

Duke Energy Expands Free Days at The Schiele in 2021

GASTONIA, N.C. – November 20, 2020 – The Schiele Museum is excited to announce that Duke Energy will sponsor the Free Tuesday program again in 2021 and even expand the program to include the Free Friday program. These expanded offerings will also include a chance to see a planetarium show during these free days on a quarterly basis!

Since 2012, Duke Energy has partnered with The Schiele Museum to offer free general admission to the public on the second Tuesday of each month. This program known as “Free Tuesday” offers the regional community with the opportunity to visit The Schiele Museum’s interior exhibits from 12:30 - 4 PM each month – for free! Over the years, thousands of visitors have utilized the Duke Energy Free Tuesday program to visit the museum with their families at zero cost.

“The generosity of Duke Energy has really touched us,” shared, Dr. Ann Tippitt, Executive Director at The Schiele. “Our friends at Duke Energy realize the importance of accessibility to cultural resources in our community, and through their support of the Free Tuesday and now the Free Friday programs, they will help many families who otherwise might not have the chance to experience the museum and planetarium.”

Over the last few years, the Free Tuesday program has provided an annual average of more than 4,700 visitors with free access to the museum’s exhibits! As the coronavirus has impacted so many in our region, the expansion of free days will be a welcome relief to the families in search of low-cost options for family entertainment and education.

“It is important to us at Duke Energy that our community be able to utilize the valuable resources that we have in our own backyard,” commented Martha Wegner, Charlotte District Manager at Duke Energy. “By offering these free access days at The Schiele, we know that families – adults and children alike – will have a wonderful opportunity to explore the museum together and be inspired by what they see and learn!”

The James H. Lynn Planetarium is a unique resource at The Schiele that provides an immersive experience under a 360-degree dome that takes a look at the depths of the oceans to stars and planets light-years away. The inclusion of a planetarium program during the first month of each quarter is the most recent addition of Duke Energy’s largesse. By eliminating the financial barrier and offering a free planetarium show, Duke Energy has opened up possibilities for the community to try something new and expand their understanding of the world and beyond by participating in a planetarium program.

“I remember visiting a planetarium on a field trip with my school, and it stuck in my mind as one of the most inspiring things I’d ever seen,” shared Wegner. “Being able to offer families the opportunity to experience the planetarium at The Schiele through Duke Energy’s partnership brings me great joy.”

Free Tuesdays will be offered on the second Tuesday of each month, and provide visitors with free admission from 12:30 – 4 PM to visit the museum’s interior exhibits.

Free Fridays will be offered on the fourth Friday of each month, and provide visitors with free admission from 12:30 – 4 PM to visit the museum’s interior exhibits.

Free planetarium programs will be held on the following dates: Jan. 12 & 22, Apr. 13 & 23, Jul. 13 & 23, and Oct. 12 & 22

For more information, please visit schielemuseum.org or follow The Schiele Museum on social media.

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The Schiele Museum of Natural History

Inspiring wonder and appreciation of the natural world, The Schiele provides the region with a unique educational resource. Whether through formal instruction or visiting the various exhibits, visitors to The Schiele gain insight into the marvels of the world around. To find out more, visit www.schielemuseum.org or follow The Schiele Museum on social media.

About the Duke Energy Foundation

The Duke Energy Foundation provides philanthropic support to meet the needs of communities where Duke Energy customers live and work. The foundation contributes more than \$30 million annually in charitable gifts, and is funded by Duke Energy shareholder dollars. More information about the foundation and its Powerful Communities program can be found at duke-energy.com/foundation.

Duke Energy (NYSE: DUK), a Fortune 150 company headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., is one of the largest energy holding companies in the U.S. It employs 30,000 people and has an electric generating capacity of 51,000 megawatts through its regulated utilities, and 3,000 megawatts through its nonregulated Duke Energy Renewables unit.