Running head: THE IMPACT OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART 1

The Impact of the Metropolitan Museum of Art

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THE IMPACT OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART 2

Abstract

In this paper the author will discuss the positive impact the Metropolitan Museum of Art has on New York. The museum is a large tourist attraction that generates billions of dollars each year. The Museum also supports jobs in and out of the museum. Many people come to view the masterpieces this museum has to offer. This museum houses some of the most famous art works in the world and there is no other museum like it. Because of the unique qualities the Metropolitan Museum of Art offers, it will always have a large impact on the city of New York.

THE IMPACT OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART 3

The of Impact the Metropolitan Museum of Art

The Metropolitan Museum of Art was founded in the early 1800s by a group of American citizen who wanted to bring art to America. The building at the time did not nearly have as many historical art works as it does today (Blue Guide, 2008). The community members as well as people from all over the world deeply wanted to see the masterpieces of these carefully selected artists. Amazingly this small museum had six thousand visitors attend the first viewing. This was only the beginning of the impact this museum would have on the wonderful New York City (Gross, 2009).

Years passed and the museum was forced to relocate due to the large crowds it created. This new establishment is the current location in which the museum is built (Gross, 2009). The president of the museum, George P. Putman reported the museum was a huge success and with more development will only get better. There was no other museum being established at this time quite like this (Moske, 2012). More people would mean more publicity and more money for the museum.

During these earlier times there was an actual fee museum visitors were required to pay, unlike today. This issue has greatly impacted New York City community members. Although the Metropolitan Museum is a huge tourist attraction and generates millions of dollars yearly, the term “suggested fee” for entrance disturbs many people (Toepler, 2006). Visitors can pay the asked amount of twenty-five dollars, or they can pay whatever amount the feel comfortable paying. Many individuals feel the full admission should be paid because of the famous and

THE IMPACT OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART 4

greatly cherished art works that are shown within the museum (Toepler, 2006). Despite the fact many visitors do not pay the entire twenty-five dollar entrance fee, there are many other ways the museum generates profit. Visitors can purchase food, visit the museum gift shop, or purchase a parking pass. Museum visitors are also given the opportunity to become a member of the museum in which they are also required to pay a yearly fee (Gross, 2009).

On the other hand, many New Yorkers do not know the positive impact this museum actually has. In 2007 a study showed the Metropolitan Museum grossed two billion dollars from 2004 to mid 2007. The museum also supports full time jobs and has generated tax revenue throughout the years. Over four thousand full time and outside museum jobs have been given (MetMuseum.org, 2012). More then two million people have visited the museum. Twenty three percent of the visitors were from the Tri-State area, thirty percent were from other states, and the remaining forty seven percent were international visitors. From these visitors spending, New York City’s economy has been greatly impacted as well. As many of these visitors come, they also need places to stay such as apartment and hotels. The average time for an out of state or international visitor to stay in the city was estimated to about five days. This will also generate more money into the city’s economy. This great amount of spending gives the city as well as the state of New York great financial support (MetMuseum.org 2012).

The Metropolitan Museum also has many exhibitions that generate a lot of people and money as well. Different art works travel to different museums, along with the people who wish to view them. In summer of 2011 Alexander McQueen along with several other well known

THE IMPACT OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART 5

artists stimulated over nine million dollars at the museum (MetMuseum.org, 2012). All throughout the year the museum shows different exhibitions and are all successful.

The location of the museum also benefits the money income. New York City is one of the busiest most popular cities in the world. Many people come from all over the world just to visit for a short time. The Metropolitan Museum is one of the most popular places to see while in New York City (MetMuesum.org, 2012).

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is a historical place to see in New York City. In the museum is what feels like never ending rooms filled with art dating back to ancient times. The museum has generated billions of dollars since its existence. Jobs, tax revenue, and visitors spending are only some of the things the museum has to offer towards the economy. The money this museum has created has positively impacted the city because it houses some of the most priceless pieces of art in the world. Dating back to the 1800s when the Metropolitan Museum of Art was built, millions of visitors were coming to view the art and still are today. Although some people do not agree with some of the museum’s policies, it has been and will always be a piece of history and will be a financial support system to New York City and state.

THE IMPACT OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART 6

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