What is the Sacred Art Tour about? An important part of the mission for the Sacred Arts Tour is to bring awareness to the ongoing plight of Tibetans after 60 years of occupation. They are also here to raise donations to help support their way of life at the Monastery. They bring teachings of ancient ways and beliefs that do, even now, create the possibility of global peace, non-violent conflict resolution, compassion and wisdom.

What is a sand mandala? Creation of a sand mandala is an ancient ritual that predates even Buddha. The Tibetans in particular have developed this tradition into a beautiful spiritual experience. Not so long ago this type of ceremony was done in complete secrecy at the Monasteries by only the holiest of monks. Mandalas constructed from sand are unique to Tibetan Buddhism and are believed to effect purification and healing. Typically, a great teacher chooses the specific mandala to be created. Monks then begin construction of the sand mandala by consecrating the site with sacred chants and music. Next, they make a detailed drawing from memory. Over a number of days, they fill in the design with millions of grains of colored sand.

Why is the Mandala destroyed? Upon its completion the mandala is blessed in ceremony, and destroyed. The underlying message of the mandala ceremony is that nothing is permanent. All things are in flux, it says, beautiful but ephemeral, moving but temporary, a plateau but not a summit. All things are called to balance and enlightenment and the fulfillment of the Divine image in them, yes, but in flux. The monks then enact the impermanent nature of existence by sweeping up the colored grains and dispersing them in flowing water which will carry the healing energies throughout the world.
Opening Ceremony: Experience a symbolic walk through our peace garden and into the Museum’s main gallery led by the monks of the Drepung Gomang Monastery. The Tibetan Buddhist monks will perform a blessing of the space with chanting and traditional instruments. Once completed, they will begin marking and measuring the mandala. Tuesday, February 11 at 10am.

Mandala Construction: The monk will create a sand mandala for the Bodhisattva of compassion, Chenrezig. Compassion is the most important religious practice. For Tibetan Buddhists, compassion is sensitivity to the sufferings of others and the attempt to relieve suffering. It is the realization that we (human beings, animals, and the earth itself) are all interconnected. Daily, 10am - closing.

Meditation & Dharma Hour: Spend time alongside the monks and the mandala in silent meditation, then soak in the wisdom of a dharma talk where you will learn about the universal truth that all monks live by. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday at 12 noon.

Mani Stone Workshop: Under the guidance of the monks, you will paint your own prayer stone known as a mani stone or mani stone. These prayer stones area physical representation of positive conditions such as long life, health and success. Tuesday, Saturday, February 15 at 4pm.

Butter Sculpture: Traditionally, Tibetan monks created elaborate sculptures of plants and animals inspired by stories of Buddha using butter from yak milk. Under the instruction of the monks, you will learn how to create beautiful, colorful flowers using non-toxic Play-Doh ... much cleaner and easier to work with than yak butter! Wednesday at 4pm, Friday at 1pm, 4pm, and Sunday at 11:30am.

Cultural Pageant Spectacular: Experience fascinating ancient Tibetan cultural traditions such a monastic debate, chants, Tibetan musical instruments and rituals of dance including the snow lion dance, yak dance and good luck dance Saturday, February 15 at 1pm.

Lunch & Dinner: Don’t miss this once in a lifetime cultural culinary experience! Observe the preparation of an authentic, traditional Tibetan meal and share it with the monks of the Drepung Gomang Monastery. Momos (dumplings) are a treat you won’t soon forget!

Lunch- Wednesday, February 12 at 12:30pm
Dinner - Thursday, February 13 at 6:30pm

Dissolution Ceremony: An unforgettable experience! After spending countless hours laying millions of grains of sand into an intricate mandala, the monks will destroy it, sweeping the grains together in a sacred ceremony. After the dissolution, the blessed sand will be distributed among the attendees. The remaining sand will be poured into the water behind the Museum so the blessings will be carried with the flowing water. Sunday, February 16 at 1pm.

Culinary experiences must be purchased in advance.
Lunch $25
Dinner $50

General Admission
Adults 18+ $10
Children 5-17 $6
Under 5 Free

Member Admission
Adults 18+ $5
Children 5-17 $1
Under 5 Free

Workshops
General $15
Member $10
Children $5

includes admission (limited to 20 guests pre-registration required)

*All February 14 workshops are by donation for high school students. All attendees must RSVP in advance.

Schedule at a Glance

**Tuesday, February 11**
10:00 a.m. Opening Ceremony
10:30 a.m. Mapping of Mandala
12:00 p.m. Meditation & Dharma Hour
4:00 p.m. Mani Stone Workshop
5:30 p.m. Evening Chanting

**Wednesday, February 12**
10:00 a.m. Morning Chanting & Mandala
12:00 p.m. Meditation & Dharma Hour
12:30 p.m. Tibetan Lunch prepared with the Monks
4:00 p.m. Butter Sculpture Workshop
5:30 p.m. Evening Chanting

**Thursday, February 13**
10:00 a.m. Morning Chanting & Mandala
12:00 p.m. Meditation & Dharma Hour
5:30 p.m. Evening Chanting
6:30 p.m. Authentic Tibetan Cooking & Dinner

**Friday, February 14**
10:00 a.m. Morning Chanting & Mandala
12:00 p.m. Meditation & Dharma Hour
1:00 p.m. *Butter Sculpture Workshop
2:30 p.m. *Mani Stone Workshop
4:00 p.m. *Butter Sculpture Workshop
5:30 p.m. Evening Chanting

**Saturday, February 15**
10:00 a.m. Morning Chanting & Mandala
1:00 p.m. Tibetan Cultural Pageant Spectacular
3:30 p.m. Mani Stone Workshop
5:30 p.m. Evening Chanting

**Sunday, February 16**
10:00 a.m. Morning Chanting & Mandala
11:30 a.m. Butter Sculpture Workshop
1:00 p.m. Dissolution Ceremony