

- [HOME](#)
- [About](#)
- [Adventure list -What I've done](#)



15 Tips for Attending Art Prize

Archived in [Adventures With Friends](#), [Family Adventures](#), [Featured](#), [On A Date Adventures](#), [Solo Adventures](#)

[Leave a comment](#)

Tags

[amway grand hotel](#), [art](#), [art prize](#), [art prize app](#), [art prize parking tips](#), [brewery vivant](#), [choo choo grill](#), [Devos convention center](#), [Devos performance hall](#), [ford museum](#), [founders](#), [gearald r ford museum](#), [GRAM](#), [grand rapids brewing company](#), [grand rapids michigan](#), [jw marriott](#), [meijer park and ride](#), [stella's lounge](#), [the BOB](#), [tips for art prize](#), [UICA](#), [where to eat at art prize](#), [yesterdog](#)

Previous Post

[Ghost ~The Musical on Broadway](#)

Next Post



Like 3

When you visit Art Prize you are faced with lots of options in every direction. Here are some tips to help you get the most out of your Art Prize experience.



1. Plan ahead-

Search for

Search

Share

Like

share

809 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

Connect with Me

Get Free Email Updates

Subscribe to the feed



Tags

- [adventure](#)
- [Adventure mom](#)
- [Adventure mom discount](#)
- [adventure mom travel](#)
- [Aronoff](#)
- [art](#)
- [art prize](#)
- [Christmas](#)
- [Cincinnati](#)
- [Cincinnati Children's Hospital](#)
- [Cincinnati Museum Center](#)
- [cincinnati ohio](#)
- [discount](#)
- [Duke Energy Center](#)
- [family fun](#)
- [family travel](#)
- [food adventure](#)
- [football](#)
- [fun](#)
- [fun run](#)
- [fun with family](#)
- [fun with friends](#)
- [fun with kids](#)
- [giveaway](#)
- [give back](#)
- [grand rapids](#)
- [groupon](#)
- [Horse](#)
- [hula hoop](#)
- [KY](#)
- [LEGO bricks](#)
- [luge](#)
- [MI](#)
- [Michigan](#)
- [muskegon sports complex](#)
- [oh](#)
- [Ohio](#)
- [over the rhine](#)
- [pinterest](#)
- [Pure Michigan](#)
- [race](#)
- [run](#)
- [trapeze](#)
- [travel](#)
- [US bank arena](#)



Look online and find out what events will be going on the day you visit.

What venues do you plan on visiting?

Who are you bringing with you?

That will also determine how many venues are realistic to visit.

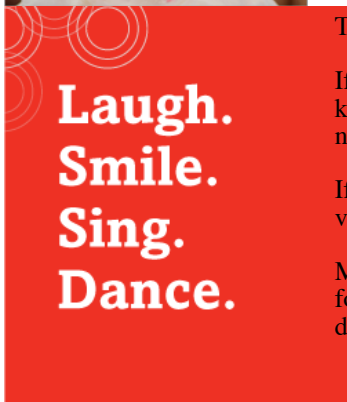
If you have younger kids, you will want to have snacks ready and have venues that are kind of close. If you are attending with friends, you might want to pick venues that are also near restaurants and nightlife to hang out at after the venues close.

If you go during the week during the day, the crowds will be lighter. On the weekends, the venues on the perimeters of town will be less populated.

Map out some of the venues you want to see ahead of time. Check the [Art Prize](#) website for a map and information about the artists, art and venues. I also recommend downloading the [Art Prize app](#). It's a great resource for directions and venues as well.

2. Research social media for the pieces that you don't want to miss.

Find out what pieces are the buzz and where they are located. There were several Art Prize entries that I would have missed out on seeing if I had not checked instagram and



facebook. Check under the hashtag #artprize.

3. Parking

Grand Rapids is a very accessible city. For free parking on weekends, you can park in the lot next door to the YMCA located on Mt. Vernon Ave. NW. You can also use metered parking downtown. If you are willing to walk a little you can find free parking off of side streets. There are also parking garages downtown as well.

You can find out more information about free parking [here](#).

You can also take advantage of the [Meijer Park and Ride](#) where you can leave your vehicle at several Meijer stores and ride The Rapid (public transit) . You can pick up an Art Prize wristband (2 for \$5) for unlimited rides on the DASH and Rapid buses for the duration of Art Prize.

4. Check hours of venues prior to arrival.

Different venues have different hours. Make sure you give yourself enough time in your itinerary to get to venues that are on your to see list. Exhibition Centers and Showcase Venues are Monday- Saturday: Noon – 8pm. Sunday: Noon- 6pm. All other venues are Monday – Thursday 5pm- 8pm, Friday & Saturday: Noon – 8pm and Sunday: Noon – 6pm.

I would suggest saving the outdoor pieces for times after the venues have closed. There is still a lot of lighting that will allow you to see the pieces at night and it will help maximize what you see.



5. Staying downtown gives you a totally different experience.

I have been to Art Prize as a visitor and also as a resident in previous years.

This year I stayed at the historic [Amway Grand Hotel](#).



This hotel is a staple in Grand Rapids and also a destination. As a guest from out of town, I really loved the central location to all of the action. The hotel hosted entries and was also an extremely short walking distance to all of the larger venues during Art Prize. I loved being able to explore for a few hours and then having the option to go back to my room to drop off something or to rest before going out again. If I needed an extra layer of clothing it wasn't a big deal because the hotel was close by.

I also didn't have to deal with any transportation issues. I walked everywhere from the hotel and didn't have to worry about finding parking. It also helped me feel more relaxed. When I visited Art Prize as a former resident I felt more pressure to strategize my parking, eating, and venues. As a hotel guest, I didn't feel as pressured to have an agenda or timeline. I just went wherever my curiosity took me.

Your other hotel options for downtown are the [JW Marriott](#), [Courtyard by Marriott](#), [Holiday Inn](#) and [CityFlatsHotel](#).

6. If you are a resident in the Grand Rapids area, don't miss out on Art Prize!

I only lived in town for Art Prize two years and then I had the opportunity to visit for a few other years. One of my frustrations when I lived in town was hearing that residents who lived in the area didn't bother to find out what Art Prize was all about. I drove 6 hours from Cincinnati just to see this art and meet the artists who have gathered from all over the world. This is something truly special and unique. Don't let tourist, crowds and a little more traffic rob you of something that is helping put Grand Rapids on the map for arts and culture. This is your opportunity as a resident to be an ambassador to out of towners to share why you love your city.

7. If you have limited time to visit Art Prize, go to the popular venues.

The popular venues typically have a few pieces that will be in the top 25. They also have multiple entries so you can feel like you got to see a lot. I recommend going to the Gerald R Ford Museum and along the river nearby, Amway Grand Hotel, Devos Place Convention Center, The B.O.B. parking lot, the Calder Plaza, the G.R.A.M. and the U.I.C.A.. I also recommend taking in a view of the Grand River from one of the bridges.



8. Enjoy a meal while you are downtown.

Grand Rapids offers lots of great dining choices from upscale to casual. If you want to eat at a location that is in a more populated area, pick a less popular time to eat. If you go a little farther off the beaten path you won't have a problem getting a table.

There are also other great restaurants a few miles away from downtown. One of our favorite areas to eat at when we lived in Grand Rapids was in Eastown. [Electric Cheetah](#), [Brewery Vivant](#), [Marie Catrib's](#), [Yesterdog](#), [Wolfgang's](#) and [The Winchester](#) are just a few of the places that you can't go wrong at.

During my recent trip to Art Prize I ate at few locations closer to downtown.

- "The Flying Dutchman" (1/2 Pound Hand-Pressed Patty graced with Sweet Dill Relish, Roasted Garlic Mayo and Melted Gouda Cheese. LTO) at [The Grand Wood Lounge](#).

-(A burger and fabulous peanut butter & chocolate malt) from [Choo Choo Grill](#).



-The “Devil in the White City” (Blue cheese and bacon mac-n-cheese topped with crispy Buffalo chicken) at [JD Reardon's](#),

-Pad Thai at [Bangkok Taste Cuisine](#)



“The Queso Jalepeno”(Hot stuffed burger with house made spicy queso dip & pickled jalepenos) at [Stella's Lounge](#) that was voted best burger in America by GQ magazine in 2012.

I was very happy with all of my meals. I chose to eat on the more casual price range but the food was still great and several of the restaurants offered great ambiance as well. The Grand Woods Lounge, and JD Reardon's had nice outdoor seating and Stella's was packed with a fun environment with art and arcade games.

If you love craft beer you definitely need to go to [Founder's, Grand Rapids Brewing Company](#) which are downtown or Brewery Vivant in East Grand Rapids. [Hop Cat](#) (huge drink variety) and [Bar Divani](#) (try their Moroccan short ribs) are also great options downtown as well.

9. Talk to locals and Art Prize volunteers

They will help steer you in the right direction as you navigate downtown and they have great meal suggestions as well.

10. Your kids can enjoy Art Prize and it's important to expose them to art and culture.

Create ways to make it fun. [Grkids.com](#) is a great resource for this. Print up their scavenger hunt to make your Art Prize trip an adventure. It's great for kids to be exposed to the arts and culture. Art Prize is a great way to open your child's eyes to possibilities.

11. Talk to the Artists

You will meet people from all over the world. Take a few moments and hear from the artists and learn why their pieces are so important to them. I met a man from Korea who was so excited to share the story of his Art Prize entry.

12. Wear extremely comfortable shoes.

You will be putting in some mileage if you try to see as much as possible. I know from experience that you need function over fashion sometimes and I've had the blisters to prove that one.

13. Vote- You can't complain who wins if you didn't bother to vote.

Voting for art is a bit controversial because beauty is in the eye of the beholder but if there is a piece that you feel is really worthy of receiving the prize money in the top spot make your voice known. You can find out more about voting [here](#).

14. Take lots of pictures and videos!

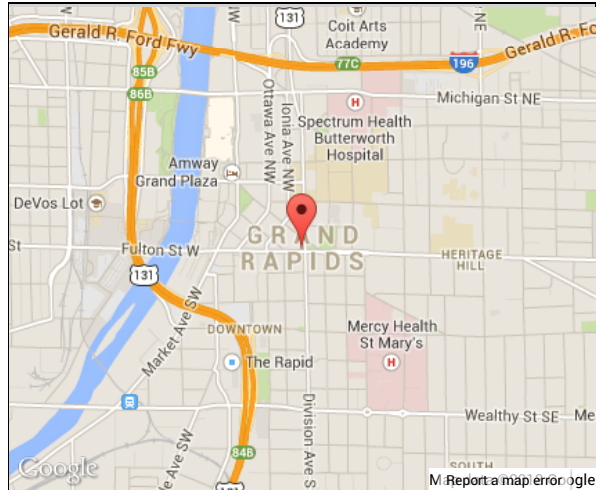
Some things are better explained by sharing visually.

15. Take it all in as you go

Take a few moments and read about the artist, what medium they used to create their piece and look at it up close for another perspective. Art Prize is an experience that is for a short period of time. Make the most of it and make memories.

Art Prize takes place from September 18 – October 6 and I hope you find a way to see it for yourself.

Disclosure: [Experience Grand Rapids](#) provided my accommodations and meals during my visit. All restaurant selections and opinions were my own. Check out their site to find fun things to do in Grand Rapids all year long.



You may also like -



[Children's Museum of Pittsburgh](#)



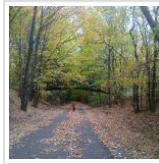
[Why I LOVE Art Prize](#)



[Favorite Finds at Art Prize](#)



[Adventure list - What I've done and what's still on my list](#)



[40 Fall Bucket List Ideas](#)

- [Post to Facebook](#)
- Post to

Like 3

Leave a Reply

Name (required)

Mail (will not be published) (required)

Website

Submit Comment

Copyright © 2013 Adventure Mom Blog.