

Museum Partner Observation #1

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LIS 258

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The Lightner Museum located in St. Augustine, Florida, is filled with oddities and antiquities. From an Egyptian mummy, a menagerie of crystals and minerals, shrunken heads, Tiffany & Co. stained glass, even Sir. Winston Churchill's lion is on display. Even the building has a historical past. The "Lightner Museum is housed in the former Alcazar Hotel built in 1888 by Henry Flagler."ⁱ Noted for being a destination vacation spot for the rich and famous with its Turkish steam baths and for housing at the time the world's largest indoor swimming pool. People flocked to St. Augustine, Florida to escape the harsh winters of the north. Today the Lightner is still a vacation destination spot. However, instead of a resort, it is now a beautiful unique museum. "Today it is home to one of the finest collections of fine and decorative 19th-century art in the country."ⁱⁱ Through every corridor visitors are shown glimpses of the gilded age. Since 1888, the Lightner has seen many changes. Ongoing renovations along with hosting traveling art shows keep the collection fresh and visitors coming in.

Though the Lightner does not offer guests audio tours, or own monitors to highlight the exhibit, they prefer the old fashion hands-on approach. Stationed within each room is a volunteer who is knowledgeable about the different items on display. Visitors also have a choice of participating in a docent lead tours, and at 11 AM and 2 PM daily there is a music demonstration. In "The Music Room, which is filled with instruments produced between the 1870s and 1920s, is one of the museum's most popular exhibits. During the music demonstration, some of the instruments from the collection are played, along with a background of the instruments and a history of the museum."ⁱⁱⁱ Though the Lightner has not started making technological changes to their exhibit yet. There are plans to in the future. Currently, the way that they connect with their visitors is through different social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. On each of the different apps, a visitor can see upcoming events and other visitors' experiences.

Lightner Museum

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4.6 4.6 out of 5 Based on the opinion of 1,316 people

ABOUT LIGHTNER MUSEUM

Our Story
The 19th Century Fine Arts collection of Otto Lightner housed within the former Hotel Alcazar, built...

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Upcoming Events

Date	Event Name	Time	Location	Category	Interested
Mar 28	Lightner After Hours	Thu 6 PM	Lightner Museum · Saint Augustine, Florida	Art	174 people
Apr 3	Lighthouses of the Sunshine State	Wed 5:30 PM	Lightner Museum · Saint Augustine, Florida	Literature	488 people
Apr 11	Degas Opening Event - A Chic Soirée	Thu 7 PM	Lightner Museum · Saint Augustine, Florida		7 people

Screenshot of Lightner's Facebook Account



668

Posts

2,706

Followers

3,083

Following

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Lightner Museum

Art Museum

The 19th Century Fine Arts collection of Otto Lightner housed within the former Hotel Alca... more
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75 King St, Saint Augustine, Florida 32084



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Screenshot of Lightner's Instagram account



The Lightner Museum

@Lightner_Museum

The 19th Century Fine Arts collection of Otto Lightner housed within the former Hotel Alcazar, built by Henry Flagler.

📍 St. Augustine, Florida lightnermuseum.org

📅 Joined July 2013

496 Following 1,103 Followers

Tweets

Tweets & replies

Media

Likes



The Lightner Museum @Light... · Mar 21 ▾

A3: The Russian bath and the ballroom! The Russian bath isn't too bright and has already installed seating. The ballroom cold and cozy

Screenshot of Lightner's Twitter account

Recently the Lightner has been awarded “a \$25,000 grant awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to improve its fourth-floor collection storage space. IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. The Lightner Museum is 1 of 132 projects chosen to receive funding. Only 24 percent of this funding cycle’s 558 applicants were selected.”^{iv} At this time the Lightner is exploring different grants such as the “Inspire! Grants for

Small Museums” offered by IMLS. This grant is for museums to “promote lifelong learning, community anchors and catalysts, and assist with collection stewardship and public access.” (Inspire! Grants for Small Museums, 2019) Their plan is to start incorporating new technology into the exhibits. Such as supplying QR codes, digitizing records, even offering visitors an AI experience.

Over the last 131 years, the Lightner Museum has been evolving to fit the needs of its visitors. They have provided years of entertainment and exploration through their collection. No longer just a brick and mortar facility, the Lightner has branched out through social media networks to help better connect with visitors. Through grants, they are actively protecting their collection as they seek out new ways to make it fully accessible. The dedicated staff and volunteers of the Lightner Museum continue their diligent efforts to remind visitors that learning is indeed fun, and you never know what to expect when you come and visit.

References

- ⁱ “History,” Lightner Museum, 2019. <https://lightnermuseum.org/history/>
 - ⁱⁱ “Collection,” Lightner Museum, 2019. <https://lightnermuseum.org/collection/>
 - ⁱⁱⁱ “Music Demonstration,” Lightner Museum, 2019. <https://lightnermuseum.org/music-demonstrations/>
 - ^{iv} “IMLS Grant,” Lightner Museum, 2019. <https://lightnermuseum.org/2017/10/24/imls-grant/>
- Inspire! Grants for Small Museums. (2019, March 14). Retrieved March 23, 2019, from <https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/inspire-grants-small-museums>