

If you would like to book a tour, fill out this tour form and e-mail to us or fax to us at 713.926.1506 or mail to:

The Orange Show Foundation
2402 Munger
Houston, Texas 77023

or call us at 713-926-6368

If you are in the Houston area and you would like someone to come speak to your class about Art Cars and The Art Car Parade please contact us! This lecture includes a viewing of Harrod Blank's wonderful documentary on art cars, Wild Wheels, as well as a brainstorming session to help your class come up with ideas for their own art cars.

Look for "Start Up-Advice: The How To's Of Art Cars" on our web site soon. This informative publication will tell your class everything they need to know about making their own art car, from technical advice to the history of the art car.

Planning Your Schools Tours

Prior to your student's trip to The Orange Show, as a teacher you may visit our facility free of charge. Over the phone it is extremely difficult to explain The Orange Show itself, and its unlimited potential and possibility in regards to a child's field trip experience. Unlike most works of art, the child is free to explore this sculpture that just happens to be a building. They can walk on it, touch it, climb its stairs, listen to its spinning whirligigs, perform on its stage. You can enrich your student's experience by visiting the sight, showing slides of The Orange Show prior to your visit and also engaging the students in the pre-visit activities that you will find in the Educators Guide.

The activities in the Guide foster independent, critical thinking while at the same time increasing the child's enthusiasm towards their Orange Show visit. The activities also empower the students and encourage language development, creativity, problem-solving skills and teamwork.

If you have any questions about The Orange Show or any of the art activities please feel free to call a member of our education staff at 713-926-6368.

What Will Happen When Your Group Comes To The Orange Show?

One of our staff will welcome you and your class and will give you history and background information about The Orange Show and it's creator Jeff McKissack. After the introduction, your class will be allowed to walk through The Orange Show. They will be advised to pay careful attention to the mosaic signs throughout the structure. After about 15 minutes, they will hear The Steam Boat's Bell ring. At this point they will return to the bleachers in the pond area and will begin a three part art activity.

Just down Interstate 45, off the Telephone Road exit, is the granddaddy of offbeat places, a two-lot assemblage of found materials called the Orange Show. From the otherwise normal blue-collar residential street, the multi-level construction, topped by flags and splashed with bright tile and paint, looks like a carnival ride from another universe. Retired postal worker Jeff D. McKissack spent 25 years building this tribute to the orange. He'd hauled truckloads of the fruit during the depression and was possessed by the conviction that it was the nutritional equivalent of the clean energy of steam. Within the gates are displays attesting to the orange's healthful properties and McKissack's optimistic philosophy, which is described in a tiny book available in the gift shop, "You can Live 100 Years and Still Be Spry." McKissack didn't make it to 100; he died in his 70s in 1979, eight months after the Show opened to a less than enthusiastic public. He thought the attraction would draw more tourists than the Astrodome; after all, he'd shaken hands with Thomas Alva Edison, an event he felt destined him for greatness. Some say he died of a broken heart. Maned lions named Mike and Judy (the latter with some anatomical correction) stand guard over an amphitheater with a pond, which is usually empty except for a miniature steamboat on blocks. The Side Show provides another staging area, crowned by a tile roof and delicate inlaid hearts. A proper American dream hardly being complete without a touch of capitalism: the Show has an Oasis that sells orange juice, as well as a gift shop stocked with inexpensive toys that appeal to grown-up kids, and McKissack's books.

The Orange Show is a study in new applications for old materials, many of which McKissack salvaged from razed buildings. Railroad spikes form candle-like patterns in the entrance gates; wagon wheels make up railings; tractor seats line the upper levels. Tiles spell out polite, friendly slogans everywhere, urging visitors to watch their step, to love oranges, and to enjoy the show.

The Show has become the hub of artsy activities that often approach surrealism and performance art. The wide-ranging schedule of events reflects the site's close ties to alternative art spaces, prolific (if not up-and-coming) young artists, ancient blues musicians, and people with an insistent bent for having a good time. Visitor participation started out with events like bubble blowing and yelling out replacement dialogue at silent movies, but over the years, devotees have polkaed, rested on a mound of sand to watch "Beach Blanket Bingo," vied for prizes in an array of look-alike contests (Carmen Miranda being the first), sung Indian Love Call in a warm-up to a screening of "Rosemarie," and cajoled their pets into displaying weird talents.

The Show has served as chapel for several weddings and one known funeral: McKissack's own ashes were strewn across the place, before it was sold to the foundation that rescued and restored it. (Fun fact: the foundation's initial benefactors included surrealist art doyenne and human rights champion Dominique de Menil, and ZZ Top's Billy Gibbons, both long-time Houston residents.)

Children's Educational Activities

EDUCATION PROGRAM

The mission of our Children and Adult's Education Program is to educate the public about The Orange Show, other folk art environments and the artists who create them; to educate about the importance of individual expression; and to give people the tools to facilitate that expression in themselves.

ORANGE SHOW TOURS

Group Tours of The Orange Show are offered Wednesday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. mid-March through the first week of December.

We offer the following tours options:

Pre-school tours for children ages 4 -5

Cost \$1.00 per child

Estimated time: 30 minutes

Children tour The Orange Show, have a glass of orange juice and get to take turns performing on the stage.

Pre-school Art Workshop Tour

Cost \$2.00 per child Estimated time: 1 hour Children tour The Orange Show, have a glass of orange juice, and participate in a hands-on art activity, such as making mosaics or inventing their own show.

Scavenger Hunt Tour of The Orange Show

- ages 6 -14 Cost: \$2.00 per child Estimated time: 1 hour

This includes an Orange Show question and answer session, orange juice and a written scavenger hunt that encourages the children to pay more attention to all the details of The Orange Show in a really fun way.

This scavenger hunt is offered in two versions, for elementary age students and for middle school students. Please specify.

Visionary Artist Workshop - ages 6 and up Cost \$3.00 per child Estimated time: 1 hour 15 minutes This includes an Orange Show question and answer session, a glass of orange juice and a hands-on art workshop based on a different visionary artist's work each month.

Senior citizen tour of The Orange Show Cost \$1.00 per person Estimated time: 45 minutes Jeff McKissack started building The Orange Show when he was 54 and finished when he was 77. Find out all the interesting details of this the man and his monument to good health, nutrition and longevity. A glass of orange juice is included.

Please book your tour of The Orange Show at least two weeks in advance. In case of rain we will have to reschedule the tour since The Orange Show is primarily an open air environment.

After the art activity, if your time schedule allows for it, your children will be allowed to go through The Orange Show again.

The Orange Show's Rules

Please remind your students of these rules before they come out to The Orange Show:

If you have lace up shoes, please make sure your shoe laces are tied. The Orange Show is made of bricks, steel, tile and concrete. If a child trips on an untied shoelace, they can easily get hurt.

Absolutely no running! Any child that is caught running in The Orange Show will either be asked to sit down throughout the rest of the tour or will have to go sit back in the bus - this will be up to the child's teacher's discretion. The reason that there is no running in The Orange Show is because again, it is made of bricks, steel, tile and concrete.

Please do not climb on the walls!

Please respect Mr. McKissack's creation! If you spent an hour on a drawing, and someone tried to destroy it, you would feel very hurt. You would expect that person to respect you and what you had created. Mr. McKissack spent 25 years building The Orange Show.

Please respect him and don't destroy his creation!

and most especially...

Please have fun!

Frequently Asked Questions

How do you get to The Orange Show?

If you are North of Downtown - take I-45 South from downtown Houston. Take the Telephone Road exit. However, WHEN YOU EXIT THE FREEWAY DO NOT GO ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE LIGHT AT TELEPHONE ROAD! Instead, get into the right hand lane of the feeder road, and begin looking for Munger Street. At Munger there is a big green sign that says "The Orange Show". Take a right at Munger, The Orange Show is one block down on the left, 2402 Munger.

If you are south of Houston, take 45 North, take the Tellepsen exit. When you exit the freeway, get into the right hand lane and look for the Schlumberger/Tellepsen sign on the right. The landmark for this sign is a small shopping strip that contains a carpet store. At this point, the exit for Schlumberger/Tellepsen will veer to the right. It deadends into Schlumberger/Tellepsen. As the road deadends, you will see directly in front of you, a business called DC Bumper. Take a left - this will take you under the freeway. At the feeder road headed South, take another left. Stay in the right hand lane and begin looking for Munger. At Munger there will be a big sign that says The Orange Show. Take a right on Munger, The Orange Show is one block down on the left, 2402 Munger.

May we eat lunch at The Orange Show?

Of course you can. We have plenty of covered seating. Or, if you'd like you can go to Fonde Park. Fonde Park is located two block south of The Orange Show, at the end of Munger Street on the left. There are no picnic tables, but there are large grassy areas where you can, if you like, share your lunch with the ants.

What happens if it rains?