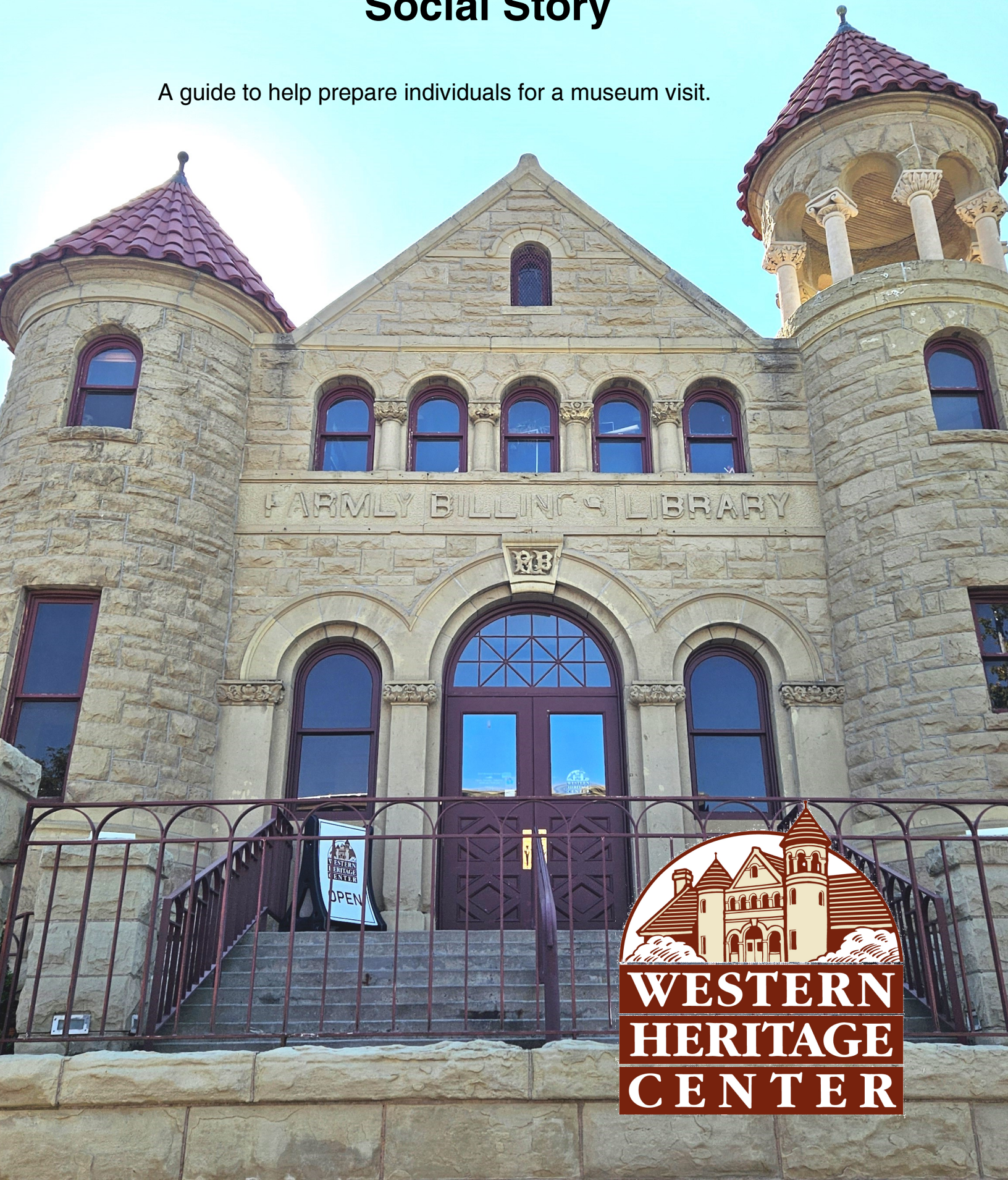


Western Heritage Center

Social Story

A guide to help prepare individuals for a museum visit.



About the Western Heritage Center

Things to Do Before You Go

Take care of your personal needs:

- Make sure to bring water, sunglasses, phone, wallet with your ID, and any fidgets, headphones, or other comfort tools
- Communicate about your visit with your family
- Prepare for social engagement, create a social script for engaging with people who sell tickets to the museum
- Call ahead to ask about peak hours, admission, or free days
- If you have a service dog, create a social script to answer questions about your dog. Prepare your dog's service vest, leash, or collar. (Note: The Montana Human Rights Act requires that service dogs in Montana have to wear a vest, leash, collar, or backpack that identifies that they're a service animal.)

Plan your transportation to and from the museum

- Plan where to park
- Find a map of downtown Billings so that you can find the museum from where you park. Maps are online or at the Billings Chamber of Commerce.
(<https://business.billingschamber.com/map>)

The exhibitions are always changing, so check on the website before you visit to find out what is on display.

Western Heritage Center
2822 Montana Ave
Billings, MT 59101
406-256-6809
www.ywhc.org



The Western Heritage Center is located on Montana Avenue. Look for signs or the big “castle” building on the corner of Montana Avenue and 29th Avenue North.



To enter the Center, go up the stairs to the heavy, red, double doors. Use the door on the right.



If you find stairs challenging, there is an accessible entrance behind the stairs on the west (right) side of the building.

Please press the doorbell firmly in the center. It may take a little time for someone to let you in, so please wait patiently.





When staff opens the door, the elevator is through the entryway. Press "1" in the elevator to get to the Front Desk



The admissions desk is in front of you after you enter the upstairs foyer.

Admission at the Western Heritage Center is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and seniors, and free for children under six.

Sometimes admission is free for everyone! The person at the Front Desk will tell you if it is free. You can also put money in the donation box by the front desk if you choose.





Food and drinks are not allowed in the museum exhibitions. If you brought food or a drink, you can leave it at the Front Desk and pick it up when you leave.



Photography is allowed in the Center!

Take lots of pictures and tag #ywhc if you post them online.

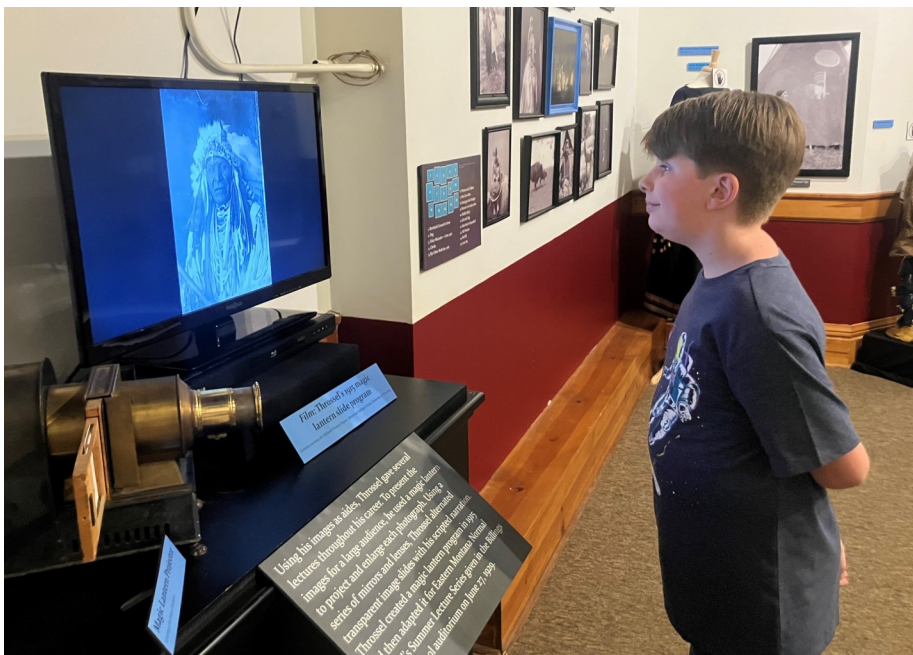




Once you get inside, you can explore lots of different exhibits!

You can visit them in any order you like.

The exhibits change often, so if you have been to the Western Heritage Center before, you might not see the same things you saw on an earlier visit.



Some exhibits have audio or video playing. If it's too loud, you can always go to another exhibit space. You can also ask staff to lower the volume.



You will see stairs near the Heritage Gift Shop. You can take these stairs, or use the elevator, to see the exhibits on the lower level.

If you take the elevator, press “B” to get to the basement.





If there are a lot of people visiting the Center, it could get noisy. The Dude Ranch area is downstairs and is a good place to take a break if you need a quiet space. You can sit and rest in the chairs here.

There are restrooms downstairs, too. They are in the hallway.





When you are ready to leave, find your group. The exit is the same heavy red door that you entered through.

Don't forget to pickup any drinks that you left at the Front Desk. You can visit the Heritage Gift Shop before you leave, if you would like to.

Thank you for visiting the Western Heritage Center. We can't wait to see you again!



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Special thanks to Augustus McConnell for his help in taking photographs for this project.