From the moment their son Felix Liang was born, Yang Xu and Liguo Liang have been eager to share their love of art with him, so receiving the Cool Culture Family Pass several years ago from P.S. 184 Flushing Manor was like a dream come true for this family.

“Even as a little baby, Felix liked fine art museums,” says Mr. Liang, “he and his mother and I enjoy them. Fine art is important for everyone, not just artists.”

Mr. Liang points to the positive effect that art has had on his own son, who is now seven years old. “Before, my kid couldn’t control his energy,” says Mr. Liang, who believes that frequent museum visits have helped Felix develop good concentration and a strong imagination.

Felix enjoys the different interactive exhibits that involve bubble making at the New York Hall of Science, as well as the museum’s Temple of the Whirlwind, in which visitors can control an artificial tornado by moving their hands to change the direction of its movement.

The American Museum of Natural History is another favorite spot for Felix, who likes the sharks on display here. “They look like they are made out of clay,” he notes.

Felix also has fun watching live animals at various zoos, including the Central Park Zoo and the Queens Zoo. “My favorite animals to watch are the sea lions,” Felix says. “I like to see the baby ones and I like the fattest sea lion the most. It’s so cool.”

“The museums are very kid-friendly and the zoos also,” Ms. Xu notes. “There are so many things for them to explore. When they’re little, you bring them and they get exposed to a new thing. One year later, it’s different. Now they’re going and they have more ideas. You just bring them back there again and they have a different experience.”

“Cool Culture is all year long, so you can visit many, many times,” Ms. Xu adds.

Felix and his parents explore, “In New York City, there are so many places to go,” notes Ms. Xu, who moved here from China 12 years ago with her husband. “I’ve been thinking I want to go Staten Island,” she says. “They have a Chinese Garden there (at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden).”

Ms. Xu, especially likes to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and the Museum of Modern Art. They are also her husband’s favorites, so the whole family has taken many trips together to these museums that feature fine art.

“It’s family time,” says Ms. Xu of these museum visits with her husband and son. She encourages other adults to explore cultural institutions with their little ones, since these trips give children the opportunity to make “very important memories with their parents.”

“I think it opens up kids’ minds and encourages them to have more creativity,” Ms. Xu notes. “They will have fun and enjoy everyday life more. It benefits them for their whole life.”
CHECK IT OUT!

THE JEWISH MUSEUM

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday,
Feb 15, 16 & 18
VIOUS WEEK ARTS & CRAFTS:
IVABLE MASTERPIECES FOR KIDS
10am-1pm

The Jewish Museum presents Children’s Workshops each week. Children of all ages can explore the world of art through a variety of innovative and engaging activities.

Thursday, Friday & Sunday,
April 1, 2 & 4
STORYBOOKS CENTER: LITTLE ARTISTS
10am-1pm

Children can create their own artwork inspired by the stories they love. This workshop is perfect for children of all ages and their families.

Sunday, April 25
DROP-IN ART WORKSHOP
11:30am-1pm

Children can explore the world of art through a variety of innovative and engaging activities.

CURIOSITY Comes Alive

Imagination both big and small are welcome at The Jewish Museum, where special guides, exhibits and activities make for a family fun-filled day of discovery.

“Our goal is to be a family-friendly institution,” explains Rachel Katz, Senior Manager of Family Programs at The Jewish Museum. “We are a museum that is open to all cultures and backgrounds.”

“Our hope is that the museum’s exhibitions and programs resonate for people of all ages and that each individual – whether child or adult – experiences something unique when they visit,” says Nelly Silagy Benedek, Director of Education at The Jewish Museum.

Start off your museum adventure by entering into the world of that beloved storybook, Curious George, at the exhibition Curious George Saves the Day: The Art of Margret and H.A. Rey, opening March 14th.

Artists Margret and H.A. Rey fled from Paris to save their lives, during the Nazi occupation of France in World War II. The artists were only able to bring a very few things with them, and chose their beloved drawings of Curious George. The drawings were later made into the famous children’s books we know today.

“Curious George Saves the Day: The Art of Margret and H.A. Rey was inspired by “the Reys and their amazing story of how they saved themselves and how these drawings may have never come to light and be known,” says exhibition curator Claudia Nahson.

“They kept their creativity despite the conditions,” says Ms. Nahson.
“The drawings are so vibrant and colorful.”

Your family can choose favorite scenes from the 60 original illustrations on display – including drawings for the Curious George stories, as well as for other children’s books created by the Reys – and imagine Curious George living with your family, including the funny things he might do.

Afterward, relax in the exhibition’s reading room that is filled with comfy pillows and colorful storybooks about Curious George and other of the Reys’ fun characters.

“It will be a very playful space,” says Ms. Nahson. “Children will be able to curl up with a grown-up or a friend and read their favorite Curious George book.”

“I think children will enjoy seeing familiar and also some surprising images of America’s beloved little monkey,” adds Ms. Benedek. “We also have some special programs planned for families in conjunction with the exhibition.”

Every Sunday features something neat for kids at The Jewish Museum, with activities such as storytelling and sculpting. Check out the Drop-in Art Workshop where the whole family can craft cool creations together. On the second Sunday of every month, your little ones can pretend to be archaeologists hunting for hidden artifacts during Dig Drop-In from noon to 3 pm. For more fun with artifacts, visit the children’s exhibition Archaeology Zone: Discovering Treasures from Playgrounds to Palaces that is open Sundays through Thursdays on the museum’s fourth floor. Videos, costumes, wall puzzles and other exciting activities teach kids about ancient objects and the scientists who study them for clues to the past.

You can also explore history with a tour through the museum’s permanent exhibition, which traces Jewish culture from the distant past to the modern day. Just pick up the family audio and printed guides on the fourth floor for some interactive fun with pieces that range from a floor-sized mosaic to a Statue of Liberty lamp.

“We at The Jewish Museum are thrilled to be partnering with Cool Culture,” says Ms. Benedek. “We hope the works of art at our museum inspire children and adults to think creatively and to engage in meaningful conversations with one another.”

- by Erin Cassin
CELEBRATE Lunar New Year!

THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY
Lunar New Year Preview (Visit www.mocanyc.org for specific events and dates) Make MOCA your Lunar New Year destination and embark on a month-long celebration filled with festive programs and events for all! MUSEUM OF CHINESE IN AMERICA, Manhattan. ALL AGES FP Dial 41 #

Saturday, February 6
MOON OVER MANHATTAN – CELEBRATE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR! 1-4pm Usher in the Lunar New Year with a special celebration featuring a Lion Dance, performances, activities and workshops inspired by Lunar New Year traditions from around Asia. ASIA SOCIETY, Manhattan. ALL AGES FP

Friday-Sunday, February 12 - 14
CELEBRATE THE TIBETAN NEW YEAR 2010 is the Year of the Iron Tiger. Join us for a weekend program of consisting of a tea ceremony, a fire ceremony, discussions of cultural traditions, and a sacred dance. JACQUES MARCHAIS MUSEUM OF TIBETAN ART, Staten Island. ALL AGES FP

Saturday, February 13
FAMILY DAY: EXPEDITION COSMOS 11am-5:30pm Join us all day for an out-of-this-world adventure and see how different cultures from around the world have interpreted the cosmos by participating in art-making activities, story-telling tours and scavenger hunts, celestial dancing, and a special trip into a Starlab hosted by the New York Hall of Science. RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART, Manhattan. ALL AGES FP

Saturday, February 20
LUNAR NEW YEAR DANCE SAMPLER 2pm A sampler of dance performances from Korea, China, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia, presented by NY Institute of Culture and the Arts. Fun for the whole family! FLUSHING COUNCIL ON CULTURE AND ARTS, Queens. ALL AGES FP

Saturday, February 27
LUNAR NEW YEAR TEA CEREMONY 2pm Join us for a Traditional Tea Ceremony demonstration presented by Luh Yu Tea Emporium! FLUSHING COUNCIL ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS, Queens. ALL AGES FP

ONGOING PROGRAMS

AMERICAN FOLK ART MUSEUM, FAMILIES AND FOLK ART. Explore folk art through interactive tours in the galleries followed by hands-on activities. For more information please call 212.265.1040 x148 or email familyprograms@folkartmuseum.org. 1-2:30pm on the first Saturday of every month, 1-2:30pm. All Ages. Dial 29 #

CHILDREN’S MUSEUM OF THE ARTS, OPEN ART STUDIO & GUIDED ART WORKSHOPS. Engage in fun workshops throughout the fall at the Children’s Museum of Arts! For a full list of events and detailed schedule, visit www.cm.org. Various ages.

LEFFERTS HISTORIC HOUSE, EARLY AMERICAN CRAFTS & GAMES. Imagine yourself in the past! Come learn games and pastimes that were common 150 years ago at the Lefferts Historic House. Every Saturday and Sunday. All Ages. Dial 22 #

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, START WITH ART AT THE MET. Have fun at the Met through storytelling, sketching, and other ways of exploring art! Visit www.metmuseum.org for a complete list of upcoming dates as well as other great programs. Age 3-7.

MOUNT VERNON HOTEL MUSEUM AND GARDEN, STORYTIME. Enjoy historically-themed stories, dress up in the Children’s Corner and role-play with the museum’s “Touch Collection.” Children must be accompanied by an adult. Third Friday of every month, 10:30am. Ages 2-6.

NEW YORK TRANSIT MUSEUM, STORYTIME! Join in as the Museum is brought to life with transportation stories and a special tour for our youngest transit fans. All aboard! Thursdays, 1:30pm. Ages 2-5. Dial 14 #

THE NOGUCHI MUSEUM, ART FOR FAMILIES. Families are invited to experience the Noguchi Museum together through programs with tours and varied activities, including hands-on art making workshops. Reservations required, call 718.204.7088 x203. Ages 5-11. Dial 26 #

PROSPECT PARK AUDUBON CENTER, NATURE CRAFTS. Engage in arts activities at the Audubon Center. Every Saturday and Sunday 1-3pm. All Ages. Dial 24 #

RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART, VARIOUS EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS. Come discover Himalayan art in these hands-on interactive workshops. Create paintings, listen to stories and transform images into movement, sound and poses. Every Monday (ages 2-5) Thursday (ages 3-5), Friday (ages 3-5) and Saturday (ages 5+); visit www.mrmanyc.org for more information.

SOLOMON R. GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM, JUST DROP IN! No need to make a reservation. Just stop by as we explore a different gallery each week through creative, interactive projects. Wednesdays, 1-4pm. Ages 5+. Dial 28 #

STATEN ISLAND MUSEUM, SECTION OF NATURAL HISTORY. This natural science & ecology club is open to science and nature lovers of all ages and offers monthly lectures relating to Staten Island’s natural treasures. Fourth Thursday of each month, 7:30pm, for more information call Seth Wollney at (718) 483-7105. All ages.

THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM, TARGET SUNDAYS. Target Sundays feature programs and events geared to all of our audiences. Sundays, 12-6pm. All Ages. Dial 18 # and 19 #

WAVE HILL, FAMILY ART PROJECTS. Family Art Project offers programs with spring themes every Saturday and Sunday, 1-4PM, in The Sally & Gilbert Kerlin Learning Center. All Ages. Dial 27 #
周六, 2月6日
创造一个 stag e dior am a 1pm
得灵感于 Rockwell 集团的 dior am a 场景设置为 Broadway show Hairspray, 和创造你自己的 stage dior am a 作为你的一个 favorite story. Lots of fun materials will be provided. COOPER HEWITT NATIONAL DESIGN MUSEUM, Manhattan. Ages 5+ FP
时长 15分钟

周六, 2月7日
Traffic light mobiles 2-4pm
你知道车灯光是如何被发明的吗? 一个 Afri can American? 为了纪念这个黑 History Month and Morgan’s invention, use milk cartons, shoeboxes, construction paper and yarn to create traffic light mobiles. THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM, Manhattan. ALL AGES FREE
时长 18和19分钟

周六, 2月13日
Storybook readings & workshop 1pm
阅读关于 Coyote Stories for Children and A Trickster Tale from the Southwest. Make a storytelling bag in our hands-on workshop. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN, Manhattan. ALL AGES FREE
时长 18和19分钟

周日, 2月14日
Courtship tails 1:30-3:30pm
找到你的心 to Valentine’s Day to find out how “love is in the air” for some wild beasts. There will be an opportunity to make a free valentine craft for a loved one. STATEN ISLAND ZOO, Staten Island. ALL AGES FREE
时长 18和19分钟

周六, 2月27日
Family art workshop 10:30am
参与艺术创作 workshop 和与 discussion in conjunction with Selections Spring 2010 THE DRAWING CENTER, Manhattan. Ages 5+ FP
时长 18和19分钟

周日, 2月28日
Day trip to New York 10:30am
Day trip to New York and experience a free boat trip. YANKEE BOAT RENTALS, New York. ALL AGES FREE
时长 18和19分钟

周日, 3月7日
Mixing African and traditional fabrics, this quilt workshop will take the worry out of cutting and piecing. Using fusible web, you will create works to be a part of the studio museum’s collection. THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM, Manhattan. Ages 5+ FP
时长 18和19分钟

周日, 3月21日
Create a storytelling bag in our hands-on workshop. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN, Manhattan. ALL AGES FREE
时长 18和19分钟

周日, 3月28日
Weather vanes 10am-2pm
Find out what the wind blows! Create a model weather vane out of poster paper, paint, and clay using designs that date back to the Colonial Era. MÖRIS-JÜMEL MANSION, Manhattan. Ages 3+ FREE with registration, call 212.993.8000.
时长 18和19分钟

周日, 4月4日
Easter day celebration 9-11am
Celebrate Easter Day at the South Street Seaport Museum and learn about protecting the Earth and keeping our planet clean. Engage in crafts, activities, games and meet the many sea critters who live in the Museum’s Living Harbor Wet Lab. SOUTH STREET SEAPORT MUSEUM, Manhattan. ALL AGES FREE
时长 18和19分钟

周日, 4月11日
Drawing and exploration; why not get inspired by Curious George’s many journeys and embark on a cultural quest with your family? You’ll be sure to satisfy your curiosity if you head to the many cultural institutions around the City filled with information and fun! This spring, you and your family have the opportunity to visit Curious George as he saves the day. Beginning on March 14 you can head over to the Jewish Museum (profiled on page 31) to get inspired by the bravest monkey in children’s literature.

Get ready to lace up your sneakers! This June, Fifth Avenue, uptown, will be the coolest place to be—Cool Culture families will be coming out in full force for the Museum Mile Walk on June 8th. Make sure your family isn’t left out of the fun—keep your eyes peeled for more details (soon to come) on the most exciting family event of the year at www.coolculture.org!

Board of Directors:
Lyne Biggar  Lois Gelernt  Edward Jay Goldberg  Karen Lederer  Carol Matson  Edwina Meyers  Lawrence Provette  Barry Smith  Carol Veze  Ahmed Yearwood

Staff:
Candice Anderson, Executive Director; Monica Abrego, Program Director; Barbara Palley, Education Manager; Li Zhou, Program Assistant; Lindsay Booker, Communications Assistant

A word from Cool Culture

The arrival of spring brings incredible opportunity for new adventures and exploration; why not get inspired by Curious George’s many journeys and embark on a cultural quest with your family? You’ll be sure to satisfy your curiosities if you head to the many cultural institutions around the City filled with information and fun! This spring, you and your family have the opportunity to visit Curious George as he saves the day. Beginning on March 14 you can head over to the Jewish Museum (profiled on page 31) to get inspired by the bravest monkey in children’s literature.

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