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**PRESS
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MEMPHIS BROOKS MUSEUM OF ART FACT SHEET

VISION

Transforming lives through the power of art.

MISSION



The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art enriches the lives of its diverse community through the Museum's expanding collection, varied exhibitions, and dynamic programs that reflect the art of world cultures from antiquity to the present.

HISTORY

First opened in 1916, the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art was founded by Bessie Vance Brooks in memory of her husband, Samuel Hamilton Brooks. Located in historic

Overton Park, in the heart of the city, the Brooks is one of the leading art museums in the American South.

LEADERSHIP

The Brooks is guided by a 35-member Board of Directors comprising community leaders from a variety of fields. The Brooks has a strategic plan, a code of ethics, a non-discrimination policy, and a disaster plan. Emily Ballew Neff is the Executive Director, appointed in 2015.

COLLECTION AND EXHIBITIONS

The Brooks' permanent collection consists of over 9,000 works that highlight the Italian Renaissance and Baroque period as well as French Impressionism and British, American, and 20th and 21st century artists. The Kress Collection is a magnificent assembly of many pieces from the philanthropist's collection of Renaissance paintings. The Brooks has one of the finest collections of English portraiture in the South, with works by Thomas Gainsborough, Joshua Reynolds, Thomas Lawrence, and George Romney, among others. Impressionists include Camille Pissarro and Pierre-August Renoir. American artists represented at the Brooks include Winslow Homer, Thomas Hart Benton, Childe Hassam, and Robert Henri. Regional artists

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included in the Brooks' permanent collection include Carroll Cloar, Walter Anderson, Carl Guthertz, William Eggleston, and William Christenberry.

The Brooks offers an impressive selection of 19th, 20th, and 21st century sculpture and decorative arts as well as a popular global survey of art: Ancient Greek and Mediterranean art, a rich, colorful collection from the ancient Americas, and African Art. The print study room houses over 4,500 works of art on paper.

The Brooks hosts 3 to 4 large-scale traveling exhibitions per year, each typically running for 12 weeks. Smaller, in-house exhibitions highlighting the permanent collection are displayed throughout the year, while emerging artists and community collaborations are exhibited twice yearly in the Education Gallery.

Forty-five docents lead scheduled tours for schools and other groups from September through July, Wednesday through Friday. There are also self-guided audio tours for adults and children in English and Spanish. The research library holds over 5,000 volumes.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Each year more than 15,000 students visit the Brooks to experience the wonders of art. Educational programs are offered throughout the year while teacher resources and workshops provide creative ways to stimulate learning and integrate art into subjects across the curriculum.

Student and community outreach programs include the following: Free school tours, Family Days, Creative Station, Wacky Wednesdays, Art and the Basic Curriculum, a Community Mural Program, Tea and Tour for Seniors, an Art Therapy program, and a Speakers Bureau.

For over 34 years, Art and the Basic Curriculum has served thousands of students and teachers through arts integration. Each school year, approximately 1,300 students in 45 classes are engaged through this dynamic and highly effective program, which culminates with an exhibition of student artwork at the museum.

The Brooks was the first museum in Tennessee to implement a Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) curriculum for elementary school students and teachers. VTS uses art to teach critical thinking, communication skills, and visual literacy. Growth is stimulated in three ways: Looking

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at art of increasing complexity, responding to developmentally-based questions, and participating in group discussions that are carefully facilitated by teachers.

Since 2007, the Brooks has enhanced Memphis through the Community Mural Program. Projects include a museum visit, brainstorming and drawing sessions, and designing and painting a mural at the partner organization's site. Each mural is celebrated with a public reception to showcase the creativity and hard work of the participants. The finished products are lasting works of art for the community and a source of pride and accomplishment for the young people who create them.

PARTNERSHIP

The Brooks regularly partners with various community organizations such as Youth Villages, Ballet Memphis, Opera Memphis, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Girls, Inc., Memphis College of Art, Rhodes College, Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Playhouse on the Square, Watoto Memphis, Hattiloo Theater, Indie Memphis, and New Ballet Ensemble, among many others.

ATTENDANCE

Annual museum attendance averages 80,000. An estimated 60% of Brooks visitors come from within 100 miles of Memphis, while the remaining 40% are visitors to the region.

FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

The museum has 29 galleries and 2 classrooms. The award-winning Brushmark Restaurant serves lunch every day the museum is open, as well as dinner on Thursdays and brunch on weekends. The Museum Store is open during regular museum hours. Brooks members receive a 10% discount to the Brushmark and the Museum Store.

OPERATING BUDGET AND SOURCES OF INCOME

MEMBERSHIP AND SPONSORSHIP

The Brooks has a membership base of approximately 3,000 households. Members receive a range of benefits including free regular admission, discounts to special events, and much more. The Brooks enjoys sponsorship support from local and national corporations and foundations, the largest of which are the City of Memphis, the Tennessee Arts Commission, ArtsMemphis, and the Brooks' Community Partners. Seventy percent of the museum's operating budget comes from membership, sponsorship, and other donations.

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MEMPHIS WINE + FOOD SERIES

The Brooks' most successful and highest profile fundraising event is the glamorous and fun Memphis Wine + Food Series, a season of wine events and lifestyle auctions taking place each spring. Many of the top vintners in the world join hands with the Brooks every year to make it all possible. This event has become one of the top wine-related events in the southeast, bringing a special Memphis flair to the best and finest wine and food in the world. Dollars raised from the Memphis Wine + Food Series enable arts access for children and adults across the Mid-South. In the past two decades, the series has contributed nearly \$4 million in net revenue to the Brooks, in direct support of the museum's award winning educational and community outreach programs.

BUDGET

The museum's annual operating budget is \$3.5 to \$4 million. The Brooks is a 501 (c)(3) not for profit organization that receives support from the City of Memphis.

SUPPORT GROUPS

The museum's official support groups are the Brooks Museum League and the Decorative Arts Trust.

STAFF

Approximately 70 employees.

HOURS

Monday and Tuesday: Closed. Wednesday and Friday: 10 am – 4 pm. Thursday: 10 am – 8 pm. Saturday: 10 am – 5 pm. Sunday: 11 am – 5 pm.

*The Brooks is open every Thursday until 8 pm. The Brushmark Restaurant seats until 9 pm. The museum is closed Mondays, Tuesdays, New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

ADMISSION

Free for members.

Adult: \$7, Seniors (65+): \$6, Students (w/ ID): \$3, Youth (7-17): \$3, Children (6 and under): Free.

Every Wednesday: Pay What You Can Wednesday.

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WEBSITE

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SMART PHONE APP

Brooks Museum (available for iPhone, iPad, and Android devices)

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