. Postcards to employees are the best.
I liked the dog exhibit at sluma
I enjoy attending the holiday themed events at Cupples House. I also enjoy the Stray Rescue exhibit each year at SLUMA. SLUMA offers a regular rotating collection and other special exhibits that I enjoy. SLUMA has a fabulous collection and the curating of the museum is so well done.

I am open to all kinds of exhibits, as I love museums in general! I think that having an open house for faculty and staff (if this isn't already being done) and advertising this in the Newslink might be a good idea. Also, for those who are members of the Vitality program, it might be good to partner with HR so that faculty and staff can earn points for walking to and around the museums. We love points - and walking! And honestly, the first and only time I went to SLUMA, I told the gentleman at the front desk that I wanted to get my exercise while also enjoying what the museum had to offer. He suggested I start from the top floor and work my way down, which is what I did. It was a win-win for me and I have been meaning to do that again for some time now.
My expectations include seeing artwork and displays which are interesting, make me think, and enjoyable.
Interesting facts and artifacts about SLU and different things.
more advertisement so that students know what is at the museums
My expectations are influenced somewhat by my life experience. I am not a graduate of SLU. I am a staff member that came to SLU solely for the job. I am not a native of St Louis, nor a native of Missouri. I live in West County and do not typically come to the mid-town area for recreation with my family. I have learned about the museums exclusively through my employment - SLU Newslink, in particular. I have attended other St Louis museums -- so I am not adverse to these kinds of activities, but I have not attended the SLU museums. I intend to learn more about them. Thanks for this opportunity.
I would like to see the history of the museums.
I had a negative experience, when i first enrolled at SLU, one of my graduate courses' assignment was to sit in a place at SLU and observe. So, MOCRA was the place I targeted as my observation setting, I wanted to make a site visit, but I did not know where was the entrance. After not finding the entrance, I decided to send an email but no one replied to me. So, I ended up doing my observation at the REC center. This incidence was in 2014 and since then I do not know anything about SLU Museam.
I love seeing the artwork of faculty, staff, and students in our campus museums. It is also wonderful to see the work of local artists.
I keep wanting to go to the exhibit related to stray dogs SLUMA puts on...I'm interested in the happy hour events that they put on.
I love the annual event you all do with Stray Rescue.
exhibit centered talks, openings, opportunities to learn more about the artists and art on display
Would be nice if they were open outside of normal working hours. Noon to 3pm is okay for students, but not staff/faculty who are at work.
To maintain artistic alignment with the university and Christian Jesuit ideals.
Have gone to a concert or two at Cupples. This type of thing would be great in SLUMA, too.
Interesting exhibits and events
I would like to see more modern art. Also more events at the museums, maybe social events with music and cocktails and fundraisers and what not
I would visit exhibits on pretty much anything I am just never sure when these places are open. Maybe some advertising would help
It is difficult to know when the museums are open. Are they free? It would be nice to have welcome events to draw students into the museums
I visited the cupples house for a field trip in high school. Frankly I don't think tuition money should be spent towards the upkeeping and staff of these museums when slu is in such a tough budget crisis. Spend the money towards increasing budgets of the academic departments so that they don't have to fire crucial professors.
more advertising of what is there, better hours to visit, more SLU events
More lectures regarding the art presented
Contains artifacts from different periods for the most part. Occasionally, maybe exclusive events based on relevance from history, time, months, days, etc.
I expected to see artwork, I came in with pretty general expectations of a museum. I was significantly impressed by the beautiful buildings of the museums and the very kind and informative staff.

I would like to have better advertising for any exhibits. I would go to more if I knew about them. I like history exhibits, like the WWII one last year.
I would like to see more historical exhibitions. I also would like to know about any events that occur when a new exhibit opens.
Quality art and exhibits
I wish these museums were more advertised. The only reason I know about them is because I work in the Office of Admission as a tour guide. Otherwise I do not think I would know that they exist.
for them to be nice and have cool artwork/artifacts
Rotating exhibits about social justice issues
Museums aren't really advertised very much. I'm not sure how I would even go about being able to go into the Cupples House.
Short term loans of art that we would normally have to travel to Chicago, LA or New York to see. Opportunities to learn more about the art on display or to meet the artists.
Exhibits which attract community attendance and serve academic units as a "visual aid" resource for courses.
For there to be interesting art
I enjoy the rotating exhibit on the ground floor of SLUMA. Saw some interesting things I wouldn't normally have thought I would like.
I didn't know about any of them so I don't have an opinion.
Exhibits that both connect to our mission but are innovative and diverse.
i dont really care. send out surveys about physics department if you want more passionate answers
Religious art
These are terrific spaces for donor events.
If there is something quite different than what is available at the Saint Louis Art Museum, I would like to hear about it may consider visiting. Right now I don't know where the museums are and whether or not they have easy access and parking.
American folk art
Season-related events (i.e. food in season)
No preferences. I like Cupples House because I like 19th century architecture and furnishing
I have used SLUMA for offsite meetings and like the access to conference room space, with the access to browsing the artwork.
Re: Cupples-- preserving the history and period pieces. It's charm is the ability to step back in time. Re: SLUMA-- interesting new annual exhibits, along with a rotation of the museum's collection
Artwork and displays addressing current social justice issues facing our region and the world.
I like the SLUMA museum the most and couples is a beautiful space. It would be nice to be offered the opportunity to host events in either space. You should advertise this more to staff. Thanks! Exhibits...students work, period works.
Continue to provide unique, thematic exhibits which provide opportunities for education and growth!
I have enjoyed special events at the museum (talks, music)
Add world famous exhibits - Monet, Picasso ....
I think they do a pretty good job as is.
I went once to the museum of art for a meeting that happened to be held there. I have no interest in religious art and didn't know there was a museum at Cupples house, but that does explain why we don't have events there any more. The museum of art was OK, but not worth paying for -- I wouldn't make a special trip for it.
I think of Cupples house as more of an event space than a museum. I've enjoyed the special exhibits at MOCRA. I wonder if there should be some consolidation (eg. with Boileau hall too) - are these white elephants?
I like a lot of the exhibitions I have seen. I liked the student exhibition at Cupples House. Richard Winter's exhibitions at SLUMA are great. Terry Dempsey has sponsored some moving exhibits recently, like the one about the women who had lost family members to violence in South America. Very moving, very much in touch with social justice issues.

To be successful
Contemporary and local programming is always good.
I'll leave that to the staffs of the museums
Increased workload and sub-market compensation make discretionary time for museum visiting a luxury I cannot afford.
I enjoy being in the museums. It would be great if more meetings or social events were held there. If I'm already attending something there, it is easier to browse the museum. Otherwise, I find it harder to get there
SLU museums should preserve and exhibit works of art most relevant to the university and its mission, and educate visitors about these works.
I have only attended the Cupples House Museum, but I would like to see more interpretation of the building. Cupples was a huge figure in St. Louis history, and I don't feel like I knew more about him after walking around his house than I did before. I would like to see my events here that are focused on St. Louis history and bring Samuel Cupples to life.
More possibilities for pedagogical programming!
I would like more students to know about and to visit the museums, perhaps as part of a course. I enjoy exhibitions that show off the museum's collection, that provide detailed text labels, and that offer guided tours (with, say, the curator or other exhibition staff). I would like to see SLU museums provide events that specifically cater to a younger population (like, say, 25-35), that take place in the evening and provide a "different" kind of museum experience. I'd also like if SLUMA participated in First Friday events.
To significantly contribute to the enriching of University curricula. To prepare students for their lives after graduation through creative thinking.
New exhibits, classic and contemporary, local, regional, national, or international, or by artists, famous or young and new in the field, etc.
When will Father Biondi's palatial suite become an exhibit?
Their exhibits are really interesting

Q9 - Do you have any other questions or comments about any of the SLU museums?

[188 respondents replied "none" or its equivalent. Those non-replies are omitted below to save space.]
Newslink announcements of exhibits and openings are key.
I think it would be helpful to advertise for events in the museums so more people are aware of them.
Send out information about them and raise awareness of them!
Why is there no board of directors at SLUMA like most university museums? Why are there not professional curators that can help the director in making decisions about the collections. It feels as though SLUMA has much donated work, some of which is significant and others that is of questionable quality. Glad that the first floor has rotating exhibitions, some of which have been wonderful.
Is there a fee?
There should be a permanent collections database accessible to students and faculty. The SLUMA webpage is full of links to blank pages: https://www.slu.edu/sluma-home/collections/art-collection
I think very highly of SLU's museums and the directors work very hard at constantly producing high-quality exhibitions. I wish they had more staff and better budgets.
The museums have a good balance of thought-provoking art and engaging pieces. Should partner with Sheldon, Pulitzer, and the Contemporary?
I enjoy the variety of art venues on the SLU campus: the beauty of Cupples House and its artworks; the variety of art, including the floor of Jesuit artifacts, at SLUMA ;and the uniqueness of the art dialoging with the spiritual and religious dimensions at MOCRA. I think that all three venues contribute to the education of our students, and to the enrichment of the SLU faculty and staff as well as to the enjoyment of our visitors. I use all three for my classes.
It is great that we have these museums. It would be helpful to know how faculty and students can integrate these locations into the teaching/learning experience. I was aware that we have museums and occasionally see events flyers on them, but otherwise do not know how we can be more interactive with them.
Open the museums when they are supposed to be open!
We have great colleagues working at these museums!
I appreciate MOCRA's willingness and ability to install unique artworks.
I think they are all underfunded gems.
The are wonderful
I wonder what benefit the museums serve and whether the money given to upkeep, administration and purchases could be better spent elsewhere?
See my comment about use of space.
Need to publicize and have events for them to be used
I would not like to see their importance as part of SLU mission minimized regardless of my comments
It'd be nice to have days/times designated for staff to visit, like an open house with someone available to orient you to the exhibits. Or to have an annual exhibit of artwork made by employees throughout SLU (non-art-faculty), to celebrate the diversity of talents among the SLU community.
I wish there were one guided tour through the Cupples house
maybe market them towards students more
thanks!
It should be easier to visit the Cupples house
I enjoy getting the notices in the US Mail regarding events.

The library should have a patio added to it--there is a perfect space for it above the second floor room with all the windows, the one that is to the right when you go up the stairs. That way students could still enjoy the weather on nice days but be in an environment conducive to studying.
I was informed about the SLU Museum at my new employee orientation.
I would very much like to visit the museums, especially Cupples House. I will need to see what weekend hours they have.
Love them! Keep up the great work.
Need to promote more
I enjoy the museums when I can get to see them. I liked the student exhibition in the CUPPLES house.
Advertise the locations, purpose and background of the museum to attract students
It would be nice to have more emphasis in classes toward these museums. Granted, my classes aren't history or art intensive, but it would still be nice to experience all that the museums have to offer.
I would love for classes freshman year (SLU101) to have required me to go in the museums that we have because they are great museums and college students don't have a lot of time to visit.
We don’t need them.
Promote them more especially for new employees.
Better marketing practices-- I love museums and did not know about these!
Don't know what they are, what they show.
I like them, museums are definitely a good thing to have on a college campus
More information online about the museums would be helpful! Signs with hours and arrows would be helpful, too! I think a lot of people are worried they'll try to go in and people inside will tell them to leave because they're one of the few places on campus you can't peek through windows to see what's happening inside.
Until receiving this survey I was not aware of specific museums on campus and I am a former undergrad student and full time employee of the university. Between life as an undergrad, full time staff, and now a graduate student, I would have thought I would have been aware of those facilities on campus. Marketing and showing value to students could be improved greatly with the museums.
Where is SLUMA?
Where are they?
Why aren't they being promoted? In the daily slu email? Social media? Lots of people would love to go if it was more well known.
I am not sure how to enter or even when the MOCRA is open...
I have not heard of any exhibits or events that take place at these museums. All I know is that Cupples House and MOCRA exist. Increased exposure or promotion would be a good idea to inform students of events that take place during the semester
I have walked past/through part of the museum in the Pius Library, but I didn't find it very engaging. Maybe promote the museums better, so that students know what great things they can learn/see in the museum. I think many students are simply unaware of the museums.
Thank you!
na
Where are they located and what are the hours they are open? Are they near the medical campus?
The second floor gallery at SLUMA is a hidden gem. I go as often as I can and there's rarely anyone else around. I like Cupples House a lot, too. I don't get to MOCRA as often.
I have no idea where they are.

Are they open to students? I did not know Cupples House was a museum
when are they even open bc i have no clue as to when they are in operation
I love them.
Since I have never been to any of them and I did not know we could visit the Cupples House till now and I am a sophomore!! You should advertise that the museums are open! I would love to visit but never know when they are open!
I like the outside of the Cupples House.
The University needs to do a better job of getting the word out about the museums. A lot of people on campus think that Cupples House is just another building on campus and have no idea that it's a museum (especially students)
You're doing a fantastic job!! And looking at the art with carefully selected classical music is even more enchanting.
How are these museums and their shows advertised? I do not know they existed.
When are the museums open?
I wish there was more information available about where these museums are and when we can visit them! My friends and I would love to check them all out!
MOCRA seems a bit irrelevant and maybe should be moved to SLUMA as a section or something.
i think that slu has done a great job with the museum space. the mocra is an unusual unique museum with interesting art that goes beyond normal concepts of "religion". good job.
I wished there were student days/nights at museums to encourage students to go especially since they are so close to campus/on campus
advertise more about the couples house
would like to see more events at all venues, particularly MOCRA because I have not yet visited this museum
I have never heard about them
I really enjoyed the exhibit on silk in MOCRA. I actually just loved everything about MOCRA. It was very calming to be there. If there had been more places to sit, I would go there to study just because I love the light, open, peaceful feel of the place
John Buerck Professor of SPS annually gives his graduate school students campus tours of significant buildings generating awareness. More historical tours would be nice.
I wish they were advertised more!
Please advertise the exhibitions more to both the SLU and larger community. They are diamonds in the rough that can serve as an excellent example of SLU to the larger community
Maybe having cocktail hours at the museums? Something social.
I visited the Cupples house while I was in high school and went with my high school class for a tour. While at SLU I haven't been inside it. However many students talk about it and are aware it exists.
More advertising to graduate students, not located on North campus.
Are they free to the public?
As a newer employee it would be nice that there is more mention of the museums.
Are both buildings available for rent/use by private parties for receptions?
I enjoy SLU sponsored events. They give me a reason to make the effort to go.
advertise more
Are they free? Can I just walk in or do I have to be in a tour group?

No one knows about either art Museum. More permanent signs on west pine are needed. New exhibits need to be announced on those signs.
It would be nice to see more than religious art and be more aware of new exhibits that come in
I would like to know more!
The SLU museums, the Church and the landscaping are the most meaningful components of this campus. They are exceptional resources that deserve their full share of Budget allocation and the security to keep the collections protected.
Can't remember being alerted to any displays at MOCRA which I believe is a Religious art museum. I would definitely like to see some exhibits there.
I'd love to learn more information about what is available.
Needs better advertisement, I was unaware of them
I wish more of an effort was made to advertise the museums on campus to students and those outside of the university.
Not enough advertising of SLU museums--including advertising of their existence (and location), times open, fares (if any), exhibits. Although I knew generally of two of the museums, I was not aware of where they were located, whether free and generally open to students, current exhibits. If I had been aware that they were generally open to students, I would have likely visited.
maybe there should be a bigger incentive for students to go
I think we should have more advertising because I'm interested in them, I just don't know much about them/where exactly they are and what's inside of all of them.
When will MOCA open
They're a valuable resource to the university and I hope they continue to expand and expose others to history and art alike.
I have never been to any of the museums in part because I don't know when they are open or what the cost is to students. I think more information like this "in our faces", so to speak, would bring in more students. I also think it would be good to host some kind of event at these locations that is made very available to students.
when are they open/where are they even located
When is a good time to go to the museums?
Thanks for having wonderful spaces for art and history!
When can we visit and what a there to see
I do look forward to visiting now that I know about them!
The Cupple House has a unique story and beautiful design. It is easy to spread the word on the House because it's right in the middle of campus. I haven't had the chance to visit the other museums, but I'd like to, and I'd like to see their presence in SLU life made broader.
Please send an email with general information on the museums to all students alerting us of the hours, exhibits, locations, etc.
MOCRA is worthless. I have no interest in modern religious art. Most of the artwork isn't beautiful and it is mostly antagonistic to traditional Christian beliefs. Thanks, also to bowing to political correctness and removing the statues on the side of Fusz. Not to mention absorbing the museum of Western Jesuit Missions and making them inaccessible.
I didn't care for the religious museum. I don't enjoy contemporary art and there was too much of that there.
Not at all, these are one of the most amazing parts of our campus :)
you guys should advertise it more!
I think the museums need to be better publicized to increase attendance.

SLUMA and MOCRA can be great spaces for reflection and contemplation. I don't really think of Cupples House as a museum, more as just a quaint, well-preserved piece of architecture.
We do boy know the events that happen in the museums.
What's your social media contact information?
I enjoy having these resources where I spend so much of my time
If curators expect attendance at the museums, they will need to extend their hours to accommodate working people; not just students. Unless the museums are only meant for students.
Last couple of years have tried to get into SLUMA multiple times on the weekends with husband and friend. In spite of weekend open times listed as 11-4, we were unable to get in, and I don't believe these were holidays.
SLU has museums?
Please give the statue of Father DeSmet to DeSmet Jesuit High School in St. Louis. It would be a generous gift from one Jesuit institution to another (especially since DeSmet Jesuit is celebrating its 50 year anniversary). It would be appreciated most by a school who gets its name from the figure. Any questions comments or concerns, please get back to me at austin.glass@slu.edu or (314)229-5994.
Thank you so much for maintaining these beautiful galleries!
Can students help find exhibits to fearure? How does the decision process work?
I never know the hours of the museums, but I would be interested in going sometime
They should be more advertised. I have never heard of SLUMA prior to taking this survey.
I went to SLU for undergrad and now Med school and I had no idea Cupples House was considered a museum. I went to SLUMA for a Billikens After Dark event not explicitly for the art.
i dont care. quit spending money on them. put the money toward actual good professors for subjects that matter
Increase awareness.
NEVER BEEN TO ANY.
Where are they? Are they free? When are they available?
We should capitalize on our awesome museums by marketing them more intentionally to the St. Louis community. They're a hidden gem.
I hope that they do not decide to close any of the museums on campus.
First visted SLUMA for new faculty welcome event with spouses. Have been back several times for Stray Rescue fundraiser.
I've done many things with my class and with off-campus groups at all three museums. The staff has always been helpful. I'm quite happy with them.
I visited the museum of art for new faculty orientation
I have not visited SLUMA or MOCRA because both spaces seem a bit imposing and uninviting. I have often walked past SLUMA with the intent of going, but neither of them (nor Cupples House), really seem to market themselves as a place to visit--rather they are just collections that SLU owns. I have tried to book SLUMA for an event before and ran into a lot of flack because they have very specific requirements for who can use the space (turns out we were "on the list" and were able to use the space). I did not attend the event, but heard it was a disaster in terms of finding where the event was held within the building.
Going to visit MOCRA and SLUMA with my classes later this semester!
I think SLUMA is an excellent museum and I wish more people knew about it! I realize that I also need to make time to visit the other invaluable museum spaces on campus, which I will plan to do ASAP.
Saint Louis University museums are contributing in significant ways to the education of SLU students. They also play a significant role in student recruitment, in marketing, and in fundraising.
It is nice to know what is going on out there.
More publicity to students

APPENDIX B: FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS & RESPONSES (POST-SURVEY)

Focus Group Questions

1. **When you visit a SLU museum, why do you go?**
   Potential follow-up question:
   Why do you choose museums as something you go to over other options?

2. **Are there obstacles that keep you from going to a SLU museum?**
   Potential follow-up questions:
   When would you be most likely to visit?
   How would you learn basic information about a museum?
   How far in advance do you usually make plans for social/cultural activities? How much advance notice do you typically desire for these activities?
   (For faculty only): How far in advance do you need information about museum offerings to consider them for your syllabi?

3. **What suggestions do you have to make the SLU museums' exhibits, spaces, and services better known to faculty, staff, and students?**
   Potential follow-up questions:
   How do you usually learn about events on campus?
   Which forms of communication do you most respond to?
   Do you actively seek out events or just respond to things that come to your attention and that you find interesting?

4. **What types of exhibits, events, or other museum programming would appeal to you?**
   Potential follow-up questions:
   How much does having food or beverages (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) add to the appeal of the event?
   What times of day and week are you most likely to consider attending a museum event?
   Would you be willing to pay for a special event?
   Faculty: Are there ways that SLU museums can or already have enhanced your course content?

5. **What did you like best about your SLU museum visit/s?**

6. **What do the museums seem to be doing well? In what ways could the museums improve?**

7. **Do you have any additional thoughts or ideas about the SLU museums that we haven't discussed?**

Focus Group Responses

1. When you visit a SLU museum, why do you go?

Optional follow-up question: Why do you choose museums as something you go to over other options?

- As an artist, I distinguish between galleries and museums – each has a different, distinct function: museums are non-profit, educational, social environments; galleries are commercial enterprises; I go to both, but expect a larger experience from museum, in both size and content
- I concur with the above perspective; I'm drawn to visual arts and visit at SLU because it's another way into topics for students; there is a learning component not represented otherwise on campus, including lectures
- With students for classroom activities. Exhibition themes and events attract. For example, Jesuit history.
- To hear lectures, special events, new exhibitions
- Nothing else to do,
- Personal interest in museums (e.g. humanities, artifacts)
- Family connection
- Bringing prospective student or visitor, high school students like MOCRA
- Parents are impressed with Cupples House and SLUMA
- I like the upper floors in SLUMA
- Try to see all student & faculty exhibits
- All kinds of events: Live events, speakers, big party events, interactive events, book events, viewing art, attend lectures, openings, artists' talks, specific exhibits, donor events, something historical or biographical.
- Use MORCA for staff meeting, for reflection
- SLUMA openings only
- Space: Beautiful room, creative process, can use catering service, offer more mutual ground, not only for SLU; Cupples House: Lower level is good.
- For teaching, it's another way into topics for students; there is a learning component not represented otherwise on campus, including lectures
- Museum provides perspective, innovative ideas from artists' perspective who expect a larger experience from museum, in both size and content due to the nature of the museum: non-profit, educational, social environments
- from INTO SLU, see American culture in museum for international students
- Jesuit topics, speakers, meet Jesuit mission
- As an artist, I distinguish between galleries and museums – each has a different, distinct function: museums are non-profit, educational, social environments; galleries are commercial enterprises; I go to both, but expect a larger experience from museum, in both size and content
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- For teaching, it's another way into topics for students; there is a learning component not represented otherwise on campus, including lectures
- Museum provides perspective, innovative ideas from artists' perspective who expect a larger experience from museum, in both size and content due to the nature of the museum: non-profit, educational, social environments

2. Are there obstacles that keep you from going to a SLU museum?

- Hours, not aware of current hours
- Virtually impossible to determine when Cupples House is open to public
- MOCRA and SLUMA have good hours, not sure about Cupples House
- Hours are short due to staffing, but not a hindrance with classes that you can schedule; crossing Lindell is hard; sometimes forget to go – postcard would be helpful reminder
- Closed in morning, not open on Mondays
- Hours fluctuate
- Feels empty – off-putting to have no one around
- Difficult to go at lunch
- No one nearby to ask a question at SLUMA
- Proximity: Have to take buses, Law school is far from the campus
- Open hours: MOCRA hours are short; they're the same time as work
- Parking: For off-campus/alumni people, parking is a huge issue
- Awareness: Don't know hours, events, exhibitions going on; lack of awareness
- Time: Don't have time to go; evening events are harder – I can attend lunch events

(Follow-up question) When would you be most likely to visit?

- 4:30-6, towards end of day; are museums open on First Fridays? I was a Grand Center tour guide – didn't include SLUMA
- Various needs. Evening and weekends, lunch
- Flexible hour is good: MORCA is good to accommodate with their event hour request
- I go any time and adjust schedule when possible – it's not the hours but what's going on at work
- With our old email, I used to be able to see museum entries; it would be nice to have calendar settings to say what's happening at the museums
- Now we could do it manually; it would be nice to have "Museums & galleries @ SLU" calendar to add and receive notifications – could turn it off, as needed. Other calendars, e.g., "Events at SLUMA," "Student show opening"
- Perhaps a weekly or monthly newsletter, like Reinert CTTL, SLU Service, etc.

(Follow-up question) How far in advance do you usually make plans for social/cultural activities? How much advance notice do you typically desire for these activities?

- 1 week
- A month or more – pretty far in advance

(Follow-up question – faculty only) How far in advance do you need information about museum offerings to consider them for your syllabi?

- For syllabus, info about events should be sent out before the next semester starts. For example, now is the good time for the spring semester.
- More than a week before the start of the semester – certainly before 1st day of classes
- Our museums and departments of fine arts and others are too separate; students are an audience for exhibits and events; regarding faculty use in syllabi, it would make more sense if faculty were part of planning exhibits/events, for example, a class on the African diaspora, with history/African American Studies faculty; there is a lack of communication, cooperation
- [echoes same] Same with a history conference: contacted SLUMA, MOCRA ahead of time about an exhibit but received no response
- Museums know sometimes years in advance of exhibits

(Follow-up question) How could one foster such collaboration?

- The whole University doesn't know what they want the museums to be [specifically SLUMA]; an existential question; it's not a person but the entire mission; they would like to get the community in the door; do not see themselves as educators; must answer that [existential question] first.

(Follow-up question) Would you be interested in exploring that question?

- Well, sure – but it may be a question that cannot be answered by individuals other than those in the museums [plus University as a whole, administration, etc.]
- Yes, [they need to establish] a vision

- Well, even before a vision – a mission – "Why do we exist? What is our reason for being here?" even before a mission – what is the reason for our existence?
- It feels like it's a fundraising vehicle geared toward support of donors; I support and understand that and I bring students because I'm asked to support; but it doesn't feel like they support my students' education

(Follow-up question) What would that look like?

- [Group participant #5] is right – the mission should be clarified and should include the education of students; faculty and student exhibits should be in SLUMA; there should be staff educated in all aspects of museums, backgrounds in education backgrounds, with professional experience, to educate in curation, installation, etc.; integrate in to curriculum; integrate student education into exhibits, etc.
- I just assumed that was the case
- Not part of planning – we get a postcard just like you; no contact with Asian Studies for Asian art exhibit, etc.; should be academic partners to plan exhibit schedule, etc.
- There should be Master Classes – University-wide – with History, etc.; there should be departmental curation – even with University's own collections
- Exactly – for student participation – with employment implications; this would require much planning – and must see selves as faculty – not "we mount shows"
- Including professors from all over – "science of perception," "math in art," aesthetics, philosophy, etc., etc. – how other disciplines interact with and affect art – throughout SLU community; a current example of this on campus is a film series in which students watch a film and faculty then discuss it from the perspective of their discipline (psychology, STEM, etc.) – I admire that – "I mean, come on!"; SLU's Fine and Performing Arts Department is arts inside a liberal arts context – with philosophy, science, physical therapy, history …
- Museum/departments siloed – missed opportunity
- The previous administration had an idea of the purpose of Cupples, SLUMA; MOCRA was distinct; now they're trying to make sense of it in new environment; there's not a historical culture of seeing museums in light of other parts of the University community
- American Studies is a very visual program – another neglected resource – why aren't they curating an exhibit? The is a new era – we've never been asked these questions before – we've never been in a position to give our thoughts
- Now that it's within/under an academic unit, hopeful things may be done differently

(Follow-up question) Is there a model for this?

- Claudia [DuVall] did this in the library – she put up exhibits, brought in speakers – she had an educational role, "but she's gone."
- One of our graduate students got to do a small exhibit in the Vatican Film Library; this could be an opportunity for some autonomy in curation: "Here are some choices – go do some research."

3. What suggestions do you have to make the SLU museums' exhibits, spaces, and services better known to faculty, staff, and students?

- Any kind of digital/online presence would be helpful – in every Newslink, wouldn't it be cool to have an art piece for the day with a blurb, and then hours included; have seen MOCRA ads on campus, but not SLUMA or Cupples House; arts kiosk in middle of campus for passers-by; expand e-mail list;
- calendar of event e-mail for faculty, staff, & students, or in Newslink showing hours, exhibits, etc.;
- recall seeing virtually every MOCRA event advertised, but not so much the others, except some for McNamee Gallery in Cupples House. For MOCRA, they seem to do a really good job of promoting upcoming and ongoing exhibitions, not so much SLUMA. I tend to pay more attention to SLUMA because I'm a fundraiser and the collection may be from a donor. Notice the Urban Wanderers exhibit every year, imagine it's because the animal rights group probably does a better job promoting than SLU does.
- Cupples is a huge name in STL history, but SLU barely even takes advantage of it. Promote that so you get history groups of people – not just history people, but everyone connected to STL history and culture;
- If I had advance notice of the exhibits, I could better plan for instruction – barely know 2 weeks in advance; working with FPA faculty to develop exhibits mostly related to SLUMA and MOCRA. Learn a little bit because of Fr. Dempsey being in FPA.
- Professor Bush from English took us to SLUMA for a class, and it was one of the more interesting classes; art submission contests would be good.
- Art integration at the collegiate level. Any number of disciplines could enrich their curriculums.
- I volunteer at the History Museum, that provides a printed schedule going out two years that helps with planning
- Family weekend or Santa events
- Camp themes, rainy day activity – I use spaces for planning and have never had SLUMA or Cupples offered as options; remind staff that those spaces are available;
- events for parents with small children; tie museums into summer camps; art appreciation events for younger folks;
- get involved with art fairs (Clayton); events that use both museums and libraries would be fun; have more events where museum is used by the STL community;
- Replace art on 2nd floor of DuBourg with SLUMA art to create awareness;
- Host "Young Friends" events to get people in the space;
- Tie museums to Fall Welcome Week – parents want to see what is around
- DIY art activity; partner with a public group
- Have a central contact person
- Improve awareness: faculty/student orientation; Reach out the Law School; One-on-one department meeting; Clear post and signage outside enhance visibility; emails from SLUMA; physical postcard; social media (Facebook, etc.)
- Use space more effectively: use space in educational buildings (e.g., SOM in Schwitalla Hall), gallery, etc.
- Open hours: Lunch break exhibit.
- If more integral to the curriculum and mission, it would be a natural, more organic way to raise attendance, awareness – if your faculty curated an exhibit on memory, you'd go
- St. Louis Public Library displays and events highly publicized; reach out to education organizations, artists' guilds, other museums

- Could do a social media "object of the day" – just pull something out of one of the boxes in the collection – the Science Center does this and I follow it
- Are there programs (departmental) for archivists, museum studies?
- No – but Art History, American Studies, Studio Art – all have students with interest
- We've discussed museum studies program with the director, but never launched
- We've offered to curate from the collection
- There's so much art on campus
- Is there a database/catalog of the art?
- Yes – not sure if it's publicly available
- You can get art to display in your department; not sure of process – online catalog, request certain pieces
- Including students?
- If the question arises, we could get things out front – other universities have links to arts – like with sports, academics – in a place of primacy – demonstrates their importance at the university
- More integration, more attendance; invite authors whose subject matter goes with exhibit somehow, even indirectly; have talks in the space not necessarily about the exhibit.

4. What types of exhibits, events, or other museum programming would appeal to you?

- Combine events for better participation, like meditation and gallery tour;
- form an advisory board with students, faculty, and community;
- place someone from Development on planning committees to raise money at events,
- host events during Fall Break;
- roll-up events into cultural opportunities;
- more activity-based programming – could be fundraisers like drink wine and paint.
- Use social media to attract people – have Jesuits host an evening of reflection;
- bring in easy, low-key entertainment like photo booth, trivia, improve group, A Capella groups; quartet at SLUMA would be fantastic
- Anything involving music; in all different forms on music-related exhibitions
- For students, not much for food
- Depending on the nature of the events, use food and beverage as an attraction (e.g., cookies). For example, opening reception, closing reception.
- wine tasting in Cupples House
- Art and wine
- Depending on the events, pay or not pay
- Not pay, free events.
- Nobody coordinate the events and help set-up. Faculty has to find out by themselves
- Curriculum guide is needed for faculty, such as Latin, psychology, etc. departments based curriculum guides
- Use SLU 101, English 1900 to add museum information
- Summarized suggestions: Single-point contact; How to use exhibition in your class
- Reach out museum contact person to inquire if any exhibition has connection to curriculum.
- There are five exhibits a year in McNamee (Cupples); not a great space; basement, mold, not very nice; very appreciative – have had nothing, have some autonomy; these exhibits are all curricular – students

put up exhibits, see professors' art, see other professional artists' work; part of SLUMA should be given to Fine and Performing Arts for these exhibits/curation; the exhibits are solely to educate –they are built into the major and minor – all for education – deserve a better space
- Donors could see student art, etc.
- We need a much darker, much straighter line to departmental programs at the University – Law, Medicine, etc., etc.
- This is the Jesuit mission – everything coming together for education

Follow-up questions: How much does having food or beverages (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) add to the appeal of the event?

- Wine helps socially awkward people; something to eat at the end of a long business day; food would interest students

Follow-up question: What times of day and week are you most likely to consider attending a museum event?

- Openings on Friday evening are difficult due to personal responsibilities; history museum has their openings on Friday evenings; parking info would be helpful; MOCRA events in the afternoon are easier to get to and plan around

Optional follow-up questions: Would you be willing to pay for a special event? Are there ways that SLU museums can or already have enhanced your course content?

5. What did you like best about your SLU museum visit/s?

- Stray Rescue exhibit; museums are quiet and not crowded – feels exclusive
- Variety of exhibits are interesting like Jesuit 3rd floor items at SLUMA
- I appreciate the differences among the three places
- I like unexpected exhibits and backstage experience of exhibits
- I appreciate the freedom to explore on your own. On the other hand, I wish there was more guidance, whether an audio tour or someone leading the tour; on a recent visit to Cupples House, there was a placard in one spot in the room that you had to return to in order to get perspective. Some museums provide laminated sheets to carry around during your visit.
- I don't like reading long things; 15-second norm for viewing art. Like the diversity of the exhibitions and like it when there is a speaker (artist or curator).
- At Rare Books opening at Pius Library, I got to speak to the curator of the collection one on one. It was interactive and there was wine. I got to see old techniques versus current – really interesting.
- Willem De Kooning exhibit: Katy Wang put together some brown bag presentations for the exhibit; perhaps do brown bags every week for grad students.
- Have an event tour guide, such as Father Terry to guide/tour
- Aesthetic, decoration, space, curriculum are good

6. What do the museums seem to be doing well? In what ways could the museums improve?

- Diversity is good, but I would like more historical
- More programming – things to get people in the door and introduce them to the venue
- History Museum had the "history clubhouse" to get kids involved; offer something to people who are otherwise not interested in art
- SLAM re-enactments; would be great to have outreach to some of the community local schools
- Parking information (if free) would help get outsiders in
- Promote the museums as part of the whole Grand Arts district. SLU should take a greater stance in the arts – needs an investment from the university
- Good job of new exhibits with various types of art at SLUMA
- Museum staff is very responsive to student groups at SLUMA – willing to trust students and are flexible
- Museums have odd hours
- SLU doesn't offer a museum studies track – why?
- Offer summer internships to students
- Reach out to teachers in community, not just SLU
- Bring in kids from Grand Center arts academy – field trip
- MOCRA's Podcasts are wonderful (doing well)
- Awareness (improve): communication is the key – one-point contact; centralized website
- Tour 3rd floor of SLUMA for new students during student orientation to learn about Jesus mission.
- Bring students to visit
- Connect with University's other events
- Survey students
- Connect with University's other events to have exhibition on the related events across campuses
- Collaborate with Grand Center art district, collaborate with other museums.
- The food at receptions is delicious
- SLUMA, Cupples physical spaces are well-maintained; the experience that a patron has is very positive
- Concur – I walk in the museums just because they are beautiful; Boileau; Pere Marquette
- They are impressive spaces with art in them
- The chess museum (World Chess Hall of Fame) does this well – integration of art history, curators, music – they understand this; not apples to apples, but a goodish example of integration into the community

7. Do you have any additional thoughts or ideas about the SLU museums that we haven't discussed?

- How are museums and libraries working together, functioning?
- Suggestion: Some sort of friends' board for the museums, or expand "Friends of the Library" [SLU Library Associates] to include museums, particularly if goal is to grow awareness outside SLU
- Libraries are almost purely academic, whereas museums have more outreach. In the past, under the previous president, museums were used as more of a fundraising tool. It would be beneficial to make the museum operations more academic.
- "Friends of Library" have done an amazing job with Literary Award. The museums could try to come up with some kind of event like that. As a fundraiser, I'm astonished there is no dedicated development officer/fund raiser for libraries and museums. Ten or so years ago there was one. For whatever reason, that went away. If you want to grow awareness outside of campus for these cultural assets, that is what Development does. We're the salespeople for the university. [I] Do the same kind of work for Enrollment. I feel Mr. Cassens could advocate for a line in development, with good justification. Members of the FOL board could be cultivated even more. … [I] Spent years in fundraising at UMSL, including the Mercantile Library, which was an amazing resource to bring people from outside of campus. I think the academic mission can serve/dovetail nicely with more charitable work. Not mutually exclusive. Example was Illuminated Manuscript exhibit.
- As a student, I went to museums as part of a project. Hands-on learning from that environment was more helpful.
- Museums are a public place where people can feel welcome. It is a lost opportunity if it does not get more support.
- Have museums collaborate with tours of other museums like the Kemper
- Beyond art is the building itself – might be interesting tour of history of SLUMA building; history information of SLUMA building has already been collected
- Regularly scheduled tours at museums are needed
- Architectural tours of all SLU buildings; St. Louis Landmark Society can partner
- I have archives and historical information already collected; lots of talent and ideas are available within SLU community; should offer ideas to other campus groups
- Fall Welcome option
- SLU is rushing into STEM; museums can carry torch for the arts
- STEM is now STEAM; more marketing needed
- Hold events combining things like engineering students and art
- Interested in how purchasing and collection development decisions are made – I have no idea
- [after close] Social media idea: take a photo at any location at SLU, including museums, of paintings, sculptures, etc. – post with "Where am I?" or "Where is this?" – has used effectively – spurs interest