



Workshop: Las Cortes Neighborhood

In this three hour workshop, participants will be given a notebook to create an “artist’s diary” as we travel through the Last Cortes Neighborhood. After discovering and drawing some of the secrets of the neighborhood, the children will convene in the workshop of Carmen La Griega where they will paint their own Don Quijote and Sancho Panza mini-sculptures to take home.

Stop 1- Congressional Lions

Made from bronze cannons from the African War, these fierce lions guard the Spanish Congressional Building. However, the two aren’t twins- one weighs over 950 pounds more than the other! Can you tell which is bigger and which is smaller? Draw your favorite lion and give him or her a ferocious name.



Stop 2- I Spy Cervantes

Across the street from the Congress, we will visit the statue of the famous Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes. After sharing some details about the author with the children, we will play a game of I Spy with the statue: can you spot the roaring lion? The lady with a jester’s staff? All of these details are based on scenes from Cervantes’s most famous book, Don Quijote.

Stop 3- Dancing Dolls

For the past 20 years, at 12:00pm and 8:00pm, the dancing dolls of Antonio Mingote make their appearance on the balcony of the Groupama building. First, we will give a brief description of the characters who appear on the balcony, from King Carlos III to Francisco Goya. Then, after watching the dolls' dance, we will invite the children to learn a few steps of the "chotis," the traditional dance of Madrid.



Stop 4- The Cervantes House

In this house on Calle Leon, Miguel de Cervantes completed the second part of Don Quijote. In front of the house, will give a dramatized summary of the book so that the children can have a vivid idea of this classic Spanish novel.

Stop 5- Carmen La Griega's Workshop

At our last stop, the children will be given small plaster figurines of Don Quijote and invited to paint them to their liking. If time permits, we will ask the children to share their lion drawings and their completed sculptures with the group.

