

INSPECTOR COLLECTOR (IC) is a professional museum educator whose courses focus on the pedagogical value of collecting. Using everyday objects such as menus, pencils, maps, paper money, and more, **IC** helps students of all ages build their sense of wonderment and self-esteem. Together, students and teachers explore culture and identity; develop career objectives; and build a sense of community through open intellectual exchange. Participation in a range of creative activities helps students develop language and motor skills while learning how to appraise and evaluate cultural artifacts so as to understand their context and purpose. The links between contemporary culture and history are made apparent, and students become more aware of the connections between their school curriculum and the world around them. The cornerstone of this explorative course is the development of skills like decision-making, innovative thinking, and creative interpretation. **IC** fosters the multiple intelligences while enriching, stimulating, and empowering students both inside and outside the classroom.

IC's innovative approach can “turn on the light bulb” for students who may not always feel confident in traditional classroom settings. This unique curriculum is based on the idea that the way we collect objects mirrors precisely the way we learn to read (identify, gather, sort, store, present and re-present). **IC** enhances analytical skills and helps develop characteristics of good citizenship such as tolerance and cooperation. Students are taught to “think on their feet” and discover new meaning in the world around them. The success of **IC's** curriculum proves that the sense of order and feelings of satisfaction that people establish by collecting can stimulate a crucial life skill: persistence in the pursuit of knowledge.

“REAL FAKE” by Inspector Collector

This one-hour interactive performance opens with a hands-on display and discussion of paper money from across the ages and around the world. See an early vertical bill from China, the nation that invented paper AND paper money. Handle silver certificates, \$2 bills, shrunken money, extremely unusual government misprints, and other rarities. The presentation then continues with a hands-on demonstration of anti-counterfeiting techniques, involving the use of special magnetic detectors and ultra violet light. Learn dozens of ways to protect yourself against dishonesty. See the bright blue fluorescent strip hiding inside U.S. \$5 bills; learn the secrets behind the special pens used by cashiers; and discuss strategies used by the visually impaired.

By sharing his collection of international paper money, Inspector Collector teaches families how to “read” visual images. He demonstrates in a lively and fun manner how countries put their best foot forward on their currency, and how, as a medium of exchange, money relates to nearly every human endeavor. Learn the derivation of terms like “bucks,” “c-notes,” and “dead presidents,” and learn where to look on the one-dollar bill for hidden symbols like a tiny spider, a skeleton key, and even an image of the Batmobile. See and handle “Real Fakes” – samples of actual counterfeit dollars; bills that have been specially marked by the police; the highest denominations ever printed; and altered bills created by contemporary artists like J.S.G. Boggs, Peggy Diggs, Nicolas Dumit Estevez, David Harth, and others. Inspector Collector never forgets the lagniappe – be sure to be here to handle one of his most unique collections – a velvet-lined box of hundreds and hundreds of mangled, mauled and mutilated coins, from the barely recognizable to a penny that was bent in half under the blade of a snowplow to a handful of quarters painted red – do you know why?