THE SOCIAL NARRATIVE
RUBIN FOR FAMILIES

THE WORLD IS SOUND
EXHIBITION SEQUENCE
We are going to the Rubin Museum of Art, also known as the Rubin. The Rubin contains art from the Himalayas and surrounding regions. The Himalayas are a mountain range spanning northern Pakistan, northern India, Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan, northern Myanmar (Burma), and western China.
*The World Is Sound* is a special exhibition that is featured throughout the entire museum. A major part of it is located on the 6th floor.
When we arrive at the museum, we will enter through the main entrance.

We will walk through two sets of heavy glass doors. Between them we will hear a recording of people chanting “Om.”
We will buy our tickets at the admissions desk. We may have to wait if there is a line.

We will get admission stickers to wear on our clothes.
If we don’t want to carry our coats and bags around in the museum, we can give them to the person at the coat check desk.

As we walk around the museum we will hear a low humming sound. This is part of the special exhibition we are coming to see.
When we are ready, we will go down four steps into the bigger 1st floor lobby area. The humming sound will change a lot—sometimes louder, sometimes quieter, sometimes humming, sometimes with dripping sounds. The floor will change from wood to shiny stone.

We will see security guards throughout the museum. They are there to keep us and the art safe. If I can’t find my family, I can tell one of the security guards and they will help me.
We will see a big staircase in the middle of the lobby. This is the spiral staircase, and it goes up six floors through the middle of the museum. If we stand by the spiral staircase, we can look up and see the floors above us. The stairs are marble with a colorful carpet on them.

We will see a large bowl near the spiral staircase. Some of the sound comes from this bowl, and some comes from hidden speakers along the staircase. It is a work of art called *Le Corps Sonore*. This means “The Sound Body” in French. We will often hear this art as we walk through the museum.
To our left is the museum café. We can go there if we want to eat, drink, or rest. We might smell different foods.

In some parts of the café we can hear recordings that sound like a busy, outdoor area. They are sounds from India. These noises are coming from hidden speakers and are part of The World Is Sound exhibition.
From the café, we might look down to the floor below us. This is the Art Lounge. It is located below the museum lobby and is also called the Theater Level (TL).

We can go down there and see some art that is part of *The World Is Sound* exhibition. There are also seats where we can rest.
We might want to go on a tour. For daily public tours at 1:00PM and 3:00PM, we can meet our guide by the spiral staircase. The tour guide will take us through the galleries, telling us stories about objects in the museum.

If we visit on Sunday, we can join a special Family Tour at 2:00PM. During the tour, we will look at art, spend time listening to our guide, and have a chance to ask questions and share our thoughts.
We might want to explore the museum without a tour guide and go upstairs to see the art in the galleries. We can either walk up the spiral staircase or take the elevators at the back of the lobby.

In the elevators, we will hear a recording of people talking about different sounds.
On the staircase, we will hear sound from *Le Corps Sonore*. The sounds we hear will change a little as we walk up the stairs.
Each floor has a different exhibition where we can learn about different things. We might see a sculpture of the Buddha Shakyamuni.

We might also see figures that look very fierce. These are protectors that help people to overcome problems and difficult emotions.
We may want to start on the second floor. It has an exhibition called *Gateway to Himalayan Art*, where we can learn about the different statues and paintings in the museum.

We may want to see more of these statues and painting on the 3rd floor in the *Masterworks of Himalayan Art* exhibition.
We might want to see the Shrine Room on the 4th floor. This room is a little dark and has many statues and paintings in it. We will hear a recording of people chanting.

We might go to the 5th floor and see black and white photographs of India.
We might want to go to the 6th floor to see *The World Is Sound* exhibition. If we come up the stairs, we will see a small statue, then we will follow the wall around toward the elevators.
As we walk through the exhibition, we might feel like we are in a maze. This is because it is designed like a labyrinth, which is a type of maze, and has lots of twists and turns. Some areas have a hard floor and some have carpet.
There are four mantra corners in the exhibition. These are paintings paired with recordings of monks chanting. As we approach, the chanting may get louder. We can put our hands on the wall next to the painting to feel the vibration caused by the sound of the chanting.

We may want to go into the OM room. In here, we will hear a humming sound coming from all around us. Sometimes it will be very quiet and sometimes it will be quite loud. This is a recording of lots of people saying “Om.”
We may want to watch a video about sound outside the OM room. We might listen to some sound art on headphones attached to the round wall. With some of these headphones, we will hear sound that is very different from the music that we normally listen to. This is sound art that imagines the sound of the creation of the universe.
We may look at musical instruments and hear the sounds that they make. These sounds might get louder as we approach them.

We may find some statues and paintings nearby. As we approach them, we will hear chanting and music that is used in religious ceremonies.
We might go into a room where we can learn about death and rebirth in Tibetan Buddhism. There are paintings with skeletons and fierce gods.

There is a bench where we can sit or lie down to hear a recording of a book being read to us. This book is about death and rebirth in the Tibetan Buddhist religion.
At the other end of the room, we might see a dark space with flashing lights. We should only go into this space if we are okay with bright, flashing lights. If we go, we will see a screen with moving colors. We will also hear sounds from the speakers around us.
If I need to rest awhile or use the bathroom, I will tell someone. If I need to rest, I can go to the nearest Explore area. Explore areas are on the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th floors near the elevator.

I may also go to the cushioned benches in the 1st floor lobby.
There are bathrooms near the Explore areas on the 3rd and 5th floors.

There are also bathrooms in the Theater Level (TL). From the 1st floor, we can take the spiral staircase down to the Theater Level or press the TL button in the elevator.
We may hear some recorded outdoor sounds/noises coming from a speaker at the bottom of the staircase in the Theater Level (TL).

If we go into the women’s bathroom in the Theater Level (TL), we will hear sounds/noises coming from hidden speakers.
When we are ready to leave, we will go back up the four steps in the lobby area and leave through the main entrance.