

my turn
A Sensory Friendly Sunday

AT



**Arab American
National Museum**

I am going to the Arab American National Museum!
I will learn new things and have fun checking out the space. Today, I will have a chance to do a scavenger hunt, get creative with mosaic tiles, listen to a story, and try out a traditional Arab dance called Debke.

When we arrive at the museum, we will park in the back lot and enter through the back door.



Photo Credit: Yelp; Google (AANM)

We will be greeted by friendly AANM staff in the **Courtyard**. Someone will ask us to sign in and offer us nametags.

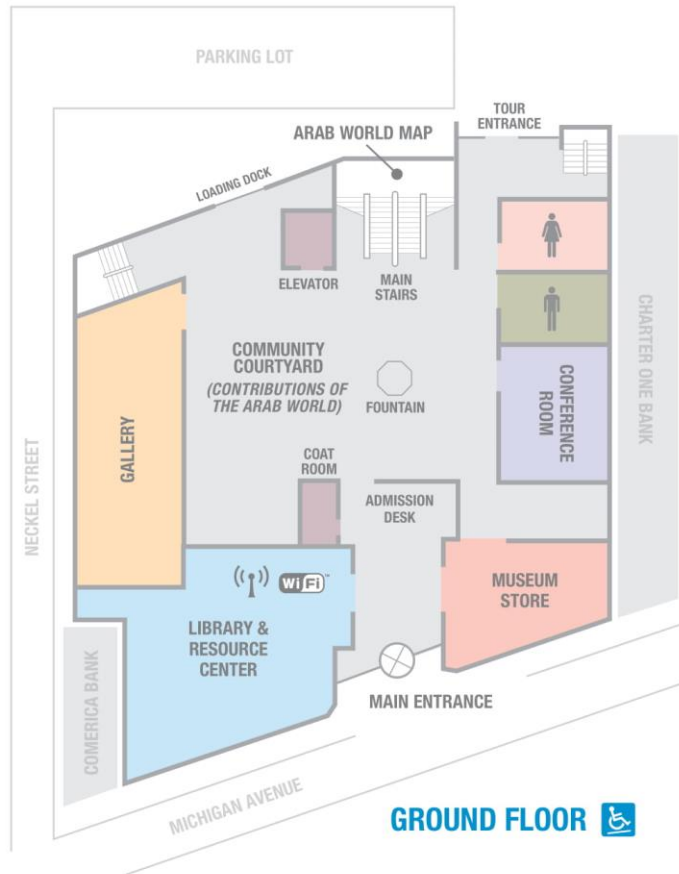


I can also pick up noise-cancelling headphones and sunglasses and/or fidgets at the table where we sign in if I need them:



One final thing I can pick up is a map like the one shown on the next page. It will help me find my way around the museum.

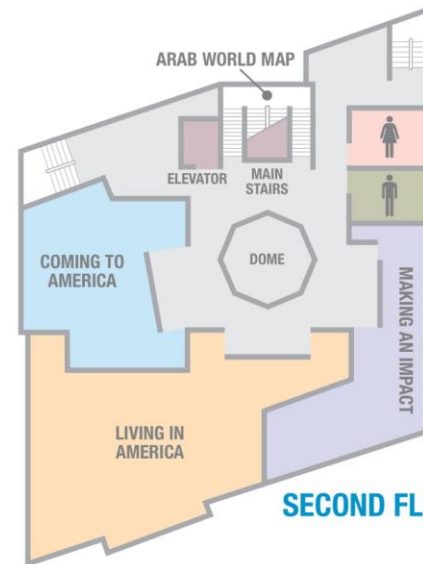
From where I am standing in the Courtyard (Ground Floor), I know I can go one level up and/or one level down (labelled 2 or LL – Lower Level – on the buttons in the elevator) and that I can either take the elevator or the stairs.



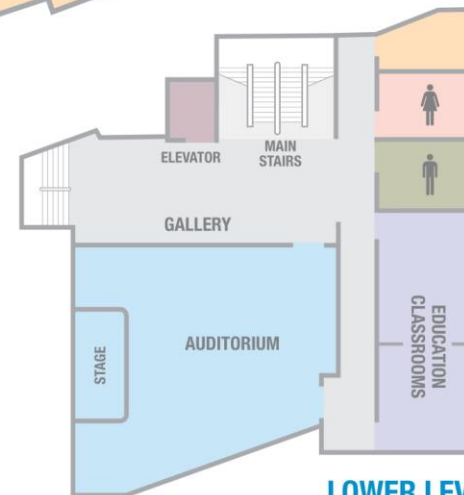
GROUND FLOOR



**Arab American
National Museum**



SECOND FLOOR



LOWER LEVEL

When I am in the museum, I will stay with my adult and I will walk instead of run. I will also use my indoor voice. I know other families are here enjoying the exhibits, too, and I can say hello and introduce myself if I would like.



I know there are restrooms on every level, and any staff or volunteer wearing a name tag will be able to point out where they are if I need help. I know museum rules ask that I do not chew gum or take pictures using flash on my camera, and I will remind others of this rule if I see anyone else chewing gum or if a flash goes off.

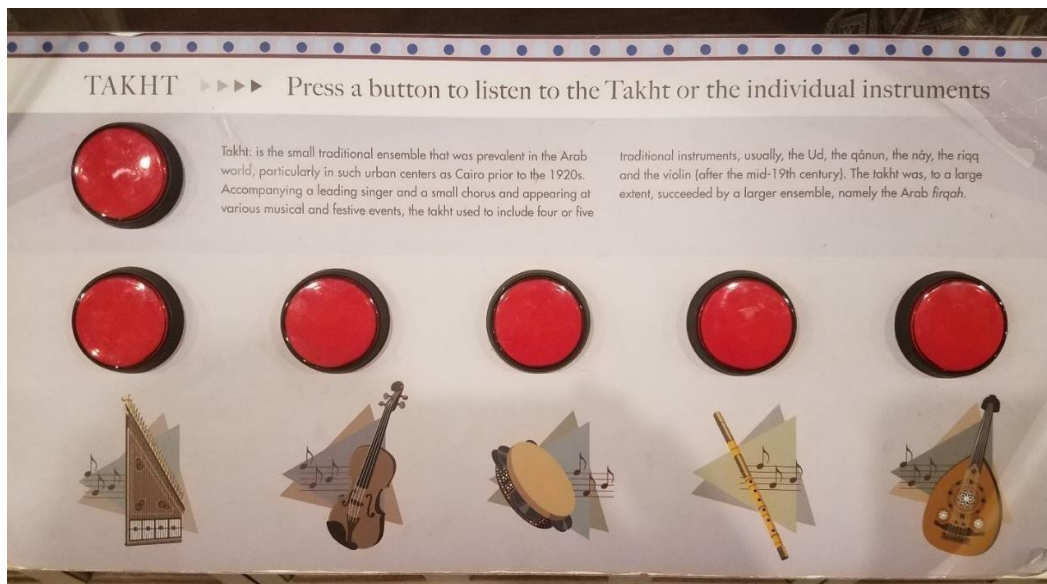


To start, I can check out the **Courtyard** cases and learn about Arab art, medicine, architecture, and so much more.

The **Power of the Word** case has a touchscreen that will let me play a memory game to match words with Arabic roots. I can play this either by myself or challenge another player to see who can match the most words!



The **Music** case in the **Courtyard** will let me hear instruments, either played by themselves or all together. “Takht” is when all the instruments are played together. Press the button in the upper left corner to hear what this sounds like.



In the **Courtyard**, I can see the inside of the Dome. In Arabic calligraphy, the Dome says “Arab American National Museum” four times around.



Also in the **Courtyard**, I will see my first activity station. When I see staff at an activity station, I am encouraged say hello and ask if they can help with the activity we will be working on.

For example, in the **Courtyard** we will be working on a Mosaic Tile Craft. There are many colorful tiles to choose from to make my own unique piece!



I know there are activities on every level and staff are happy to help me find all the activity stations available. I can do them in any order, and I can do as many or as few as I would like.

The activity stations available today are:

- ❖ Mosaic Tile Craft in the Courtyard (Ground Floor)
- ❖ Storytelling in the Russell J. Ebeid Library & Resource Center (Ground Floor)
- ❖ Scavenger Hunt in the permanent collections upstairs (Second Floor)
- ❖ Debke Traditional Dance Demonstration in the Debke room in the Living in America exhibit (Second Floor)

I am encouraged to have fun and learn a lot, and if I ever need a break I can enter the **Quiet Room** from the **Courtyard** on the **Ground Floor** (labelled **Conference Room** on the Museum map).



The **Quiet Room** has the lights turned down low and is a good place to take a deep breath and relax.

From there, I can either go through the double-doors in the **Courtyard** to the front of the building, where I will find the **Museum Store** to my left and the **Russell J. Ebeid Library** to my right, where the Storytelling activity will be held:



Or I can take the stairs or elevator to check out the **Second Floor (2F)**. On the **Second Floor**, I will learn about the Arab World and about Arab Americans.

At the top of the stairs, I will find the Scavenger Hunt activity. This hunt will help guide me through the exhibits.



Second Floor: The **Map** tells me about the Arab World. I can flip through the pages in the book at the Map, I can use the touchscreen in the middle to learn about the different countries, and I can lift the panels for each country to see it light up on the wall! These panels do tend to slam, so I will be **very gentle** putting them down.



Second Floor: The [Coming to America](#) exhibit is mostly for eyes only. I can read about the waves of Arabs coming to America, and learn about people like Ahmed Ibrahim, shown below:



If I see any telephones on a desk or table in any of the exhibits, I am welcome to pick it up and listen to the voice on the other line.

Second Floor: The **Living in America** exhibit is for eyes and hands. It has a kitchen and bedroom with doors and drawers that say, "Open Me":



In this exhibit I can learn about Arabs living in America today. We can see Arabs in different jobs, learn about different rooms in an Arab household, and think about different holidays that Arabs celebrate.

Second Floor: The **Making an Impact** exhibit is for eyes and hands. I can have fun learning about the people who did important things in math, science, activism, and sports.



Second Floor: Everything in the middle of the **Making an Impact** exhibit has something I can do with my hands. I can push buttons, pull tabs, and flip panels up to learn more!



Finally, I can either take the stairs or the elevator up to the **Second Floor (2F)** to check out the Debke Traditional Dance Demonstration in the Debke Room. The Debke Room is straight through the **Living in America** exhibit.



I will have fun learning how to do this simple dance involving mostly footwork, and I can show others how to do it, too! I look forward to future My Turn days and to all the great things I can learn!