

Asheville Art Museum

Asheville, North Carolina



Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums since 1984

Founded 1948

Collecting and Exhibiting
American Art beginning in the 20th century, with a focus on art of significance to the Southeast

Governance
Private Non-Profit
Board of Trustees

Annual Days Open
310

Audience Served in 2014/15
129,491 on- and off-site
482,407 on-line
153,900 broadcast

Executive Director
Pamela L. Myers

Location
2 South Pack Square
Asheville, North Carolina

Mailing Address
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Asheville, NC 28802-1717

Phone 828.253.3227

FAX 828.257.4503

E Mail
mailbox@ashevilleart.org

URL
<http://www.ashevilleart.org>

Volunteers 255

Museum Hours
Tuesday – Saturday
10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

The Asheville Art Museum is the only community based nonprofit visual art organization in Western North Carolina (WNC). Incorporated in 1948 by area artists, the Museum serves the Asheville urban area and a 24 county region with a population of 1,351,601. 17 of the 24 counties in the region are classified as 100% rural by federal guidelines. The Asheville Art Museum's vision is to transform lives through art. The mission statement of the Museum is to engage, enlighten and inspire individuals and enrich community through dynamic experiences in American art of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Facilities: The Museum's 50,000 square foot facility is located on the center square of downtown Asheville. It includes twelve galleries within a historically significant 1926 Italian Renaissance style building with contemporary additions and an adjacent wing. The North Wing houses seven galleries on five levels and an art library. In 2012, the Museum renovated existing and added new facilities to create the East Wing, which houses an expanded Museum shop, three general galleries, a New Media gallery, an installation space, a hands-on project space for children and families and the WNC Art Resource Center studio/classroom. The Museum is fully accessible.

Quality of Life/Economic Impact: The Museum's programs engage diverse audiences of all ages in active exploration of themselves – their past and future – and their communities, through interpretation of American art since the beginning of the 20th century. Committed to being a vital force in the community and individual development, the Museums' focus is on lifelong learning through the visual arts for all audiences from pre-school children to senior citizens. The Museum has served over 2 million people in the last fifteen years, welcoming visitors from all 50 states and many foreign countries. In the last year, the Museum and its visitors accounted for \$3.5 million in direct and indirect economic impact on the region.

Exhibitions/Collections: The Museum has established its expertise in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of American art beginning in the 20th century and in all aspects of public programming, making innovative and outstanding exhibition experiences available to residents of and visitors to WNC. The Museum preserves important aspects of our national and regional heritage through strategic collecting and the conscientious stewardship of great works of art. The collection, containing more than 4,098 works in all media and 4,905 architectural drawings, is the only such resource in the region. The Museum annually presents 18-20 exhibitions drawing from the permanent collection and borrowed works. In addition, the Museum has curated projects focusing on themes of contemporary interest and has invited internationally acclaimed curators to contribute their skills.

Programs: The Museum maintains an active, exciting and engaging schedule of exhibitions and public programs based on its permanent collection and special exhibitions. The Museum's highly acclaimed in-house education programs include Studio Art, Math and Literacy school tours, which reinforce the NC Standard Course of Study, family workshops, summer and winter art camps and After School Art Adventure. The Museum also presents a variety of outstanding educational programs that enrich life for adults of all backgrounds. Travel programs, independent films, concerts, gallery and artist talks, lectures and volunteer and entertainment experiences are developed with the Museum's many partners. Nearly 500 programs providing over 40,000 hours of in-depth visual arts and educational programming for audiences of all ages from throughout the region were completed in 2015/16.

Partnerships: In accordance with its mission, the Museum provides leadership in the visual arts and educational reform through its work with the community to enrich educational opportunities for residents of and visitors to WNC. State agencies, businesses and foundations recognize the Museum as a leader in establishing partnerships with schools and organizations and presenting education opportunities for rural and urban students. Community partners include UNC-Asheville and at Chapel-Hill, Warren Wilson College, Mars Hill College, Buncombe County Public Libraries, The Asheville School, Historic Resources Commission, Asheville Section of the American Institute of Architects, YMI African American Cultural Center, Diana Wortham Theatre, Penland School of Crafts, Center of Craft, Creativity and Design, Asheville Symphony, Asheville Parks & Recreation, Handmade in America, WCQS, WNCW, area arts councils and regional school districts.

Honors/Achievements: In recent years the Museum has received many prestigious awards that recognize excellence in programming. They include:

- National Endowment for the Arts support in 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.
- MetLife Foundation *Museums Connection* grant for *smART Speak*, 2007.
- The only art museum chosen nationwide to participate in the National Endowment for the Arts pilot program *Summer Schools in the Arts*, 2004 and 2005.
- A third accreditation award by the American Alliance of Museums in 2013.
- Asheville Chamber of Commerce Sky High Growth Award, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2007 and 2013.
- Institute of Museum and Library Services support for the development of a *More Than Math* national model, 2010, and for the continuation of the Black Mountain College Project, 2011.