Throughout the spring 2014 semester, the Haggerty has been working with SHARP Literacy, Inc., presenting a series of tours and workshops for 1st graders from MPS, charter, and parochial schools. SHARP’s programs are designed to help first through fifth grade students build reading, writing, and researching skills using visual art as the primary tool for learning. The Haggerty collaboration merges SHARP’s bee/pollination curriculum with lessons derived from the Haggerty’s current exhibitions about consumer culture. Education interns Zachary Hill and Devin Owsley-Aquilia (both Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design juniors) created the workshop didactics and are leading the tours.

Patricia Ellis, SHARP’s Vice President of Education, had this to say about the collaboration, “SHARP Literacy, Inc. is thrilled to work in collaboration with the Haggerty Museum of Art for a second year to provide our first grade students with an engaging, enriching, and meaningful art museum experience. For many of our students, this is their first art museum tour, so this
experience becomes extra special in many ways. The museum’s wonderful galleries and amazing staff not only help to reinforce the SHARP curriculum, but also enable our first grade students to see how the visual arts can be utilized to make real world connections with literature, broaden and deepen their knowledge, enhance their creative thinking skills, and promote critical thinking about topics such as the importance of honey bees, water use and conservation, or consumerism. Teachers, students, and parents walk away excitedly sharing with others what a special gem the Haggerty Museum of Art is to schools and the community.”

Participating Schools in the 2014 Haggerty/SHARP collaboration include: Catholic East Elementary, Emerson Elementary School, Greenfield Bilingual School, Institute of Technology and Academics, Parklawn Elementary School, and Trowbridge School of Discovery and Technology.

4.24.14