



2023-2024 IMPACT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2023 GALA HIGHLIGHTS

We are incredibly grateful and overwhelmed by the success and broad reach of The MAM Spring Benefits! Our evening event, The MAM Art Gala welcomed 224 guests and raised a total of \$676,002.

The MAM Spring Benefits are the social events of the season, featuring exquisite cuisine prepared by Laurence Craig Catering, outstanding auction items, and lively entertainment. In spring 2024, MAM's biennial celebration of flowers and fine arts returns, with a weeklong floral exhibition featuring arrangements by 47 local designers inspired by the artwork in MAM's galleries. **More than just a night of festivities, the Gala and its Fund-a-Need are a critical revenue stream for the Museum, raising 20% of our annual budget each year.**



As you may remember, the 2023 Gala Fund-a-Need supported the reinstallation of MAM's Native American art collection. **Thanks to your support, the \$114,512 raised has allowed the Montclair Art Museum to make significant progress toward this important project—our biggest undertaking since the large-scale renovations to the Museum building during our centennial in 2014.** The newly renovated gallery and reimagined collection will reopen to the public in September 2024. In the following pages, we invite you to learn more about the project and get up to speed on its current status.

NATIVE AMERICAN GALLERY REINSTALLATION

At our establishment in 1914, the Montclair Art Museum was among the first art museums in the United States with a significant collection of historic and contemporary Native American work, prominently displaying it in a dedicated gallery space as part of our founding collection—an idea at the vanguard. Today, we are creating a fresh, innovative presentation of works from our permanent collection of Indigenous art from North America.

The collection has grown to more than 4,000 objects, totaling one-third of MAM's overall collection, thanks to:

- Founding gift from: Florence Rand Lang *in memory of her mother Annie Valentine Rand*
- Significant gifts from:
 - Audrey and Norbert Gaelen
 - The Gregory Family *to support essential cataloguing of the collection*
- Donations of Indigenous art from many patrons over decades
- Ongoing intentional collecting by MAM

Throughout our history, we have continually expanded our collection of Native artworks. We have broadened our collecting since the 1990s, and contemporary Indigenous art is now an integral component of the gallery reinstallation.

Our collection reflects:

- Work from the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, as well as ancestral items
- Wide range of media including regalia, ceramics, mixed media, basketry, paintings, works on paper, beadwork and quillwork, carvings, photography, site-specific installations, and more
- Diverse geographical areas and nations
- Strengths in work by women artists
- Historically under-represented Lenape and Northeastern artists and queer/two-spirit artists



“Native art embodies Indigenous knowledge that is powerful and relevant.”

—MAM's Curator of Native American Art,
Laura J. Allen



Left: Prior installation in Rand Gallery, 2016. Right: Roberts Gallery under construction for new installation, 2023.

The revitalization of these Museum spaces will honor the significance and impact of our collection, the Indigenous artists represented within, and their communities.

Through close collaboration with Indigenous colleagues, our approach reframes Native American art at MAM by:

- Emphasizing Indigenous ways of knowing
- Promoting the power of Indigenous peoples and art to shape the future
- Being relevant to both Native and non-Native people

Through our work, we will:

- Educate and empower our audience
- Build sustained reciprocal relationships with Indigenous people, communities, institutions, and nations
- Lead by example in the collection, presentation, and interpretation of Indigenous art of North America
- Support Indigenous students, educators, artists, and curators

This reinstallation will reinvigorate the visitor experience for the Museum's 80,000+ annual guests. This is particularly important for regional elementary students to supplement their in-school learning about Lenape peoples and the complex histories of the American continent. Through collaboration and consultation with Indigenous and non-Indigenous educators, administrators, scholars, and artists, and in alignment with K-12 NJ State Learning Standards, we will develop curriculum guides, professional development programs, and inclusive tours and art-making programs as well as a family guide for the galleries and opportunities for inter-generational engagement in the Learning Lab.

To realize this project, MAM is working with the guidance of an advisory council of Native and non-Native curator-scholars and alongside additional Indigenous collaborators and consultants from across the continent.

MAM's Native American Art Advisory Council as of October 2023

- [heather ahtone](#) (Choctaw/Chickasaw Nation), Director, Curatorial Affairs, First Americans Museum
- [Kathleen Ash-Milby](#) (Navajo Nation), Curator of Native American Art, Portland Art Museum
- [John P. Lukavic](#), Curator of Native Arts, Denver Art Museum
- [Sherrie Smith-Ferri](#) (Dry Creek Band of Pomo Indians/Bodega Miwok), Retired Director, Grace Hudson Museum & Sun House; currently Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Dry Creek Rancheria
- [Lucy Fowler Williams](#), Associate Curator and Senior Keeper of American Collections, Penn Museum

"I'm excited to see MAM's treasures, including those from my own Native California community, emerging from storage to share stories of the creativity, resilience, and power of their makers."

—Sherrie Smith-Ferri at MAM, November 19, 2021



Former Members

- [Joe Baker](#) (Delaware Tribe of Indians), Executive Director and Co-Founder, Lenape Center
- [Pamela Hearne Jardine](#), Ph.D., Curator Emerita of Native American Art, Montclair Art Museum (in memoriam)
- [Kay WalkingStick](#) (Cherokee Nation), Artist and Professor Emerita, Cornell University

MAM Staff

- [Ira Wagner](#), Executive Director
- [Gail Stavitsky](#), Chief Curator
- [Laura J. Allen](#), Curator of Native American Art
- [Osanna Urbay](#), Chief Registrar and Exhibition Designer
- [Leah Fox](#), Director of the Vance Wall Art Education Center
- [Kristine Bowen](#), Associate Director of Education



Left: Artist and curator Jeremy Dennis (Shinnecock Nation) teaches a Sunday Studio at MAM, October 10, 2023.

Right: Artist, scholar, and elder Haa'yuups (Nuu-chah-nulth) and Chief Registrar and Exhibition Designer Osanna Urbay review a 19th-century Nuu-chah-nulth cedar bark cape in MAM's collection, June 1, 2023.



ART IN BLOOM

EXHIBITION MAY 15-19
AN ARTFUL LUNCH MAY 16
MAM ART GALA MAY 18

Stay tuned for more information about the impactful focus of this year's Fund-a-Need!!