

Visual Arts and the Hall of Fame Experience

Field Trip/Videoconference Program



Script to Accompany PowerPoint Presentation

1. Cover slide

2. Introduction to the Professional Football Hall of Fame

The Mission of the Pro football Hall of fame is: To honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to professional football, to preserve professional football's history, documents and artifacts, to educate the public regarding the original, development and growth of professional football as an important part of American culture, and to promote the positive values of the sport.

The building was first opened to the public on September 7, 1963. The original two-building complex contained 19,000 square feet of interior space. The Hall of Fame was expanded in 1971, 1978 and 1995, and it presently contains 83,000 square feet. Over eight million fans have visited the Pro Football Hall of Fame since its initial opening. A unique football-shaped dome on the front exterior of the building gives viewers a hint of the treasures inside. The displays in the Hall include historical information along with a variety of objects on display and forms of visual art, all of which are designed to capture the interest of visitors. Among the displays, visitors will see statues, busts (sculptures representing a person's head, shoulders, and upper chest), a vast variety of football uniforms, equipment and supplies, touch-kiosks, video presentations, photographs, interactive displays and textual information.

3. Introduction to the displays

*The displays within the Pro Football Hall of Fame are colorful and entertaining. From the earliest days of professional football to the excitement of the game as it is played today, the displays include **A Century of Pro Football in the Exhibition Rotunda** (a round building or room, especially one with a dome). Also included is **Teams of the NFL Gallery** (features information about all 32 clubs in the NFL today), **The Hall of Fame Gallery** (with bronze busts of all inductees), **Moments, Memories, and Mementos Gallery** (includes artifacts from members of the Hall of Fame), **the Other Leagues Gallery, Pro Football Today Gallery, the Lamar Hunt Super Bowl Gallery** (including Super Bowl rings), and **Super Bowl Theater**.*

*Can you picture what the Pro Football Hall of Fame or any museum would be like if all forms of art were removed? There would be no sculptures, drawings or paintings. All forms of decoration, advertising and photography would be gone. How effective would such a museum be in capturing and holding the interest of visitors? **Art** is a universal language that is used by all cultures for various purposes. Art in the Pro Football Hall of Fame is used to show the spirit of individuals, document historic events and glorify the importance of the sport as a major part of American culture.*

4. Forms of art in the Pro Football Hall of Fame

***Fine art** is art that is made for beauty and appreciation, compared to commercial art which promotes a theme or product. Forms of fine art in the Hall of Fame include sculpture, painting, drawing, architecture and photography. Commercial, advertising*

and graphic forms of art in the museum include lettering, logo design, caricatures, display design, jewelry design, photography, graphic arts, videography and computer graphics.

5. Sculptures

There are generally two forms of sculpture – **relief and in the round** (freestanding). **Relief sculptures** are raised from their base but remain attached to it – think of how the image of Thomas Jefferson is raised from the surface of nickel. **Sculptures in the round** are generally free-standing, or stand with the assistance of a simple support that does not prevent one from viewing all sides of the sculpture. Both forms of sculpture can be additive (built up) or subtractive (carved). Examples of sculptural works of art in the museum include relief figures (above the front entry), a free-standing statue and busts of the Hall of Famers.

6. The sculptural process of bronze casting

For life size statues, the sculptor makes small rough models of the general pose and proportions that are required. A medium sized model is then created that shows the final details. From this model, the sculptor uses tools to measure the size of an armature (a temporary support piece made of wood, cardboard, plastic foam or paper). The armature basically fills the volume but keeps the weight low. To form a life sized model, the artist uses plaster or clay, from which a mold will be created. The mold allows the statue to be made by pouring molten bronze into a cavity. In the ancient world, large sculptures were cast in one piece with a single pour. Modern day welding techniques allow artists to cast statues in pieces that are welded together to form the final product.

7. Comparison of an ancient cast bronze bust and the bust of Franco Harris

Compare the **bust** of Franco Harris, inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1990, to the Roman copy of a Grecian bust of the philosopher Aristotle, made around 325 B.C. What do these two works of art say about the men they portray? Does the difference in materials (bronze casting vs. marble) make a difference in the quality of the likenesses? In what ways are these works of art similar? How do they differ?

8. John Elway Bust

9. Comparison of an ancient cast bronze statue and the statue of Jim Thorpe

In the examples shown, two larger than life sizes sculptures in the round are shown. Both portray an athlete in action. Has realistic sculpture changed significantly in nearly 2500 years? How are the sculptures similar and how do they differ? Do you feel that each sculptor was successful in portraying the type of individual who modeled for him? What challenges might face a sculptor as he creates an action pose?

10. The process of relief sculpture

Relief sculptures can be made of metals, clay or plaster. Some relief sculptures are described as “low relief”, which means they are slightly raised from the base from which they are carved or built up. “High relief” refers to sculptures that appear to emerge from their base. Three sides of these figures are usually visible, but they remain attached to the base and are never free standing. The first relief sculptures were created nearly 30,000 years ago in France and depicted clay animals that were built up over a rock base.

11. Comparison of an ancient relief sculpture to HOF’s exterior entrance sculpture

Ancient Greeks used relief sculptures on the tops of their temples. These sculptures were used to tell stories through art, usually from mythology. The trio of players, placed above the main entry to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, is telling a story as well. How would you describe the story? Which of the two sculptures is more realistic? Which has more detail?

12. Architectural Elements

Domes have been used by architects throughout history. One of the oldest standing domes is that of the Pantheon, built by the ancient Romans in 125 A.D. The dome is made of concrete and was originally open at the top. A large circular room, or rotunda, lies approximately 140 feet below the top of the dome. Today, the Pantheon is a church. The United States Capital Building also features a dome that is built over a rotunda.

The Hall of Fame dome, shaped like a football, features jewel-like stained glass insets. An exhibition Hall is built in a rotunda below the dome. Interestingly, the exhibit is a display of the first 100 years of football. While the dome is modern, the display is very historic. Why do you think the architect chose this contrast?

13. Comparison of Three Domes

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Look at the photos of the three domes. The Pantheon was constructed in Rome around 125 A.D, originally as a temple to the seven Roman gods. Statues, altars and decorative columns filled the circular room below. The dome of the United States Capital in Washington, D.C. was inspired by ancient Grecian architecture. In the center under the dome is the Rotunda, a circular space that holds a gallery of paintings and sculptures portraying significant people and events in our nation’s history. The Rotunda is 96 feet across and rises 180 feet 3 inches above the floor. How do each of these domes relate to the architecture of the building? Which best gives the viewer an indication of what lies inside?

15. Form Follows Function in Architecture

American architect Louis Sullivan coined the phrase “form follows function”. In other words, he believed that the function of a building determines the form of the building. Sullivan’s theory held that the exterior of a building should be a reflection of its interior

features and uses. Do you think Louis Sullivan would agree that “form follows function” was used when the exterior of the Hall of Fame was designed? Looking at the football shaped dome and the use of the underlying rotunda as a display Hall, it is highly likely that Mr. Sullivan would be pleased.

Look at the images of the three buildings. The older structure is the Carson-Pirie Scott Building, designed by Louis Sullivan. It was one of the first department stores to have a multi-story steel frame and an elevator. The modern structure is Fallingwater, designed by Louis Sullivan’s famous student, Frank Lloyd Wright. Discuss how each of these buildings follows the concept of “form follows function.”

16. Discussion of painting and drawing

*Artists have used various materials for paintings and drawings since the first cave artist picked up a stick dipped in ancient paint and created the images of animals. **Portraits** were originally created to make a lasting image of an individual for historical purposes. Before photography, portraits were the only way to capture this image. Oftentimes, only individuals holding high status within their community/country were portrayed. Portraits of ordinary citizens did not become popular until the 1800’s. Portraits today can be drawn, painted or photographed.*

Drawing techniques are used to create cartoons, portraits, illustrations and a variety of other visual images. When you visit the Pro Football Hall of Fame, be observant of the ways that drawings are used in the exhibits.

17. Comparison of a presidential portrait with a portrait of an NFL Commissioner.

The portrait of Commission Pete Rozelle is an oil painting by Nancy Sheridan that hangs in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. It is compared to a portrait of President Dwight D. Eisenhower that hangs at the Eisenhower Farm in Gettysburg, PA. What similarities do you observe when looking at the two portraits? What can a portrait tell you about an individual? Why do museums display portraits such as these?

18. Comparison of portraits of Chuck Bednarik and Napoleon.

***Portraits** are often used to show the heroic nature of an individual. Hall of Famer Chuck Bednarik (class of 1967) is often called the NFL’s last “Iron Man”, referring to his strength and endurance as a player as he would play both offense and defense. Bednarik played in 8 pro bowls and is considered one of the finest players in history.*

*Compare an oil painting of Bednarik, titled **Iron Man**, with a portrait of Napoleon Bonaparte by Jacques Louis David. Both portraits are intended to portray their subjects in a heroic manner. How did the artists accomplish this? What do the paintings tell you about each of the men? How do these portraits differ from the portraits previously shown?*

19. Discussion of photography

*Photography was commonly used in the 1800's, but was not considered an art form until the turn of the century. Photography was originally used to document people and events. Photography can enhance museum displays in a variety of ways. There are many examples of both still and action photography in the museum. **Still photos** allow the photographer to carefully control the composition, subject and lighting. **Action photography**, especially during a football game, is challenging but can yield dramatic images. Look for examples of both still and action photography when you visit the museum or its website.*

20. Example of action photography

Describe the effectiveness of this photo. Do you think it would be easy to recapture this image?

21. Example of still photography

22. Discussion of logos

Logos are visual images, often without words, designed to capture the essence of an organization, service, agency or product. Today's advertising is extensive and many products are used globally. Examples can be found on www.brandsoftheworld.com

*A written name is called a **logotype**. A symbol or visual image without writing is an **ideagram**. Most logos combine the logotype with the ideagram, which makes the logo highly recognizable. If a logo will be seen in an assortment of countries with different languages, it is often easier to simply use a visual image and not worry about translating a written name. For example, the Pepsi logo, with its red, white and blue design, is easily identified by people around the world, regardless of the language they speak. The Red Cross red and white logo is similarly recognized. Color is a very important factor that helps create recognizable logs.*

The Pro Football Hall of Fame has an interesting logo that contains an ideagram and a logotype. As you tour the Hall or browse its website, be aware of the various logos you observe related to the clubs of the NFL.

23. Examples of widely recognized logos

Which of these logos do you instantly recognize? Name and describe other famous logos.

24. Museum visit activities involving sculpture (if on a field trip – feel free to adapt if participating in distance learning)

25. Museum visit activities involving architecture (if on a field trip – feel free to adapt if participating in distance learning)

- 26. Museum visit activities involving portraiture (if on a field trip – feel free to adapt if participating in distance learning)**
- 27. Museum visit activities involving photography (if on a field trip – feel free to adapt if participating in distance learning)**
- 28. Follow-up activities**
- 29. Follow-up activities**