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THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART SCULPTURE GARDEN ICE RINK OPENS MID-NOVEMBER FOR SIXTH STRAIGHT YEAR



Aerial view of the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden Ice Rink with the Gallery's West Building and the Capitol in the background.

Photo by Rob Shelley, National Gallery of Art

Washington, DC--The National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden Ice Rink will open for the sixth straight year from mid-November through mid-March, weather permitting. The ice rink has become a major affordable and recreational destination in Washington. Last season the rink attracted more than 40,000 visitors. Its sleek, modern design creates open vistas throughout the garden and offers skaters the added experience of viewing monumental works of contemporary sculpture in a park-like setting. The most recent installation is a 14-foot tall, 12-foot-wide cast iron Paris Métropolitain entrance, one of the few remaining among those removed from Paris between the 1930s and 1960s.

A state-of-the-art music system, with 24 speakers installed on light poles encircling the rink, provides uniform sound to skaters without distracting other visitors to the sculpture garden. Lights decorating the circumference of the rink further enhance the skating experience and contribute to the festive atmosphere.

Skating Rink Hours and Fees

The hours for the ice rink are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Admission for a two-hour session (beginning on the hour) is \$7.00 for adults and \$6.00 for seniors (age 50 and over), children (age 12 and under), and students with ID. The skate rental fee is \$3.00 (ID required as a deposit). The locker rental fee is \$.50 (\$5.00 deposit required). Discounts on admission and fees are available for groups of ten or more. For general information, opening announcements, or to arrange a group visit, call (202) 289-3360. Season tickets are available for \$195.00.

Please note: During the evening, when the National Gallery and Sculpture Garden are closed to the public, access to the rink and Pavilion Café is restricted to the Constitution Avenue and Madison Drive entrances at 9th Street.

Pavilion Café

The Pavilion Café offers a panoramic view of the garden and ice rink and serves freshly made wraps, sandwiches, gourmet pizzas, and salads. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, wine, and beer are also available. Café hours during the skating season are Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Visitors can access the skating rink and the Pavilion Café at 7th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW; 9th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW; 7th Street and Madison Drive, NW; or 9th Street and Madison Drive, NW. For current information, call (202) 289-3360 visit www.nga.gov/ginfo/cafes.htm (<http://www.nga.gov/ginfo/cafes.htm#pavillion>) .

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General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets along Constitution Avenue NW and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. With the exception of the atrium and library, the galleries in the East Building will be closing gradually beginning in July 2013 and will remain closed for approximately three years for Master Facilities Plan and renovations. For specific updates on gallery closings, visit www.nga.gov/renovation (<http://www.nga.gov/renovation>) .

For information call (202) 737-4215 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the Gallery's website at www.nga.gov. Follow the Gallery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt and on Twitter at twitter.com/ngadc.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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