Accessibility Guide:

Social Narrative
The Museum at Bethel Woods!

The Museum’s entrance is located on the ground level of our Museum building. In the lobby of The Museum, you will find the Welcome Desk, where you can check in and ask for additional information or assistance from one of our helpful volunteers.

The Museum at Bethel Woods seeks to be an inclusive space and we want to provide each visitor with a positive experience. For this reason, we have created a social narrative to help guide visitors with Autism Spectrum Disorders throughout their museum experience. We hope this will be helpful for you as you plan for your trip to Bethel Woods Center for the Arts! Please review this social narrative before coming to The Museum to help make the most of your visit.

To learn about other Bethel Woods happenings on the day of your visit, you may call The Museum ahead of time: (845) 583-2079.

I am going to: The Museum at Bethel Woods!
During my visit, I can explore The Museum and see all of the different galleries inside. When I first arrive at Bethel Woods, I will see The Museum building. I will need to come inside the main doors to enter The Museum.

After entering The Museum building, I will be in The Museum’s lobby and will see the welcome desk right in front of me. I will need to check in at the Welcome Desk. I might see some people eating at the café or shopping in the gift shop. It is OK if the lobby is a little crowded or noisy. Everyone is here to enjoy The Museum, just like me.

At the Welcome Desk, a Museum worker will tell me about The Museum and give me a tote bag if I want to use one. The tote bag has things I might like to use inside, like headphones that block noise in case it gets too loud for me, and a Sensory Map that will help me find some calm areas inside The Museum.

I will need to remember The Museum’s rules: I will stay with my group; I will walk slowly; I will use an inside voice; I can only eat or drink in the lobby; I will treat objects in The Museum with respect and be gentle. There is so much to see at The Museum and so much to learn about the Woodstock music festival that happened over 50 years ago. I might not see everything in The Museum in one day, but I can always come back and see more.
GALLERY 1
Experiencing Woodstock

When I first walk into the exhibition I will see a blue dot on the floor, this means I’m at the beginning.

In Gallery 1, “Experiencing Woodstock,” the first thing I see will be a big wall with a picture of the crowd of people at the Woodstock music festival. There were almost half-a-million people there! There is a screen on the wall that shows some music and videos from the 1960s and Woodstock. I will also see pictures of some of the people who made the festival a special experience. One important person I will see is Max Yasgur, the farmer who allowed Woodstock to happen at his farm here in Bethel, NY, when many other nearby landowners said “no.”

When I’m done in this gallery, I can follow the arrows on the floor to visit other parts of the exhibit. In some places there will be two arrows showing two directions I can go. It’s ok to go one way and come back to try the other if I want.

When I reach the very end of the exhibit, I will see a red dot on the floor. This means I’m all done!
As I walk through Gallery 2, I will see pictures with descriptions about the important events that happened in the 1960s, like the Vietnam War and the first trip to the moon in outer space. These events are all a part of the story of the Woodstock festival and why it happened. There is a glass case that shows me the kinds of clothing that people used to like to wear. I’m allowed to try on some clothes to see how they look! A Museum volunteer will be sitting here to help me if I need it.

There is a **Quiet Room** in The Museum that I can go to if I need a quiet place to feel calm. If I want to, I can sit in the bean bag chairs and use one of the heavy blankets to be comfortable. This Quiet Room has a sign so I know exactly where it is.
In Gallery 3, “Planning the Concert,” I will see photos of people who helped to plan the Woodstock festival. I can learn all about why the festival happened in Bethel, NY, and why so many people came to it. I will see newspaper articles and posters that helped give people information about Woodstock. In this gallery, I will also see a big bus and a Volkswagen Beetle car. Some people came to Woodstock in buses and cars like these. I can go onto the bus and see what it was like to ride to Woodstock. There is a Museum volunteer sitting here with things I can touch that are similar to things I can see on the bus. When I’m done, there are more touch screens with headphones or a speaker with music to explore.
Gallery 4, “The Festival Experience,” is located inside The Aquarian Theater. There is a movie that is nine minutes long that will play on big screens all around me. The movie helps me imagine what it was like to be at the Woodstock festival! I can use a bean bag chair, a bench, or watch the movie in my own way. It is important to know that there are loud sounds and moving lights inside. If I don’t like loud sounds or bright lights, it’s ok to leave the movie before it’s over or skip this gallery. I will still learn all about Woodstock from the rest of the exhibit.

After the theater, I will find a place with cases showing objects from Woodstock. There is a volunteer sitting here with objects I can touch that are just like the ones in the cases. This will help me understand these objects. There is also a map table. I can gently use the touch screens to learn about the map and listen to information about the Woodstock festival site. I can use headphones or a speaker to listen to the map table.
In Gallery 5, “Woodstock: The Music,” I can learn about all of the musicians who performed on the stage at Woodstock. There were so many musicians and they played for more than three days in a row, sometimes even in the rain! The only thing in this gallery is a movie theater, where I can watch a 20 minute movie that lets me hear and see some of the performances at Woodstock. The theater gets dark when the movie starts to play. I have to remember to use my inside voice if I decide to watch the movie because other people might be watching the movie too.
In Gallery 6, “The Impact of Woodstock and the ‘60s,” I can use two more touch screens to listen to music with headphones or a speaker. I can also watch a video on a TV screen with people remembering the Woodstock festival and talking about why it was such an important event in history. People worked together as a community and took good care of each other at Woodstock, and that made it very memorable and special. In this space, I can think about what I learned at The Museum and my favorite things about Woodstock. I can even leave a message about how I feel in one of the recording booths. There is a Museum volunteer sitting here to help me if I need it.

I can go back and explore parts of the exhibit again. OR I can decide that I’m done exploring the exhibit.

I can exit through The Museum Store, or I can walk back through The Museum and exit through the doors where I came in.