

# FRAME French Connection Family Day

Educators from the Musée Fabre, Montpellier, France, and the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts, examined approaches to family programming in French and American museums. This collaboration helped to shape a Family Day, “The French Connection,” held at the Clark in December 2006. Below is an outline of the day’s events, with helpful information for any FRAME museum planning to host similar programs.

10:30 am–4:00 pm

## **Welcome table**

Distributed program of events and tickets for the cooking demonstrations, displayed map of United States and France with all FRAME museum cities indicated, had French and English speaking greeters, displayed samples of art projects

10:30 a.m. **Film:** *Madeline*

12:15 p.m. **Film:** *The Red Balloon*

These films were selected for their French settings—*The Red Balloon* especially for the marvelous and seemingly timeless Paris scenery. The films were screened in the morning, before the Family Day activities began, so there was a full house from the onset.

1:00–4:00 pm

## **Art Projects: papier maché box, pin, magnet, photo album, bookmark**

Use [images from any of the 24 FRAME museums](#), plus other decorations, to make any or all of the above projects (many supplies were purchased in bulk from a crafts store. The boxes and albums were expensive, and could be left out.) Glue sticks, double-stick tape, and safety scissors should be laid out with other materials. [Helpful hints for projects](#).

1:00–4:00 pm

## **Concentration**

This quiet game of memory for 2 to 4 players uses images from the collections of the 24 FRAME museums. [Instructions for how to play](#).

1:15 pm, 2:00 pm, 2:45 pm, 3:30 pm

## **French cooking demonstration and tasting**

Tickets were available at the welcome table on a first come-first served basis. Chefs from a local restaurant demonstrated the preparation of a French appetizer and dessert. This was a very popular activity for all age groups. The restaurant charged the museum only the cost of food, though chefs were given a small stipend.

1:00–4:00 pm

## **Virtual visits to FRAME museums**

An area with six computers, all programmed to bring users to the FRAME website, offered the opportunity to take a virtual visit to any of the 24 museums. This was popular with older kids and adults, and all computers were occupied consistently throughout the afternoon.

1:00–4:00 pm

**Mime Robert Rivest**

The mime, dressed as Marcel Marceau, added a fun French flavor to the day. The fee was expensive, but if your museum is in a city, there may be an acting student at a nearby school willing to do this for free or for a nominal fee.

1:30–2:30 pm

**Deveaux Family Singers French Folk Song Sing-Along**

A local French family with four children led this charming French folk song sing-along.

2:00–2:45 pm

**Gallery talk on French works in the Clark collection**