

Support for Private Museums and Galleries

Direction

- Establishing a foundation for invigorating the art communities through support for private museums and art galleries.
- Fostering a variety of private museums and art galleries in Seoul to provide citizens with opportunities to enjoy collections from diverse institutions.

□ Seoul's policy for invigorating museums and art galleries located in Seoul

- Continued expansion of museums and galleries in Seoul
 - The Seoul is actively pursuing initiatives to revitalize museums and art galleries by expanding their presence, with a focus on constructing new facilities to alleviate cultural facility disparities between districts. The number of national/public museums and galleries has increased from 22 in 2012 to 44 as of 2024. The total number of museums and galleries in Seoul, including private facilities, has risen to 181.

No. of museums and galleries	2012		2017		2024
National/Public	22		33		44
Private/University	117	→	134	→	137
Total	139		167		181

○ Establishment of public museums and galleries across districts

- The Seoul Metropolitan Government established the Seoul Urban Life Museum, which exhibits the life of Seoul citizens from liberation to the present day and the Seoul Museum of Korean Folk Music, where visitors can experience and enjoy traditional folk songs.
- The city has established the Seoul Museum of Craft Art by remodeling the Poongmoon Girls' High School building, formerly the site of the royal villa Andong Byeolgung. It has also introduced MUSEUM G, which highlights the history of the Guro Industrial Complex, a hub of industrial advancement during Korea's economic development period. Furthermore, Seoul has established the Art Archives Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA AA) to collect, exhibit, and archive modern and contemporary art materials for public access.
- Furthermore, the city plans to construct the Seoul Museum of Photography, the West Seoul Museum of Art, and the Seoul Cultural Resource Center to provide more opportunities for culturally marginalized communities in Seoul to enjoy culture.

○ **Support for the revitalization of private museums and galleries**

- For private museums and art galleries facing financial challenges, the Seoul Metropolitan Government provides support for their exhibition, education, and business program expenses, as well as curators. In 2023, the city selected a total of 28 institutions and provided support for exhibition and education program as well as curator expenses.
 - We plan to continue our support for approximately 30 small private museums and art galleries each year by funding their cultural projects, making diverse collections and exhibitions accessible to citizens.
 - We also intend to continue supporting curator expenses to ensure the professional and stable operation of private museums and art galleries.
- In the future, we will continue to support various curated exhibitions and educational programs at private museums and art galleries to promote their unique collections and diverse programs, expanding opportunities for citizens to enjoy them.