



A. G. L. G.
EDUCATION AND LEARNING POLICY



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Introduction

The A. G. L. G. is Cyprus' only art gallery that displays and presents aspects of the broader history of European art; a major cultural institution charged with researching, collecting, preserving and exhibiting artworks and *objets d'art*, the A. G. L. G. aims to build an understanding of Cypriot, Greek and European art within a broader art-historical context.

Established in 2014, the A. G. L. G. is privately funded and governed by a Board of Directors and the A. G. Leventis Foundation.

Education and learning philosophy

The A. G. L. G. aims to create educational activities both within the A. G. L. G. and beyond its premises, with a focus on interdisciplinary learning and life-long learning. We wish to help educate youth and families through various programmes and activities in ways that encourage and enrich their own artistic appreciation and expression.

Our education and learning activities include programmes based on the permanent collections and our temporary exhibitions and target visiting school groups, adults, young people, families and teachers. They are also aimed at teacher-training professional development, and the A. G. L. G. provides educational resources in print and electronic formats. We hope that this will encourage the use of art as a gateway to learning and create an exploratory experience for students and teachers visiting the Gallery with strategies and resources to demonstrate the power of art in the classroom.

Our education and learning activities focus on European, Greek and Cypriot art, history and culture.

Background

Since the opening of the A. G. L. G. in 2014, there is increasing interest from schools and groups to visit and learn more about the A. G. L. G. Collections. Drawing on extensive experience in the creation of educational programmes (directed to all ages from 4 year olds and above), the Gallery has the potential to design and implement programmes that will cover a broad range of subject matter directly related to our educational vision.

Description

This policy lists the principles/guidelines that structure the A. G. L. G. approach to education and learning.

Purpose

To provide a framework that

- Promotes continuous learning as a core principle
- Strives to provide lifelong education and learning opportunities for local, national and international audiences, and engages with communities through education and learning activities
- Maintains a sound working knowledge of school curricula and other education frameworks and policies that relate to the A. G. L. G. Collections, exhibitions and web content
- Establishes partnerships with local, national and international education providers, including cultural institutions, education authorities, tertiary institutions and others
- Keeps abreast of national and international education and learning theories, trends and strategies
- Uses technology in innovative and creative ways, such as the internet and video-conferencing to reach national and international audiences

Rationale

The A. G. L. G. vision and scope requires that the A. G. L. G. disseminates 'information relating to European history of art history and culture as well as to Greek and Cypriot art and culture and information relating to the A. G. L. G. and its functions. An effective education and learning policy is essential to the A. G. L. G.'s strategic objectives in particular, to enhance [its] national and international profile', as described in the A. G. L. G. Five-year Strategic Plan, 2015-2020.

Principles and Guidelines

Lifelong learning

The A. G. L. G. aims to provide education and learning opportunities to support continuous or lifelong learning and acknowledges that learning occurs at all stages of life.

Diversity of learning styles

The A. G. L. G. acknowledges that children and adults learn in different ways and strives to use a wide range of learning styles including visual/spatial, bodily/kinesthetic and verbal/linguistic styles. Interpretative strategies and formats are varied to cater for this diversity and include hands-on and active learning, especially in relation to objects and artefacts as well as performance and role-play.

The A. G. L. G. strives to allow children to make decisions, encouraging a pro-active attitude towards learning, sometimes referred to as 'free choice learning', but within a structured format with specified learning outcomes.

The A. G. L. G. supports intergenerational learning and actively encourages interaction between parents, grandparents, carers and children and young people.

Inquiry learning

The A. G. L. G. supports and promotes inquiry learning which encourages audiences, particularly school students, to reach their own conclusions about the subject matter being investigated, based on sound research and evidence. This educational process empowers students to express well-informed views.

European history of art and culture / Greek and Cypriot art and culture

The A. G. L. G. sees the development and dissemination of programmes and resources related to European history of art and culture, as well as to Greek and Cypriot art and culture, as one of its key education and learning priorities. The A. G. L. G. will regularly consult with the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus, universities and colleges on the island and abroad, the EU Committee for Culture and communities and education providers in the development of programmes and projects.

Collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus

The offered educational programmes are based on the new academic curriculum, with a particular focus on the areas of history of art, history, the arts and sciences and other related subjects.

Summer, Easter and Christmas programmes and public holidays

One of the key aims of the A. G. L. G. and the Education Department is to have the visitors, especially the youth, returning back with a thirst for more as well as to consider the Gallery as a place of entertainment and learning. The Gallery aims to offer specialised themed after-school/holiday programmes and summer schools during the periods of Easter, Christmas and the summer holidays. These programmes will allow the children to experience the Collections in depth and engage in creative activities such as painting, sculpting, collage, acting, etc., which a short school visit does not always permit.



Various workshops and projects

Throughout the year the A. G. L. G. will offer various workshops and activities to allow the youth to engage with the Collections in a number of different ways. Collaborations will take place with fine art teachers, university professors and other art educators in order to offer events such as Saturday drawing lessons for young adults or one-day workshops on photography and the camera obscura, so that visitors can get involved with art in a creative and practical way and be encouraged to view art in an interdisciplinary manner.

Inclusion of the marginalised community

One of the significant aims of the A. G. L. G. is to make the Collections accessible to all. The Education Department will thus be creating special programmes and approaching children's shelters, immigrant children's organisations, etc., in order to realise its vision and encourage a love and appreciation of art for all. All programmes are offered in Greek and in English and thus are also available to the Turkish-Cypriot community.

Education and learning partnerships and leadership

The A. G. L. G. seeks to become a leader in the development of exemplary teaching and learning activities and resources through reciprocal relationships with a range of organisations, such as education departments, teacher associations, cultural institutions, including remote and regional institutions and providers of education services, educational publishing houses private education companies and others.

The role of technology

The A. G. L. G. maximises teaching and learning opportunities through the innovative and creative use of information and communication technologies, and caters both to a national and an international audience. As noted above, the A. G. L. G. expects to deliver more education content online through its website and through other online portals.

Definition of responsibilities:

Education Officer

Manages the implementation and promotion of this policy

Marketing and PR Officer

Assists in policy implementation

Deputy Director

Assists in policy implementation

Director

Coordinates and supervises policy implementation

References:

A. G. L. G. Vision, 2012

Five-year Strategic Plan, 2015-2020



APPENDIX, JANUARY 2016

Introduction

The purpose of this appendix is not to make any changes to the philosophy of the A. G. L. G. educational policy, but rather to make modifications and additions due to the expansion of the Education Department and the establishment of the Coco_Creativity Centre.

What is the Coco_Creativity Centre?

Part of the second floor of the A. G. Leventis Gallery, previously housing the offices and the library, has been refurbished in order to accommodate a new exhibition hall, a space for educational workshops and the offices of the Education Department of the Gallery. This new space has been named the Coco_Creativity Centre.

The Coco_Creativity Centre is dedicated to the promotion of the A. G. Leventis Gallery's educational policy through not only the educational visits and workshops that are already organised by the Gallery, but also through temporary exhibitions, lectures, films, etc., with an educational character.

The Coco_Creativity Centre is also dedicated to the promotion of creativity and learning for all ages. With the creation of the Coco_Creativity Centre, two new spaces have been established.

Claude Monet Hall (See Appendix 3.1)

The larger space, previously the library, is now available for temporary exhibitions, lectures, symposiums, movie nights, etc.

There is an appendix made specifically for the policies and terms of the types of temporary exhibitions to be held in the multipurpose hall. In brief, these exhibitions will be short in duration, they will have an educational character, will be accompanied by a series of workshops/lectures, etc., and will always have a curator attached to them.

Renoir's Workshop

The smaller space, previously the offices, will be made into a workshop area used solely for education-related activities. This will allow us to host more arts and crafts related workshops for both young and old, which will in turn allow us to invite younger children (aged 6 and younger) who need creative stimuli. It will also give us the opportunity to host art classes/workshops/lectures on a more regular/permanent basis and allow us to use a wider range of materials.

Birthday parties

The Education Department of the Gallery has decided to open its doors to offering birthday parties.

The aim of this is to offer an alternative to traditional birthday parties, but also to draw in children who perhaps would not be interested in coming to a museum. It gives us the chance to introduce art and our Collections at a young age, and to combine seamlessly the idea of learning and fun. The A. G. L. G. will be the first museum in Cyprus to offer birthday parties.

Birthday parties will have a strictly educational character – a package will be offered that includes a workshop and small tour inspired by the Collections, run by the Education Department Staff and/or external collaborators. After the workshop, there will be an option of a meal/cake, etc., which will be organised in collaboration with the Gallery's restaurant.

Sleepovers

The Education Department will also offer approximately one sleepover a year. After holding a successful pilot sleepover (May 2015) we realised that it is a unique way to excite young children and make them interested in the Gallery, broadening their idea of what a museum can offer. It is important to find new, innovative ways of encouraging children to engage with our Collections. It is also a unique event, as the A. G. L. G. is currently the only museum in Cyprus to host sleepovers.



