

## MMA's Admission Policy Breaches New York State Law

The 1800's PPP/PEC venture had a "spirit" and an "intention in law." They are spelled out in [PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP](#). All told; however, FA concludes that the PPP/PEC requires a forensic review leading toward codification of old and/or the passage of new laws resulting in the correct of, or in the dismantling of, the experimental PPP/PEC and starting anew. **New Yorkers have held up our end of the partnership** by subsidizing the PPP/PEC institutions with more than **\$1 BILLION** annually and as reciprocal "consideration" for this funding, **City leaders and PPP/PEC custodians should comply with codified New York State laws and New York City's Administrative Code and at long last provide New Yorkers with our free access to institutions adhering to their incorporating purposes; to wit, to operate for the betterment of New Yorkers and our schoolchildren rather than for scholars and tourists.**

Free Admission Written in Law	Current Admissions Policy
<p><a href="#">See: Chapter 476 of the Laws of the State of New York of 1893</a> which amended <a href="#">Chapter 419 of the Laws of the State of New York of 1892</a></p> <p>"Sec. 1 para. 1 ... upon condition that the collections in the said Metropolitan Museum of Art shall be <b><u>open and accessible to the public hereafter free of all charge throughout the year for five days in each week, one of which shall be Sunday afternoon, and also for two evenings in each week,</u></b> ... and provided furthermore, <b><u>that on the two days in each week during which said Museum may remain closed to the general public, it shall be open and accessible to art students, copyists and schools ...</u></b>" [emphasis added]</p> <p>NOTE: In addition to the discussion in "<b><u>Direct and Indirect Subsidies ...</u></b>" above, if Chapter 476 is found <b><u>not</u></b> to provide the controlling free access provisions, then a reversion to the MMA's and City's Lease Agreement <b><u>would debase the citizens and journalists who spearheaded a decade-long campaign</u></b> leading up to the enactment Chapter 419 of 1892 as amended by Chapter 476 of 1893, <b><u>and the inclusion of Sunday as a day the MMA must be open</u></b> and also free to allow the working class to visit on non-work days. [This campaign was dubbed the "Sunday Question.]"</p>	<p>See: <a href="#">Tickets/Visit</a></p> <p>MMA offers a <b><u>"the amount you pay is up to you" admission policy</u></b> to NYC residents and NY, NJ, and CT students. <b><u>This policy in effect is a mandatory fee for New Yorkers.</u></b></p> <p>No mention of free access during all operating hours to "art students, copyists and schools." For visitors who are non-Members and not NYS residents or NY, NJ and CT students, the MMA charges adults, seniors and students with identification, a mandatory fee in varying amounts.</p>

As provision FOURTHLY below shows, **the MMA is to be closed on Sundays.** :

“FOURTHLY. ... that **the exhibition halls of said building shall on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday of each week, and on all legal or public holidays, except Sundays, be kept open and accessible to the public, free of charge,** from ten o'clock A. M. until half an hour before sunset ... **But all professors and teachers of the public schools of the City of New York, or other institutions of learning in said City in which instruction is given free of charge, shall be admitted** to ... its Museum, library, apparatus, and collections, or otherwise, for study, research, and investigation, **free of any charge therefor, [during all operations].**” [emphasis added]

NOTE: Of import, in 1971, when the MMA initiated its pay-what-you-wish but you-must-pay-something policy, Parks Commissioner August Heckscher drafted and executed his [March 30, 1971](#), letter to MMA Director Thomas Hoving, and stated as follows:

“I have written to the Corporation Counsel **asking that he prepare an amendment to the Museum's lease** in order to formally sanction the plan. In the meantime, you have my approval to continue the plan beyond the April 7, 1971 [experimentation of the program] expiration date until such time as the Corporation Counsel has completed his work.” [emphasis added]

DPR did not produce an Amendment to the 1878 Lease in response to FA's Freedom of Information [FOIL] request. In fact, despite the MMA representing to a court that it had received approval in 1971, an MMA spokesperson advised *New York Times'* journalist Randy Kennedy in 2013 that the MMA never received approval. [see [“New York City Amends Fee Policy for a Visit to the Met”](#) published on 10/25/2013]

**MMA's ADMISSION POLICY DOES NOT COMPLY with Chapter 476 of 1893 because it:**

[1] **Denies** New Yorkers free of charge admittance for five days, with one being Sunday afternoon and two evenings in each week.

[2] **Denies** New Yorkers free access to its "collections in the exhibition halls" by excluding "special exhibits" from its "the amount you pay is up to you" policy.

Free access to the PEC institutions is unique to New Yorkers and is provided for in the laws and contracts applicable to the PPP structure. Stewards of PEC institutions may choose to charge an admission fee to other visitors.