



Photos by Nina Tasi

Field Trip to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

April 3, 2025

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Signs of spring were nowhere to be seen as AIL members and guests gathered in rain and sleet to board the coach bus for a field trip to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston on April 3. How delighted we were when, two hours later, our capable bus driver deposited us at the museum to discover the annual display of vivid orange nasturtiums hanging from the upper story of the courtyard. Nasturtiums were Isabella's favorite flowers, and along with multiple pots of gorgeous flowers in orange, purple and white, the courtyard was just what our spirits needed.

Our capable AIL staff planned a perfect day at the museum. We began with a delicious lunch served in the museum café at long tables where we renewed old friendships and met new AIL members. Then the group was divided into three smaller groups for an hour tour of museum highlights. The museum has been carefully restored with much improved lighting, and our guides told us many stories about Isabella and her incredible devotion to collecting great art and designing this building to display it in the most beautiful way possible. At least one docent recommended the biography, *Chasing Beauty: The Life of Isabella Stewart Gardner* by Natalie Dykstra as an excellent and truthful account of her life and a tribute to the power of art. Following the tour, there was time to further explore the museum on our own, but for many some quiet time soaking up the incredible beauty of spring in the courtyard was the highlight of the trip.

AIL field trips are carefully planned to create a relaxed and fun learning experience away from home. Watch for announcements of future field trips in AIL's monthly Noteworthy News emails. Not signed up for Noteworthy News? [Sign up for free here!](#)