

IMPACT REPORT 2025



See what art can do.

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART | THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

BLANTON  
MUSEUM  
OF ART

# Blanton by the Numbers

A snapshot of the Blanton's impact in calendar year 2025.

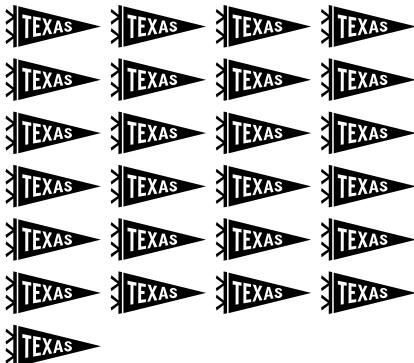


**236,730**  
people

visited the Blanton  
Museum of Art

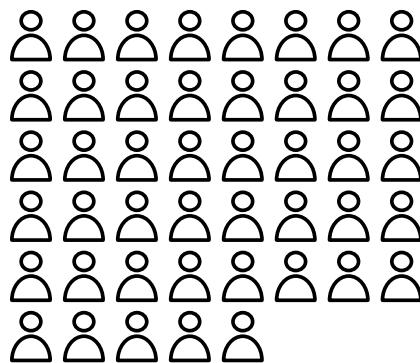
**22,000+**  
objects

cared for in  
the collection



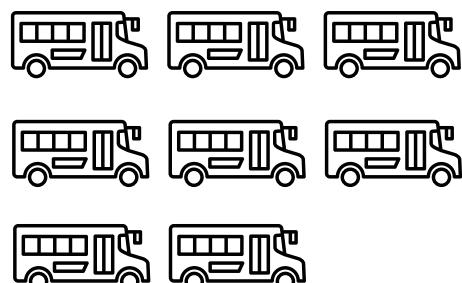
**25,333**  
UT students

visited the museum as  
part of a class or on their own



**45,059**  
people

attended for free on Tuesdays  
thanks to the Moody Family  
Free Day Endowment



**7,582**  
K-12 students

participated in gallery  
experiences at the Blanton



**1,083,694**  
page views  
on the Blanton website

**2,812**  
visitors



to the H-E-B Study Room,  
within the Wilkinson Center  
for Prints and Drawings



**11,257**  
Blanton All Day  
attendees



**40**  
years

longest-standing Member



**4,329**  
member  
households

supported the museum



**44**  
countries

represented among  
our visitors



**291**  
artists

displayed in the  
collection galleries



**17,792**  
postcards

sold in the Museum Store  
supporting the museum



**160,718**  
followers

across the Blanton's  
social media channels

**THE Sustainable  
SITES  
Initiative®**

The Blanton grounds received  
SITES Certification in 2025 in  
recognition of the sustainability of  
the planning, design, construction,  
and management of this project.



“

...the Blanton  
[went] from  
good college art  
museum to global  
arts pilgrimage  
site in an instant.”

— **Forbes**

SEPT. 2024

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# From the Director

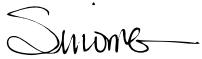
As director, one of the core parts of my job is planning for the Blanton's future. This work is exciting and collaborative, carried out in partnership with my visionary colleagues from across the museum—curators in storage researching works of art for new exhibitions, designers mapping out gallery rotations, educators meeting with UT faculty to plan class visits, museum staff engaging local K-12 teachers to explore how art can spark students' learning, and the programs team considering what events will resonate with our community.

Although much of this process happens out of public view, we are constantly thinking about you—our visitors—and how to make the Blanton distinctive and bring people together. All of which also relies on the support of our ticket buyers, funders, members, and volunteers, as well as the strategic guidance, advocacy, and philanthropy of the Blanton Museum Council and Blanton Leadership Board.

This Impact Report is an opportunity to celebrate the projects that came to fruition in 2025 and express our gratitude for your support. It is also a reflection of the Blanton's pride to be part of The University of Texas at Austin, our deep connection to the city of Austin, and why we are seen as a leader nationally.

There's an incredible two years ahead. In 2026, we look forward to the much-anticipated opening of our new café, in partnership with Justine's Brasserie, as well as presentations of innovative contemporary artists, exquisite works on paper, and European Impressionism. And, in 2027, we will present a major exhibition celebrating transformative gifts of art and the collectors helping build a great collection for our community.

The Blanton remains steadfast in our commitment to you. And especially to the many UT students for whom the Blanton is not only a museum, but also a place of belonging and discovery. Together, we can learn, find beauty, and nurture community. The voices of artists and the inspiration of museums will always play a vital role in helping us understand ourselves and the world around us. Thank you being part of this shared pursuit.



Simone Jamille Wicha  
Director  
Blanton Museum of Art  
The University of Texas at Austin



A museum that stands out on campus, in the city, and in the art world."

— **The New York Times**

AUG. 2024





Two women are standing in front of the painting of the woman, looking at it. The woman on the left has curly hair and is wearing a black and pink floral dress. The woman on the right has long dark hair and is wearing a black top and a long green skirt, carrying a white handbag.

# Art can surprise.



With a dynamic exhibition program and regular rotations of the permanent collection galleries (see Collection, page 34), there's always something new to discover and learn at the Blanton. The museum's acclaimed exhibitions connect students, alumni, and visitors with world-class art and scholarship, amplifying the University's reputation for excellence.

The museum presents major exhibitions in the Butler Gallery; focused presentations drawn from our works on paper collection in the Paper Vault; and new works by today's leading artists in the Contemporary Project.



## ***In Creative Harmony: Three Artistic Partnerships***

This exhibition—organized collaboratively by three Blanton curators—explored how artists inspire each other, featuring intergenerational Mexican printmakers, José Guadalupe Posada and Artemio Rodríguez; friends and innovators in abstract painting and sculpture, Arshile Gorky and Isamu Noguchi; and Nora Naranjo Morse and her daughter, Eliza Naranjo Morse.

February 16–July 20, 2025

*In Creative Harmony: Three Artistic Partnerships* was organized by the Blanton Museum of Art. Major support for this exhibition at the Blanton was provided by The Moody Foundation. This exhibition was supported in part by David and Ellen Berman.

**“**9 Museum Shows You Shouldn’t Miss in the First Half of 2025.”

— **CULTURED**  
JAN. 2025



## ***Spirit & Splendor: El Greco, Velázquez, and the Hispanic Baroque***

Featuring highlights from the esteemed collection of the Hispanic Society Museum & Library, *Spirit & Splendor* traced a 150-year history of Spanish painting, bringing rare masterpieces by El Greco and Diego Velázquez to campus audiences and the Austin community.

August 24, 2025–February 1, 2026

*Spirit & Splendor: El Greco, Velázquez, and the Hispanic Baroque* was organized by the Hispanic Society Museum & Library, with support from The Museum Box. Major support for this exhibition at the Blanton was provided by The Moody Foundation.

**“**A constellation of [works] from the Spanish Golden Age...in its Texas version it has taken on a new dimension.”

— **EL PAÍS**

SEPT. 2025



Contemporary Project #14

## **Tavares Strachan: Between Me and You**

Tavares Strachan, one of today's most prominent artists, transformed the Contemporary Project space into a meadow of dried rice grass, reflecting on rice as a staple of the Afro-Caribbean diet, with several other works by Strachan also on view across the museum.

November 9, 2024–June 1, 2025

*Tavares Strachan: Between Me and You* was organized by the Blanton Museum of Art. Support for this exhibition was provided by a partnership between the Ford Foundation and Austin City Art Fund, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Additional support was provided by David and Ellen Berman.



Strachan's art is global  
in its reach."

—  Alcalde

JAN. 2025



Contemporary Project #15

## **Betsabeé Romero: Al reverso de la pista [On the Other Side of the Track]**

Internationally renowned Mexican artist Betsabeé Romero created a 21st-century Mesoamerican ritual ball court in the Contemporary Project gallery, fusing ancient Indigenous artforms with contemporary culture.

June 14, 2025–January 4, 2026

*Betsabeé Romero: Al reverso de la pista [On the Other Side of the Track]* was organized by the Blanton Museum of Art. Support for this exhibition was provided in part by David and Ellen Berman.

Featured in   
MÉXICO Y  
LATINOAMÉRICA

JUNE 2025



Paper Vault

## ***A Family Affair: Artistic Dynasties in Europe (Part I, 1500–1700)***

Drawn from the Blanton's collection of historical European art, this two-part exhibition presented prints, drawings, and paintings created by fascinating artistic families, revealing patterns of inspiration, rivalry, and changing fortunes. Part I told the stories of printmaking families active in European cities from Antwerp to Prague in the 16th and 17th centuries.

January 25–June 15, 2025

*A Family Affair: Artistic Dynasties in Europe* was organized by the Blanton Museum of Art.



Paper Vault

## ***A Family Affair: Artistic Dynasties in Europe (Part II, 1670–1900)***

Part II of *A Family Affair* featured the stories of artistic families active in France, Italy, England, Scotland, and India from the late 17th to 19th century. From highly refined French engravings to evocative landscapes of Britain and India, the works charted social and artistic change in Europe and beyond.

June 28–December 7, 2025

*A Family Affair: Artistic Dynasties in Europe* was organized by the Blanton Museum of Art.

Featured on



JAN. 2025



## A LIVING LEGACY

## Butler Sound Gallery

With the opening of the new grounds in spring 2023, the Blanton became the first major museum to create a permanent space dedicated to sound art—thanks to the generosity and vision of longtime supporters Sarah and Ernest Butler (pictured above in 2025). The Butlers made an impactful gift of \$5 million to develop the sound gallery space and create an endowment to support future sound art installations.

Sarah, a retired educator, and Dr. Butler, a retired otolaryngologist and founder of the Austin Ear Nose and Throat Clinic, first joined the Blanton as members more than 40 years ago. They have been crucial supporters since, from their gift to the campaign that built the museum's current facility—the Butler Gallery on the first floor is named in their honor—to generously completing fundraising for *Austin by Ellsworth Kelly*. The Butlers are also incredible champions of the arts and music on campus and throughout the Austin community.

“

We are proud to underwrite this innovative outdoor sound gallery at the museum and have it named in our honor. It is exciting to imagine the beautiful, unexpected, and powerful experiences that students and visitors will have with sound art.”

—Sarah and Ernest Butler



The Butler Sound Gallery has become a favorite stop for UT faculty and students walking on campus, schoolchildren exploring the grounds before a museum tour, and other visitors looking to enjoy a peaceful moment or lunch amidst this engaging sound experience.

The inaugural installation by sound art pioneer Bill Fontana (pictured above, at left) features recordings of Central Texas' wildlife and geological structures. Since April 2023, *Landscape Soundings* has piqued the curiosity of thousands of museum visitors and passersby with ambient sounds of bats, limestone caverns, and the Texas Hill Country wind.

In 2025, the Blanton's curatorial team worked on developing future artist commissions for the Butler Sound Gallery. The next installation, which will also be funded through this endowment, will open in spring 2026. We look forward to announcing the artist soon.

The Butlers' generosity has done more than develop a distinctive space; it has given Austin a new way to experience art for years to come.

Featured in

The Art  
Newspaper

The  
Architect's  
Newspaper

Austin  
American-  
Statesman

KUT  
NEWS

TEXAS  
STANDARD

“

One of “The Best College Art Museums in the Country.”

— **TOWN&COUNTRY**

AUG. 2024



# Art can change the world.



As the art museum for The University of Texas at Austin, the Blanton supports UT's goal of transforming lives for the benefit of society and driving impact in the state of Texas and beyond. We welcome Longhorns at every stage of their college journey, enrich student life, directly support teaching, provide professional development, and advance research and knowledge. In 2025, **25,333 UT students** visited, **13,661 with their classes** and **11,672 on their own**.



## Student Life

The Blanton is a popular cultural resource and gathering spot on campus, igniting a sense of discovery, community, and inspiration in students. In 2025, **11,672 students** visited on their own time. A few examples of the ways they engage with the museum follow.

**Orientation:** The Blanton is part of the college experience from the moment it begins. During summer 2025, **427 students** explored the museum during UT orientation.

**Exhibitions:** Year-round, the Blanton is the only place in Austin where students can view such wide-ranging art, from historical to contemporary, and from around the world. They come to socialize with friends and independently.

**Grounds:** Students are a constant presence on the Moody Patio—stopping by for lunch, meeting with study groups, and enjoying the art and views. In the evenings, the grounds remain well-lit and welcoming, drawing students for birthday celebrations, book clubs, dance videos, and other informal gatherings.

**Career Training:** In 2025, **23 students** individually volunteered at the Blanton, plus volunteer groups from the Texas Blazers, Texas Orange Jackets, Texas Cowboys, and other student organizations. In addition, **18 students** held part-time jobs at the Blanton, including as Gallery Assistants and Customer Service Associates. These students represent many academic areas, from studio art and classical studies to pre-law and economics. See page 21 for the robust professional development we offer UT graduate students.

**Well-Being:** In October, the Division of Student Affairs' Longhorn Wellness Center and First Gen Longhorns organized the third Mindfulness Summit, which took place at the Blanton—**170 people** participated in this retreat-style experience.

“

I like to go there especially when the weather is nice and do my schoolwork.”

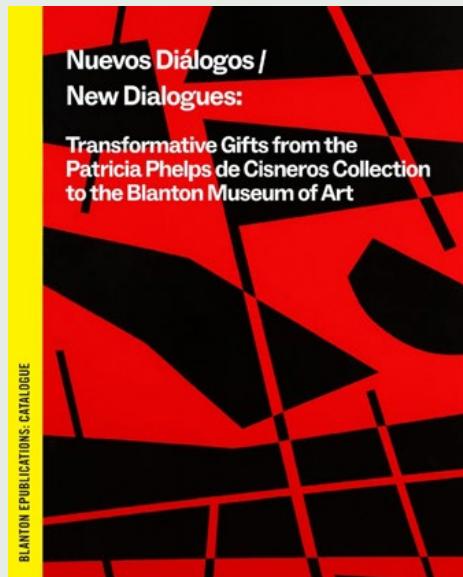
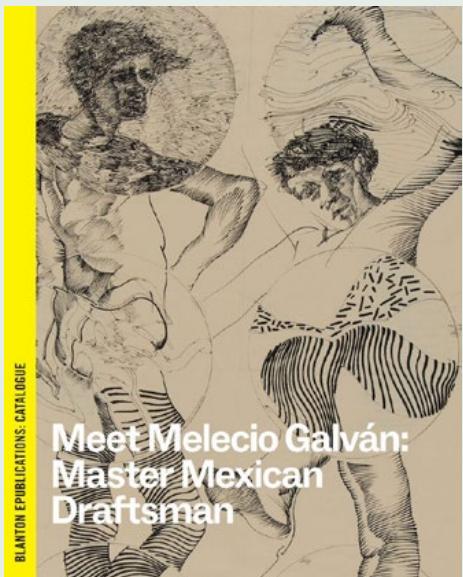
— Lisa, UT Student



## Teaching

The Blanton is part of UT's dynamic community of teaching and learning, directly supporting the University's mission of providing superior and comprehensive educational opportunities. Gallery visits for UT classes build knowledge and skills and develop critical thinking, creativity, and intellectual curiosity. In 2025, we hosted **326 courses** and **13,661 students** for visits to the galleries and H-E-B Study Room requested by faculty to support their teaching. The Blanton welcomed students from **all 18 UT colleges**, spanning first-year to graduate students. Select teaching examples follow.

- We are proud to work with faculty from a wide range of disciplines like the College of Liberal Arts, Moody College of Communication, and the College of Natural Sciences, among others. In 2025, we also welcomed our first classes from the School of Civic Leadership and a new graduate student group from the Cockrell School of Engineering.
- One highlight from the many classes we host was Management 101 (McCombs School of Business), who visited for the third time this fall. **More than 700 first-year Honors students** wrote research papers on works of art. Other faculty from across campus also brought first-year students to the museum, some from the Signature Course program, as part of introducing college-level thinking and learning.
- The museum's partnership with Dell Medical School entered its tenth year in fall 2025. Multi-visit workshops directly support Dell's curriculum, emphasizing skills such as observation and empathy. Now in its third year, our work with students from the School of Nursing also continues to grow. In addition, Nursing's end-of-semester faculty retreat took place at the museum.
- The college we serve in the largest numbers—typically 30% of visits each year—is the College of Fine Arts, with courses from art history and studio art deeply engaging with the Blanton's collection. We were thrilled to support **2,926 students** from these departments in 2025.



## Research

The Blanton advances UT's research mission, producing scholarship and offering fellowship opportunities that provide career pathways to graduate students. This commitment to research includes ensuring the museum's collection is accessible in person and online. Select research-related activities follow.

### Publishing

- In fall 2025, we released three e-catalogues, reflecting wide-ranging collection research undertaken by the Blanton's curatorial team—*Meet Melecio Galván: The Secret Artist & His Mexican Contemporaries*; *In Creative Harmony: Three Artistic Partnerships*; and *Nuevos Diálogos/New Dialogues: Transformative Gifts from the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection to the Blanton Museum of Art*.
- These catalogues were launched as part of the Blanton's new e-publishing model and distributed via UT Libraries' open-access digital platform, which connects to WorldCat, the global library catalogue consortium. They are also part of a new Publications page on the Blanton's website—where they can be downloaded for free—designed to bring greater visibility to the museum's current and historical publishing.
- In 2025, the Blanton's exhibition catalogue, *The Circulating Lifeblood of Ideas: Leo Steinberg's Library of Prints*, received the 2024 IFPDA (International Fine Print Dealers Association) Foundation Book Award, a major award in the field of fine art prints.
- In 2025, research by Blanton curators and educators appeared in the *Journal of Museum Education*, *Latin American and Latinx Visual Culture*, and publications from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, among others.

## Research Tools

- Following a five-year, collaborative grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, a Campus Collections search is now live on UT Library's website. This platform enables scholars, researchers, and the public to perform universal searches across the holdings of the Blanton, UT Libraries, and the Harry Ransom Center.
- This last year, we also completed a multi-phase project to implement a digital asset management (DAM) system that provides storage for high-resolution collection photography, vastly improving the quality and efficiency of research for Blanton curators, students, and outside scholars. The DAM is an important first step towards improving preservation of the museum's digital assets, which need the same care as our physical collection.

## Producing and Disseminating Scholarship

- Blanton staff present talks at academic and cultural settings nationally and internationally to share their research with peers, students, and the public. In 2025, our team spoke at the International Museum of Art & Science; Milwaukee Art Museum; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; and The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture; among other institutions.
- In 2025, publications from the National Gallery of Art, Norton Museum of Art, Texas A&M University Press, Syracuse University Press, and Museo Nacional de Escultura (Spain) featured works from the Blanton's collection in their publications, another way research about the collection is disseminated.
- Visits to the Blanton also inform UT student research and publishing. This year, two undergraduate students received the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's Emerging Scholars in Object-Based Learning award for papers they wrote about works from the Blanton's collection for their Problems in Art Historical Research class.

“

Opportunities to learn more about the Blanton's resources and to meet and learn from staff...are inspiring and can be life changing.”

—Ann Johns, UT Professor



## Study Days

We launched Study Days in 2024 as part of our commitment to advancing research on the collection and providing students with in-depth learning opportunities in an intimate, small group setting. In 2025, the Blanton developed and offered three Study Days where students learned about object-based research and connected with the scholarly community. In total, there were **70 participants**. In addition to the participation and leadership of Blanton curators, the museum's endowed lectureship funds allowed us to welcome scholars from the Rijksmuseum (the Netherlands); The Hispanic Society of America; and California State University, Northridge; among other institutions, as well as several artists.

- Our first Study Day focused on **Chicana Printmaking** and highlighted materiality and the technical mastery of each presenting artist, while also connecting to the Blanton's Gilberto Cárdenas and Dolores García Collection of Latino Art. Students learned from the speakers how social environment, community experiences, and historical research go into each print's iconography and composition.
- During our **Dutch and Flemish Art** Study Day, students learned how to identify various drawing watermarks, look for inscriptions, consider the purpose of drawings, and apply basic principles of attribution. Study Day research allowed us to identify the correct artist of a 17th-century landscape drawing in the collection. Students also learned about the iconography, styles, and genres of early modern Dutch and Flemish painting.
- The final Study Day of 2025 focused on **Art of the Spanish Americas** paintings on loan from the Thoma Foundation alongside works on view in *Spirit & Splendor: El Greco, Velázquez, and the Hispanic Baroque*. The goal was to illustrate how artists, iconographies, and materials traveled across the Atlantic in the early modern period, creating two versions of the same artistic style.

Support for this program at the Blanton is provided by the Barbara Duncan Centennial Endowed Lectureship, the Charles & Dorothy Clark Lectureship, the M.K. Hage Centennial Visiting Professorship, and the Mary Saunders Leech Centennial Lectureship Endowment.



## Graduate Student Fellowships

- The Blanton offered intensive, year-long curatorial fellowships and mentoring to **three UT graduate students**, providing emerging art historians with professional training and supporting their academic areas of study and research. The 2024-2025 academic year marked ten years of impact through a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation—benefitting a total of **28 scholars**.
- We also hosted an IFPDA Foundation summer intern who worked with our print curators—the Blanton’s fifth year receiving this prestigious grant.
- Other museum graduate student positions, such as the Williford University Engagement Fellow, support the Blanton’s university education programs, providing hands-on gallery teaching experience.
- Alumni of our fellowships have gone on to work at institutions across the country, including The Museum of Modern Art; Davis Museum at Wellesley College; the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Baylor University; and California Polytechnic State University; among others.

“

A rich learning opportunity.”

— MJ, UT Graduate Nursing Student



# Art can open minds.



From its home on the Forty Acres, the Blanton serves as an educational resource for the greater Austin community. K-12 school visitors draw inspiration from the museum's collection and the powerful experience of stepping foot on UT's campus. The impact of the Blanton's arts education programs extends to the career development of UT graduate students who hold fellowship positions at the Blanton, leading K-12 visits and building the hands-on skills needed for careers as museum educators and classroom teachers in Texas and nationally.

In 2025, we hosted **7,582 K-12 students** for gallery visits using curricular resources and lessons developed by the Blanton. This represents a wide geography of **37 districts** and **166 schools**. Title I schools accounted for **49%** of visits.



“

...absolutely outstanding!!  
I will take my students on  
a field trip AND use their  
strategies in my classroom.”

—Jane, K-12 Teacher, Professional Development  
Workshop, Program Survey Response

- Art Trek is our most requested K–12 visit and allows classes of all grade levels to broadly explore the collection. In 2025, **2,184 students (61 classes)** participated in Art Trek, which supports Social Studies, English Language Arts & Reading, and Fine Arts skills.
- We have a long-standing commitment to professional development and served **655 teachers**—from Austin, Round Rock, Leander, Del Valle, and other school districts and nonprofits—through workshops and presentations.
- This fall, the Blanton piloted a youth leadership program with Magnolia Montessori for All (a Title I, tuition-free public charter school), bringing **20 6th- and 7th-graders** for six monthly engagements designed to cultivate critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. This will culminate in opportunities for public engagement and peer teaching in 2026.
- We reactivated the museum’s Dell Classroom to offer art-making workshops that complement gallery lessons. One activity used a modern-day Camera Lucida, a drawing tool that also improves concentration and observational skills. In total, **368 students** participated in art-making experiences this year.
- In addition to Blanton education staff and fellows, **60 Volunteer Gallery Teachers** were essential to leading K–12 groups. Gallery Teachers are recruited through a competitive process and receive in-depth instruction and preparation. Our 2025 roster included retired teachers, artists, lawyers, nurses, and others, some of whom are native Spanish speakers.





Susan Mayer



Melinda Mayer

## **Susan and Melinda Mayer Art Museum Education Graduate Fellowship**

In September 2025, Melinda Mayer made a \$1.25 million gift to endow (through her estate) and fund the first five years of the Susan and Melinda Mayer Art Museum Education Graduate Fellowship at the Blanton. This museum fellowship provides a UT graduate student with an important academic and professional development opportunity, as well as a generous stipend. The Mayer Education Fellows receive valuable hands-on experience and mentoring, while K-12 students benefit from an outstanding art collection and skilled gallery teaching. This fellowship provides an entry point for graduate students beginning a career at the intersection of art museums and education. This incredible generosity reflects the lifelong commitment to shaping generations of educators and learners shared by Melinda and her late mother, Sue.



Both Sue and Melinda made a lasting contribution to the field of museum education, and the generosity of this gift to support graduate students for years to come is a fitting legacy for which we are truly grateful."

— Ray Williams, Director of Education and Academic Affairs, Blanton Museum of Art



Melinda and Sue were both nationally recognized for their distinguished careers in art museum education, and they were beloved faculty members at The University of Texas at Austin. Sue first volunteered as a docent before becoming an educator at the Blanton for more than 25 years. She helped found the Blanton's K-12 art education program in 1970 and initiated "Art Central," a longstanding multi-visit program that positioned the Blanton as an early leader in the emerging field of museum education. Melinda taught for 20 years at UT and the University of North Texas and was known for her commitment to helping students secure internships and jobs.

This fellowship uniquely benefits UT graduate students from Art and Art History, Education, and other related disciplines and young schoolchildren from Austin and throughout Central Texas. The ripple effect goes even further, as these graduate students go on to impactful art education careers in schools and museums across the country.

With education at the heart of the Blanton's mission, we are honored to help carry on the Mayers' family legacy.



“

Being a recipient of the Mayer Fellowship has been invaluable. It has enhanced my skills in student engagement and innovative pedagogy, allowing me to remain focused on my educational mission...the students and I are able to forge meaningful, mutually enriching relationships that provide a deep sense of joy and fulfillment in every visit.”

—Andrea M. Escalante, 2025–2026 Mayer Education Fellow

*Archival images circa 1980s*



# Art can draw people together.



The Blanton's public programs serve as a bridge between the University and the city, attracting local residents, from UT students to other Austinites, and out-of-towners, from alumni returning to campus to tourists. Offerings range from intimate talks with curators and artists to live music and events for Blanton Members, all of which spark learning, joy, and connection, and reflect how the Blanton has become a vibrant place for our community to gather.

“

Austin's definitive art destination, where a world-class collection meets serious architectural cred.”

— **TOWN&COUNTRY**

AUG. 2025



## Moody Family Free Day

Every Tuesday, visitors enjoy free admission, which is generously provided by the Moody Family Free Day Endowment. Public tours are offered on select Tuesdays.

In 2025, **45,059 people** visited on Tuesdays; almost **60% were from across Austin and Central Texas**—reflecting our commitment to being welcoming and accessible to our local community.

## Families

The Blanton's family programs encourage close looking, curiosity, and connection among intergenerational visitors. Throughout the year, family-friendly tours and activities are offered as part of Blanton All Day and B Scene. Daily family offerings include MAKEwild, an artist-designed open studio space that invites collaborative making, and Family Activity Boxes. In summer 2025, **366 guests** participated in ten Summer Storytime sessions. We welcomed **7,700 people**, including many families, on Austin Museum Day, the city-wide, annual free admission day.

## Membership

For more than 40 years, members have been an integral part of the Blanton, visiting often and sharing the museum with friends. We are proud to have **141 Blanton Members** who have been with us for more than 20 years.

In 2025, our **4,329 Member households** enjoyed exceptional benefits and museum access, all while playing a vital role in supporting exhibitions and programs. From complimentary admission—including signature events like Blanton All Day—to exhibition preview invitations and Museum Store discounts, membership offers a rewarding experience. New in 2025, Blanton Behind-the-Scenes provided unique experiences exclusively for Blanton Members.



“

I am a member of the Blanton because it is the heart of art in Austin.”

—A.K., Blanton Member

## Blanton All Day

Taking place the second weekend of each month, Blanton All Day is a lively event that draws people to campus and offers art activities for students and visitors of all ages, along with full gallery access. There were **11,257 Blanton All Day attendees** in 2025. The following are program highlights:

- Three one-day pop-up exhibitions in the Wilkinson Center for Prints and Drawings, providing an up-close look at works on paper around such themes as photography, seasons, and garden delights.
- The Summer Dance Series was especially popular, featuring lessons from Austin dance studios in bachata, swing, and two-step.
- Art with an Expert talks with artist Artemio Rodriguez, art historian Larry Silver, and historian Amanda Wunder, among others.
- Performances from Conspirare (GRAMMY-winning choir), Annabelle Chairlegs (rock), Superfónicos (Colombian funk), and Fishboy (indie pop).

Media Sponsor: **THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE**



## B Scene

Since 2006, B Scene has been a signature Blanton event. This after-hours, ticketed art gathering features gallery access, live music, artist talks, and more. In 2025, **1,846 people** attended our three B Scene events, which included performances by award-winning hip-hop duo Riders Against the Storm, the '80s inspired band Kathleen Turner Overdrive, and indie pop band Tele Novella. Plus ATX Artist Talks with Tamara Johnson and Trey Burns, among others.

Support for B Scene at the Blanton is provided in part by: **kutx98.9**  
THE AUSTIN MUSIC EXPERIENCE

# Blanton Live

## Conversations for Now: Art Theft

BLANTON  
MUSEUM OF ART

Blanton Live: Conversations for Now is organized by the Blanton Museum of Art.  
Funding for this program is provided by Margaret McCarthy and Michael Potter  
and the Carolyn Harris Hynson Centennial Endowment.



## Blanton Live: Conversations for Now

Blanton Live entered its third year, bringing fascinating thinkers from various disciplines to Austin. The goal is to create connections between art and compelling ideas and issues of the day. In 2025, we hosted a lively discussion on art theft with two former FBI agents and another on art and fashion with a curator from the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute. Through in-person attendees and live-stream viewers, Blanton Live reached a total of **841 people** in 2025.

Programs in this series:

- Blanton Live: Conversations for Now: Art, Fashion, and the Museum (2025)
- Blanton Live: Conversations for Now: Art Theft (2025)
- Blanton Live: Conversations for Now: Jerry Saltz (2024)
- Blanton Live: Conversations for Now: How Edo-Era Art Inspires Anime, Manga, & Contemporary Art (2024)
- Blanton Live: Conversations for Now: If the Sky Were Orange (2023)

Blanton Live: Conversations for Now is organized by the Blanton Museum of Art. Support for this program is provided by the Carolyn Harris Hynson Centennial Endowment.



“

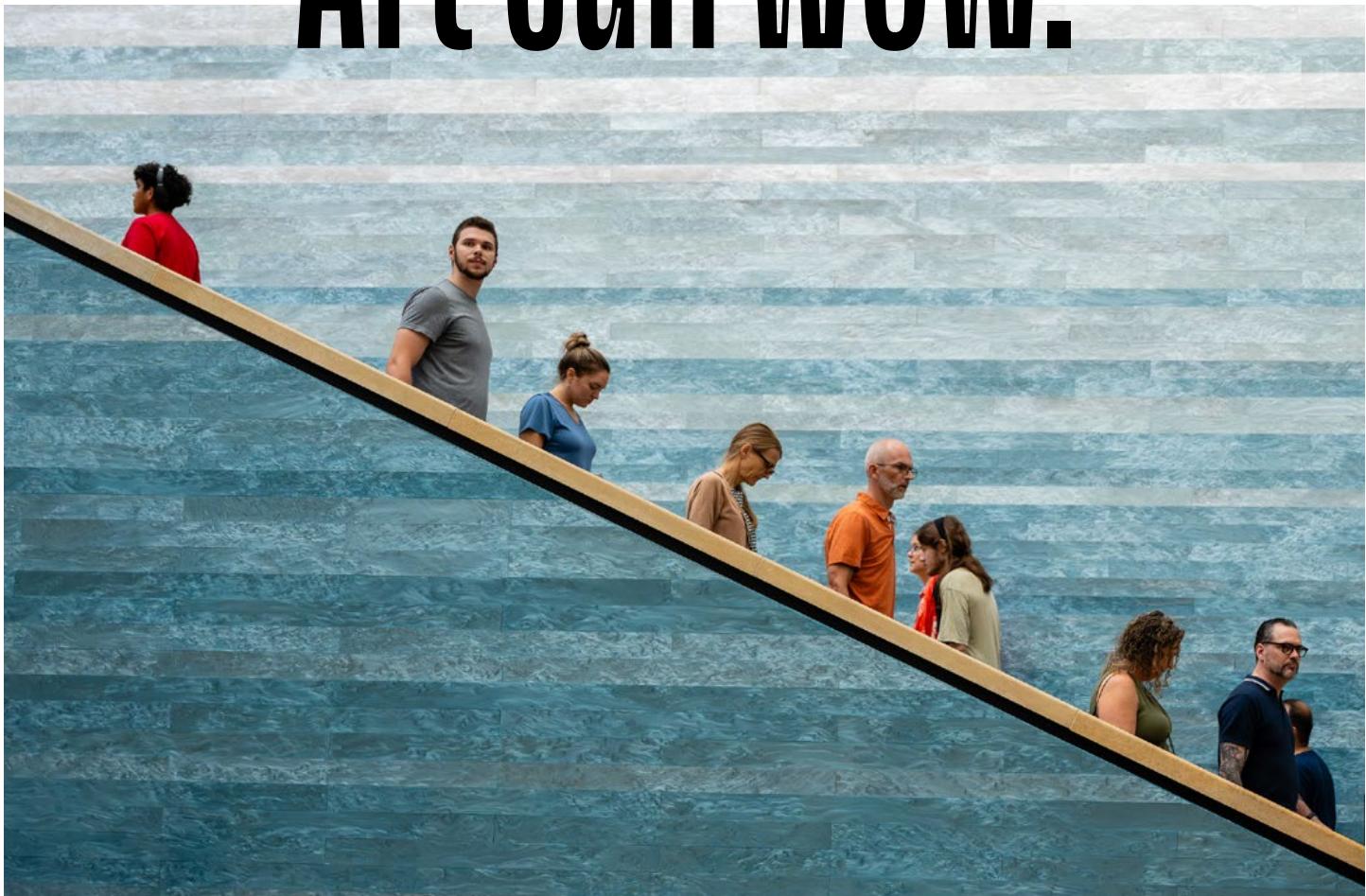
A reborn Blanton has been a boon for a city looking to pump its ample cultural muscle.”

— MONOCLE

SEPT. 2025



# Art can WOW.



As an accredited art museum, we have a responsibility to care for the Blanton's collection of **over 22,000 works of art**. This includes safeguarding, studying, and displaying these treasures, as well as thoughtfully continuing to build a world-class collection for our community. The collection is housed on-site, and much of this work takes place behind the scenes. The Blanton is UT's principal art collection and the art museum for residents of the city of Austin. We are the only collection and operation of this scale in Austin.



The Blanton is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the highest national recognition for museums. Accreditation signals that the Blanton meets rigorous professional standards and strengthens our ability to present major exhibitions and serve the community. Of the nation's estimated 33,000 museums, only about 1,100 are accredited.



## Care

- Every day, our specialized team of registrars and preparators oversees the safety and care of the collection, including checking temperatures and light levels, framing and unframing works of art, packing and crating objects, building display cases, and more.
- In 2025, *Under a Bridge* (1935) by Osvaldo Louis Guglielmi received conservation treatment to address flaking paint. Guglielmi was an important American Social Realist and Surrealist painter and muralist best known for his work during the Works Progress Administration. We anticipate the painting will go on view—for the first time—in a spring 2026 Paper Vault exhibition.
- Caring for the collection includes documenting our holdings. In 2025, we completed photography on all 8,000+ objects in the Gilberto Cárdenas and Dolores García Collection of Latino Art. Select works from this collection will be donated to other institutions nationally, though the majority will remain at the Blanton where they will be further researched and displayed.
- Another example of studying the collection is a project to learn more about the type of wood used in furniture, paintings, and frames in the Blanton's Spanish Americas collection. Learning more about the wood will help us understand the works' origins and how best to care for them.
- Collection care includes the cleaning and preservation of large-scale outdoor art, such as the museum's Carmen Herrera and Kay Rosen murals, as well as *Austin* by Ellsworth Kelly. The Blanton maintains its grounds with the same attention and care as the galleries to ensure a high level of quality.

## Display

- Our frequent collection rotations reflect the Blanton's commitment to sharing more of our collection with visitors. In 2025, our team made multiple changes in the second floor collection galleries, ultimately displaying **372 works of art** by **291 artists**.
- For example, our fall Latin American rotation included paintings by Mario Rangel Sánchez (b. 1938, Mexico City) as part of a gallery devoted to Surrealists in Mexico and their legacy. Very little research exists on Rangel Sánchez, so this was an exciting artist to feature.
- Loaning art to peer museums is another way we share the collection. In 2025, **73 works** were loaned to museums domestically and abroad—MASS MoCA; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; University of Michigan Museum of Art; and Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts; among others. Projects included major surveys on artists Vincent Valdez, Leon Polk Smith, Alice Neel, and Tamara de Lempicka.

“

A premier institution.”

— **TheCollector**

JUNE 2025







Emilio Pettoruti, *Lago de garda* [Lake Garda], 1915, watercolor on paper, 4 1/2 x 5 3/4 in., Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Gift of Judy S. and Charles W. Tate, 2025.1



Camille Pissarro, *Paysanne Bêchant* [Peasant Woman Digging], 1890, printed 1923 (posthumous), etching, drypoint, aquatint, and scraper, Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Gift of John F. Newnam

## Building

- In 2025 the museum acquired **354 works of art**.
- The majority of this year's acquisitions were works on paper. They include four pastels by Natalie Frank displayed previously at the Blanton; four digital prints by Chicano printmaker Michael Menchaca (see image at left); two iconic etchings by the celebrated American Magic Realist painter Paul Cadmus; two prints by French Impressionist Camille Pissarro; two watercolors by Argentinian modernist Emilio Pettoruti; and one drawing by Mexican painter and printmaker Rufino Tamayo. In addition, we purchased two important 19th-century European drawings by French artist Louise Lesauvage and Dutch artist Jacobus van Looy, both related to the practice of artistic pedagogy and the use of live models and plaster casts in art academies.
- We also established a significant acquisitions endowment this year—the Mari and James A. Michener Acquisitions Endowment Fund—a crucial step towards funding future growth of the collection, as the Blanton historically has not had dedicated acquisition funds. This was possible because of a rigorous deaccessioning process through which we worked with the auction house Christie's to sell a number of works from the Blanton's collection, looking at such considerations as what was redundant or duplicative. The endowment is named to honor the Micheners, who donated the works sold. These funds from the sale will allow us to purchase works of art that continue the Micheners' collecting spirit. We will recognize the Micheners on these acquisitions as a way to further celebrate their legacy and impact.

# Thank you, Blanton Supporters!

We are honored to have more than 400 donors who support the Blanton and gratefully acknowledge the donors of gifts totaling \$5,000 or more who provide financial and in-kind support for the Blanton's acquisitions, exhibitions, operations, programming, and publications.

Gifts recognized below were received between September 1, 2024 and August 31, 2025.

## **Visionary Circle**

**\$100,000+**

Kelli and Eddy S. Blanton  
Leslie and Jack Blanton, Jr.  
Suzanne Deal Booth  
Aubrey and Bobby Epstein  
The Moody Foundation  
The Powell Foundation  
Scurlock Foundation  
Still Water Foundation  
Judy and Charles Tate

## **Chairman's Circle**

**\$25,000–\$99,999**

Malú Alvarez  
David and Judith Beck Foundation  
Ellen Berman  
Sarah and Ernest Butler  
Charles Butt  
CFP Foundation  
Michael Chesser  
Joan and Steve Clark  
Tamara and Charles Dorrance  
Sally and Thomas Dunning  
Kiersten Flint and Justin Chiumenti  
Ford Foundation  
and Austin City Art Fund  
Caroline and Brian Haley  
Stacy and Joel Hock  
Katya Jestic and Kit Roane  
Stephen Kahng, Choongja Kahng,  
and Peter Kahng  
Kathryn L. Ketelsen  
Suzanne McFayden  
Lora Reynolds and Colin Doyle  
The Carl and Marilynn  
Thoma Foundation  
Robin and Rob Wilder,  
The Duane Wilder Foundation  
Graham Williford Foundation  
Michael J. Zamkow and  
Sue E. Berman Foundation

## **Benefactor's Circle**

**\$10,000–\$24,999**

The Applied Materials Foundation  
Bentley Austin,  
a Hi Tech Motorcars Dealership  
Beloved in Christ Foundation  
Mary Beth and Phil Canfield  
Andrea Dinnick and Andrew Kennedy  
Joan and David Evans  
Deborah Green  
and Clayton Aynesworth  
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Vivian L. Smith Foundation  
Eric M. Suhl Foundation  
Brooke and Heyward Taylor  
Texas Commission on the Arts  
Estate of Elgin Ware



## Other Support \$5,000–\$9,999

Janet and Wilson Allen  
Becky Beaver  
Claire and Jack Blanton III  
Ellen and Steven Bowman  
Alina and David Casner  
Kelly Fleming  
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Leila and Walt Mischer  
Maddi Lucas Oman  
Cabrina and Steven Owsley  
The Teagle Foundation, Inc.  
Roy and Dale Truitt

## Gifts of Art

Thank you to our donors who have gifted works of art to the Blanton's permanent collection. Gifts recognized below were received or promised between September 1, 2024 and August 31, 2025.

Estate of Phyllis Bywaters Singer  
Annette Carozzi  
Michael Chesser  
Adriana Cerecerero and Yolanda Garza  
DC Moore Gallery  
Anthony Grant  
Lannan Foundation  
Frank Lawler  
Rick Liberto  
Kathleen and Christopher Loughlin  
O.V. Maddox

Michael Menchaca  
John F. Newnam  
Jill Ramirez  
Jack Shear  
Sotheby's  
Marie St. Germain  
Still Water Foundation  
Judy and Charles Tate  
Jennifer and Steven Vinklarek  
Jill and Stephen Wilkinson

For more information on getting engaged with the Blanton, please contact Kelsey Evans, Deputy Director of Advancement: [Kelsey.Evans@blantonmuseum.org](mailto:Kelsey.Evans@blantonmuseum.org)



# Thank you, Staff!

From the staff who greets you at the ticketing desk and assists you in the galleries, to those in the administrative offices and art storage, every individual who works at the Blanton makes an impact on the visitor experience. This team is talented, knowledgeable, and friendly—reflecting the welcoming spirit of campus and Austin. In 2025, we had **79 full-time and 42 part-time staff**, including students who work for us seasonally.





# Thank you, Volunteers!

The Blanton and our visitors also benefit from several groups of dedicated, enthusiastic art lovers who support our mission in invaluable ways.

- The **Blanton Leadership Board** is a highly focused group working closely with the museum director on strategy, vision, and planning. Their voices, generosity, and time are instrumental in shaping the museum's direction and impact. Our Board members (see page 47) are local and national leaders in the arts, business, and philanthropy, and include UT alumni.
- The **Blanton Museum Council** is a group of important volunteer leaders who contribute their advocacy, passion, and generosity to shaping the Blanton's growth. Our Council members (see page 47) are community and corporate leaders from Austin and beyond.
- The museum's **60 Volunteer Gallery Teachers** contributed **2,085 hours** in 2025, leading K-12 school visits, curricular experiences for UT classes, and guided tours for adults. The volunteer hours include teaching in the galleries, monthly workshops with the Blanton's curators and educators, and careful preparation and study.
- In 2025, **285 community volunteers** contributed **1,664 hours**, supporting daily operations and public programming. Volunteers provided wayfinding help, took tickets, guided art-making activities, and more.

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One of  
“The 9 Best  
Art Museums  
in Texas.”

— TRAVEL +  
LEISURE

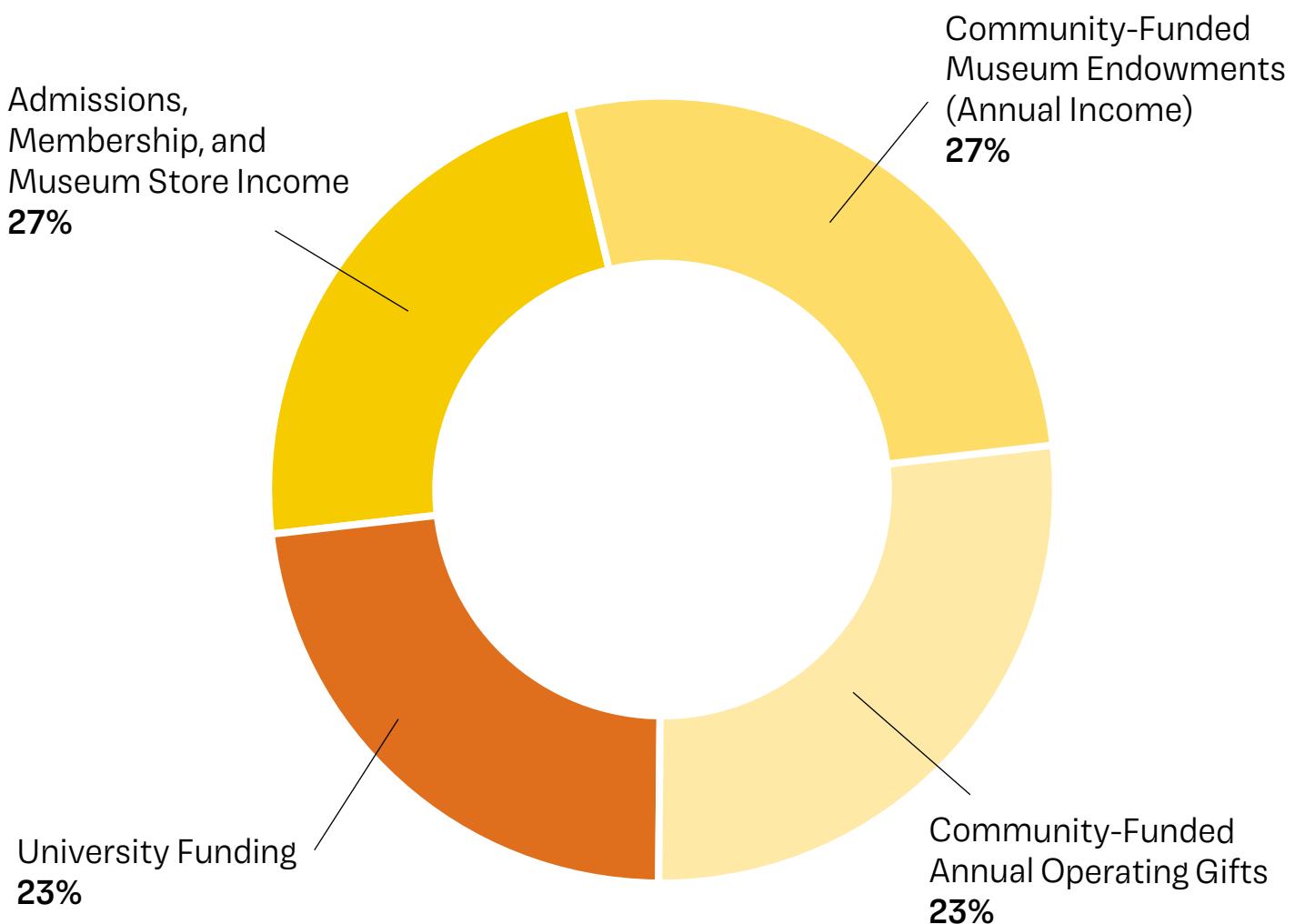
DEC. 2025



# Blanton Operating Budget: \$11.8M

Sept. 1, 2025 – Aug. 31, 2026

## Income Sources:







## 2025-2026 Leadership

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### Leadership Staff

**Simone Jamille Wicha**  
Director

**Kelsey Evans**  
Deputy Director of Advancement

**Carter Foster**  
Chief Curator and Deputy Director  
of Collections

**Shannon Jeffcoat**  
Deputy Director of Marketing and  
Audience Development

**Kimberly L. Theel**  
Deputy Director of Operations

### Blanton Leadership Board

**Aubrey Epstein, Chair**  
**Elle Moody, Vice-Chair**

Jack Blanton, Jr.

Kelli Blanton

Stacy Hock

Katya Jestic

Donald Moffett

Lora Reynolds

Judy Tate

### Blanton Museum Council

**Lana Macrum, Chair**

Janet Allen

Leslie Blanton

Eddy Blanton

Sarah & Ernest Butler

David Rodriguez Carballido

Gilberto Cárdenas

Michael Chesser

Suzanne Deal Booth

Colin Doyle

Bobby Epstein

Dolores Garcia

Jimmy Gray

Caroline Haley

Peter Kahng

Maddi Lucas Oman

Clayton Maebius

Richard Shiff

Charles Tate

Board and Council listings as of 12/31/25.



WHAT STARTS HERE  
CHANGES THE WORLD

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART



TEXAS  
The University of Texas at Austin