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**THE CITY OF NEW YORK PARTNERS WITH THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
TO LAUNCH NEW FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR NEW YORK SNAP PARTICIPANTS**

New Explorer Membership to provide consistent and welcoming access for over 1.7 million SNAP participants in New York City

Membership includes free general admission, access to select Member Preview Days, a digital Membership card for streamlined entry, invitations to community programs, and more

NEW YORK (Tuesday, June 2, 2026) - The Metropolitan Museum of Art (The Met) together with the Department of Social Services and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs today announced the launch of a free Membership program for New Yorkers who are part of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The initiative will be offered through the new Explorer Membership level, which comprises a free, one-year museum Membership, with benefits including free general admission, access to select Member Preview Days, a digital Membership card for streamlined entry, invitations to community programs, and more.

Over 1.7 million New York City residents rely on SNAP, and this initiative ensures that individuals and families navigating economic strain still have access to free, high-quality cultural experiences in a safe, intergenerational public space; and are offered opportunities for learning, reflection, and connection. The Explorer Membership is offered in collaboration with the Department of Social Services.

"We are proud to partner with The Metropolitan Museum of Art to ensure that every New Yorker knows they are welcome to learn, experience beauty, engage with history, and find inspiration at one of New York City's greatest cultural institutions – entirely for free. This administration believes the very best of our city should belong to the people, and today's announcement is another step toward making that vision real." -- **Mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani**.

"The Met is here for everyone," said **Max Hollein, the Museum's Director and CEO**. "Our mission is to connect all people to creativity, knowledge, ideas, and to one another, and we are honored to partner with the City of New York on this important Membership program and extend to SNAP recipients a warm welcome and easy access to all The Met has to offer. This museum was founded by New Yorkers for New Yorkers, and we can't wait to invite our new Explorer Members in to enjoy everything from our groundbreaking exhibitions and stunning new collection galleries to our dynamic programs and activities we offer for visitors of all ages, all of which provide infinite opportunities for discovery, inspiration, and community."

"We are honored to partner on this important initiative," said **NYC Department of Social Services Commissioner Erin Dalton**. "Access to art and culture is an essential part of an equitable city. By removing financial barriers to accessing The Met for over 1.7 million New Yorkers, we create opportunities for learning, belonging and inspiration that extend beyond individual beneficiaries to the whole community."

"The Met's new Membership program for SNAP recipients is a beautiful example of making sure all New Yorkers are not just welcome but actively invited into our city's greatest cultural treasures," said **NYC Cultural Affairs Commissioner Diya Vij**. "This institution belongs to all New Yorkers, and this free Membership is a reminder to residents that art is not a luxury but a powerful source of connection and curiosity open to us all."

The Explorer Membership is available as a complimentary Membership to New Yorkers who receive in-state SNAP benefits. Memberships are valid for one year from the date of registration and can be renewed each year. The Explorer Membership is designed to ensure that participants can experience all the Museum has to offer, from special exhibitions, to talks, tours and programs available to visitors. The Membership includes:

- Free general admission for the cardholder and one guest, plus children 17 and under
- A digital Member card for streamlined entry
- Access to select Member Preview Days for new exhibitions
- Invitations to events and programs, including Community Wednesdays, festivals, and borough-based activations
- Onsite support and guidance for first-time and returning visitors

To enroll in the Explorer Membership program, eligible individuals can visit the Membership Desk at The Met Fifth Avenue (at 82nd Street and Fifth Avenue) and The Met Cloisters, the Museum's branch for Medieval art in northern Manhattan. The Metropolitan Museum of Art always offers pay-as-you-wish admission at both locations for New York State residents and students from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

To ensure SNAP recipients across the city are aware of the Explorer Membership, The Met will be distributing flyers and printed materials through libraries, community centers, NYCHA developments and other high-traffic locations; partnerships with grassroots organizations, tenant associations and faith-based institutions; and digital advertising.

The Explorer Membership rollout coincides with The Met's robust lineup of Spring and Summer programming and exhibitions. Highlights of the season include *Raphael: Sublime Poetry* (through June 28), the first comprehensive, international loan exhibition in the United States on Renaissance master Raphael, widely considered to be one of the greatest artists of all time; *Costume Art* (through January 10, 2027), the new spring Costume Institute exhibition that pairs objects from across the Museum's vast collection with historical and contemporary garments. *Musical Bodies* (opening June 7) will be the first major exhibition to explore the multifaceted relationship between musical instruments and the human body, bringing together some 120 works from around the world and across time, including musical instruments, paintings, sculptures, and drawings from The Met. At The Met Cloisters, the new exhibition *Creatures of Myth and Imagination: Europe and the Americas* (through October 18, 2026) brings art of the ancient Americas to The Met Cloisters for the first time for an exploration of fantastic beings in the visual arts over the course of a millennium, from 500 to 1500 CE.

The Met has participated in the Museums for All program since 2024 as part of our broader commitment to access. The Met is a member of the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs' Cultural Institutions Group, a cohort of private, non-profit organizations on city-owned property. CIG members receive substantial subsidies and capital investment from the city; in return for this support, they provide cultural programming for all New Yorkers.

For more information on the Explorer Membership, please visit The Met's Member FAQs page: <https://www.metmuseum.org/support/membership/membership-faqs>

About the New York City Department of Social Services: DSS, comprised of the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and the Human Resources Administration (HRA), serves millions of New Yorkers annually through a broad range of services that aim to address poverty and prevent homelessness. DHS oversees a broad network of shelters, re-housing solutions, and outreach programs designed to help New Yorkers experiencing homelessness get back on their feet. HRA serves over three million New

Yorkers through the administration of more than 15 major public assistance programs. DSS is central to the City's mission to expand opportunity for New Yorkers in need, address housing insecurity, and ensure that low-income New Yorkers receive the benefits and assistance for which they may be eligible.

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