



THE ART OF GIVING



ON BEHALF OF ALL
OF US AT THE DIA,
THANK YOU FOR
YOUR PARTNERSHIP
AND YOUR PASSION.

The Impact of Philanthropy

I'm delighted to share this edition of *The Art of Giving*. Every page of this report reflects what makes the DIA such a special place: you. We are grateful for the millage support from Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties, which provides an essential foundation for the museum. And it is your philanthropic generosity, through membership, annual giving, auxiliary groups, events, special projects, and transformational gifts including the endowment support and gifts of art, that allow the museum to thrive and to sustain our mission to inspire, engage, and connect our community through art.

This past year, philanthropy has made a remarkable difference, with more than \$10 million given to support operations and special

projects, and more than \$20 million invested in our endowment. You ensured that children, families, and lifelong learners could experience the joy and wonder of art, helped bring world-class exhibitions and programs to Detroit, and sustained the essential, everyday work of the museum. Your endowment gifts will ensure that young learners and families can discover the power of art for generations to come.

On behalf of all of us at the DIA, thank you for your partnership and your passion. Your gifts transform lives through art. We are so grateful to have you in our DIA family.



Nina K. Sapp
SVP, Chief Development Officer

ON THE COVER

Installation view of *Highlights from the Modern Collection* exhibition, on view until mid-2026. Paul Cézanne, *Madame Cézanne*, 1886 - 1887, oil on canvas. Detroit Institute of Arts, Bequest of Robert H. Tannahill, 70.160. Vincent van Gogh, *Portrait of Postman Roulin*, 1888, oil on canvas. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Buhl Ford II, 1996.25. Vincent van Gogh, *Self-Portrait*, 1887, oil on artist board, mounted to wood panel. Detroit Institute of Arts, City of Detroit Purchase, 22.13.



Left: Visitors enjoying Frederic Edwin Church, *Cotopaxi*, 1862, oil on canvas. Detroit Institute of Arts, Founders Society Purchase, Robert H. Tannahill Foundation Fund, Gibbs-Williams Fund, et al., 76.89.

Members and Donors Fill the Funding Gap



The DIA is fortunate to receive millage support from Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb county residents, which covers 68 percent of the museum's annual operating budget and provides benefits like free admission and senior programs. Each year, philanthropy provides critical funding to fill the gap. Our member and donor contributions strengthen our ability to carry out our mission. This fiscal year, membership and Annual Fund gifts contributed a combined \$4 million to the museum's operating budget. Membership and Annual Fund gifts are crucial for

museum-wide support—covering everything from exhibitions and educational programming to essential, though often unseen needs like heating, lighting, and staff salaries.

Our auxiliaries also make a meaningful impact, with significant gifts to support special projects. Thanks to this collective generosity, we're able to offer enriching programs, present compelling exhibitions, and sustain the day-to-day operations that keep the museum thriving.



DIA Associate Members gathered for the Annual Associates Dinner Lecture. For information on becoming an Associate Member, [visit our Support webpage](#).



Patrons gathered for a member exclusive Gallery Talk and Tour of the exhibition *Painted with Silk: The Art of Early American Embroidery*.



Members of all ages enjoyed a night of fun, food, and film in the Detroit Film Theatre. Join us for our next Member Movie Night, featuring *Ratatouille* on Wednesday, November 26. [Visit here for more information](#).

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank You!



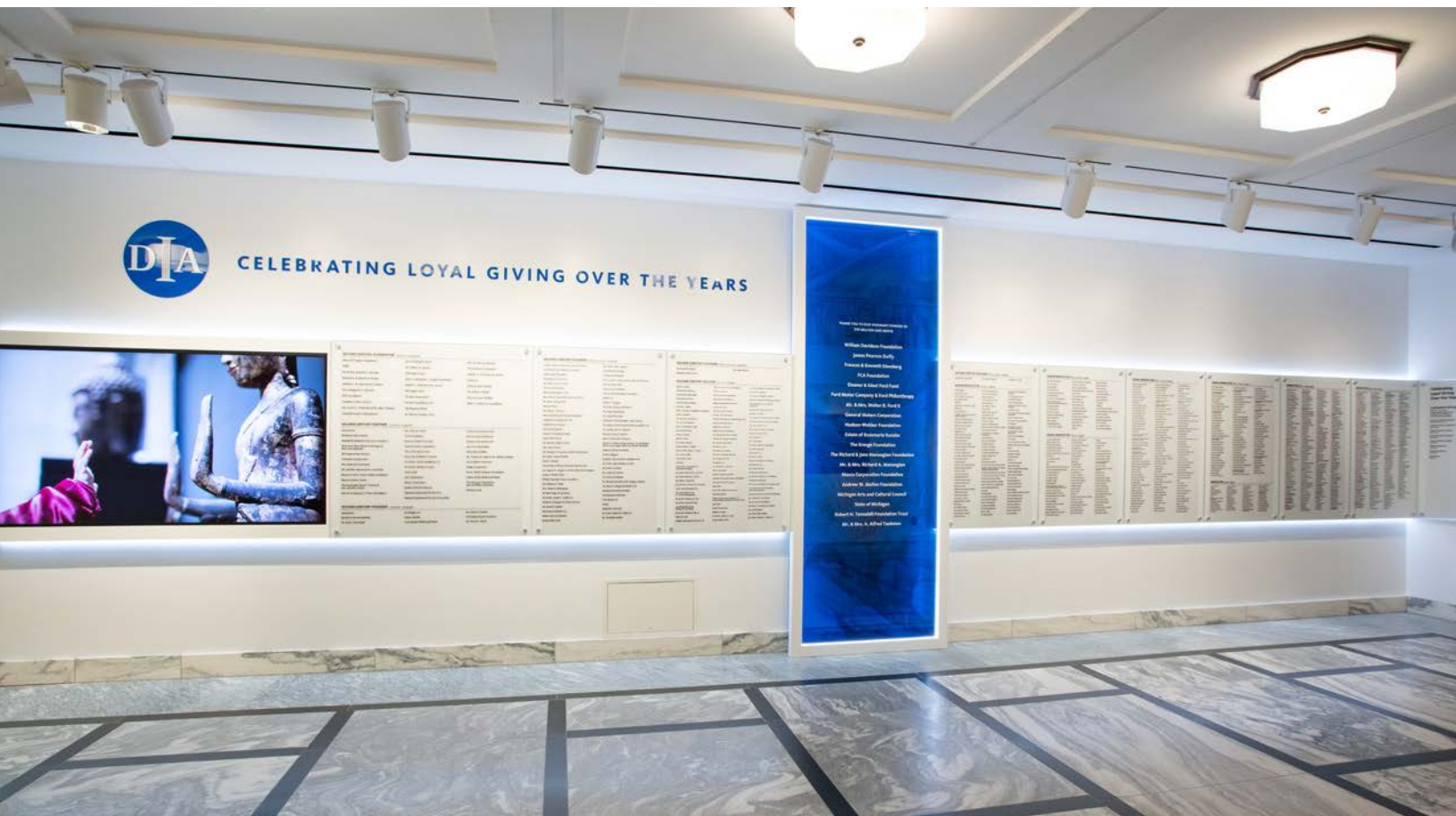
Celebrating Lifetime Giving

Our New Donor Recognition Display

**THIS NEW
DISPLAY
CELEBRATES THE
COMMITMENT
AND LOYALTY
OF DIA DONORS**

The Detroit Institute of Arts recently unveiled a new donor recognition installation. This sleek, backlit display, designed with the museum's existing architecture and atmosphere in mind, has replaced our Cumulative Giving Wall which had become outdated and run out of room for new names! This wall represents contributions to the DIA's membership, auxiliaries,

Annual Fund, events, endowment, gifts of art, campaigns, and special initiatives. It celebrates the commitment and loyalty of our donors. During your next visit, check out our striking display by the Farnsworth entrance near the DIA Gift Shop!



Magnificent Gift Secures the Future of *DIA Kids Program*



Carol and Pete Walters and family

“THE WALTERS FAMILY DIA KIDS PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE TO SPARK CREATIVITY, CONFIDENCE, AND CURIOSITY IN OUR YOUNGEST VISITORS FOR GENERATIONS.”

Salvador Salort-Pons, Mary Anne and Eugene Gargaro, Jr., Director, President, and CEO of the DIA

The Detroit Institute of Arts is proud to announce a landmark multimillion-dollar gift from the Walters family, ensuring the long-term future and permanently endowing the *Walters Family DIA Kids Program*, a groundbreaking early childhood initiative designed to inspire a lifelong love of art in our youngest visitors.

In 2018, the Walters Family Foundation partnered with the DIA to create what was then a pilot program, DIA Head Start, now known as the *Walters Family DIA Kids Program*. This program was the first at the museum to focus specifically on preschool-age children and their caregivers.

Through partnerships with Great Start and Head Start programs in the tri-county area, the *Walters Family DIA Kids Program* introduces hundreds of underserved preschool students, their families, and their teachers to the museum each year. Students and caregivers participate in two specially curated museum visits annually, as well as an all-ages family day designed to encourage repeat visits.

To ensure quality and impact, the DIA partners with HighScope, a nationally recognized leader in early childhood education, to provide program training, development, and

evaluation. This thoughtful approach has guided the *Walters Family DIA Kids Program* from its pilot stage into a sustainable, evolving program poised to serve generations to come.

The Walters Family’s generosity also builds on a legacy that includes endowing the Walters Family Director of Education, named in honor of former DIA staff member Teri John, whose work has touched the lives of thousands of children, teachers, and families.



Carol Walters is a former DIA Board Member whose passion for education championed the development of this program. The DIA is thankful to the Walters family, including Carol and her husband, Pete, their son Matt and Lindsay Walters and their children Harper, Jack, and Sawyer, their son Joe and Marlena Walters and daughter Hazel, their daughter Sarah Early with her children Mason and Emma, and their son Jesse Walters and his son Kaleb, for their friendship and support of the DIA.

Reimagine African American Art

New African American Art Galleries

THESE EXCITING
CHANGES
REPRESENT JUST
THE BEGINNING OF
A COMPREHENSIVE
TRANSFORMATION
OF THE MUSEUM'S
SECOND FLOOR.

Close to the Modern and Contemporary Wing, the museum's acclaimed Center for African American Art recently debuted a completely redesigned installation of African American art. Moved from its former location in the North Wing, the new presentation is relocated to four galleries adjacent to Rivera Court at the heart of the museum. Featuring 50 works spanning 1840 to 1986, the reinstallation showcases paintings, sculptures, prints, photography, and furniture from artists such as Robert Seldon Duncanson, Elizabeth Catlett, Richmond Barthé, and Mavis Pusey.

Curated to highlight the lives, achievements, and resilience of Black artists, this installation reflects the DIA's commitment to equity, representation, and storytelling through art. As Gargaro Director Salvador Salort-Pons notes, "This groundbreaking installation immerses visitors in the history of African American art like never before."

The DIA looks forward to welcoming visitors into these vibrant new spaces and celebrating the diverse voices and stories that shape our museum's collection.

We are also fundraising to secure the future of our collection.

The opening of new African American art galleries marks the first phase of the exciting transformation of the museum's entire second floor north wing. Stay tuned for news about our beautiful new Modern and Contemporary galleries opening in 2026.

For more information, please contact Nina Sapp at nsapp@dia.org. For more information about gallery changes, visit [DIA.org](https://dia.org).



Art Party Preview



Join us for this year's Gala on Saturday, November 8, 2025, to celebrate Art + Artists, led by dedicated event chairs: Ellena Gatzaros and Christos Moises, Julie and Adam Rothstein, and Kelly and Kelvin Squires. **This year also marks a significant milestone: the 10th anniversary of our Gargaro Director, President and CEO, Salvador Salort-Pons, who continues to lead the DIA with vision and passion.**

Join us for a memorable evening of art, culture, and community. Your contribution goes directly to the DIA's endowment, which helps secure the museum's future.

To support the Gala or make a gift in honor of Salvador, [check out the Gala online.](#)



Transformative Gift to the Contemporary Collection



**“IT’S INCREDIBLY
IMPORTANT
FOR THE DIA
TO CELEBRATE
THESE VISIONARY
DETROIT
COLLECTORS.”**

Jill Shaw, Head,
James Pearson Duffy
Department of Modern
and Contemporary Art

Lila and Gilbert Silverman were visionary collectors whose deep commitment to the Detroit Institute of Arts and the City of Detroit shaped the museum's relationship with contemporary art. Over several decades, the couple built an extraordinary collection that reflected their bold taste and pioneering support for avant-garde movements. In 2022, they made a transformative bequest of nearly 3,000 objects to the DIA that significantly enhances its holdings.

The Silvermans were particularly known for their groundbreaking collection of Fluxus art, a radical, international movement of the 1960s–1980s that emphasized performance, experimentation, and anti-commercial values. Their collection features some of the movement's most iconic names, including Joseph Beuys, Yoko Ono, and Nam June Paik. With this gift, the DIA becomes one of the world's leading repositories of Fluxus works.

“Gil and Lila really collected all the major individuals who are significant in Fluxus and performance art,” adds Nancy Barr, Curator and Department Head, Prints, Drawings, and Photographs. “It is a transformative gift.”

Some works from the bequest will be featured in the upcoming reinstallation of the DIA's modern and contemporary galleries, integrating the Silvermans' vision into the museum's public presentation of contemporary art.

The Silvermans were not just collectors; they were active participants in the life of the DIA. Lila was a long-time supporter of the Patron Travel Program and served on various museum committees and boards, including leadership roles in the Friends of Modern and Contemporary Art and the Friends of African and African American Art. Gilbert, a lifetime supporter, served for many years on the DIA's Board of Directors and was an emeritus director. His connection to the museum stretched back to his youth, when he recalled climbing the scaffolding in Rivera Court as Diego Rivera painted the murals, and even shaking Rivera's hand.

In recognition of their decades of service, the couple received the DIA's Lifetime Service Award in 2003.

The DIA is deeply grateful for this generous bequest and honored to celebrate the Silverman's extraordinary legacy. Their vision, passion, and dedication will continue to shape the museum's contemporary collection for generations to come.

Communicator Award

2025 General-Arts and Culture Excellence Award



This year, the DIA won a *Communicator Award* for our “Never Before Seen One-Take Drone Fly Through of Detroit’s Iconic Art Museum” video on the museum’s YouTube page. This award was given by AVIVA, The Academy of Interactive & Visual Arts, a panel of leading artists and professionals gathered to celebrate traditional and interactive media. Resources, including graphics, a press release, and more, [can be found here](#).

36 Hours In Detroit



In *36 Hours in Detroit*, Amy S. Eckert shares a recommended itinerary while staying in the city. The first stop to visit, Eckert suggests, is the DIA. Check out [the article](#) to learn why the DIA topped the list.

Dance Party Celebrating Tiff Massey’s Exhibition



CBS Detroit invited Tiff Massey, the artist behind the DIA’s recent blockbuster exhibition *7 Mile + Livernois*, and Katie Pfohl, Associate Curator of Contemporary Art, to discuss the large-scale sculpture exhibition. To celebrate the closing of the show, [Massey invited all viewers](#) to a dance party at the DIA.

The DIA is Voted The Best!



Hour Detroit readers voted – and we won! The DIA was voted Best Museum (Arts), and the museum’s Detroit Film Theatre was voted Best Stand-Alone Movie Theater. You can find a full list of all winners of the [Best of Detroit 2025 list here](#).



**WE HOPE TO
SEE YOU SOON
AT THE DIA!**

DONATE NOW >

DIA.ORG