



Eiteljorg
Museum

You bring out
our best

Dean Mitchell
For Freedom, 2020
Watercolor
30 x 22 inches

Gift of Catherine Turner, 2020.6.1

2020
Annual Report

eiteljorg.org

You made it possible



A visitor enjoyed the triptych oil painting *October Suite: Grand Canyon* (1991) by Wilson Hurley in the Western Art Galleries.



The 11th annual *Jingle Rails: The Great Western Adventure* ran from Nov. 21, 2020, to Jan. 18, 2021, and included iconic landmark scenes, such as the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, made out of all-natural materials.



The public was allowed to touch the bronze sculptures in the multisensory exhibition *Please Touch! The Sculptures of Michael Naranjo*.



The exhibition *Quilts: Uncovering Women's Stories* explored how quilts have been a storytelling medium for women of the West for generations. *Quilts* was part of the Eiteljorg's theme for 2020-2021, *Honoring Women*.



The first rotation of the exhibition *Powerful Women: Contemporary Art from the Eiteljorg Collection* ran from Sept. 19, 2020 to March 21, 2021, and featured works by Native American women artists.

Donors, supporters, foundations and members bring out our best



Looking back on the life-changing events of 2020, we all are grateful to those who stepped up to help the rest of us endure the global pandemic. Our hearts go out to those whose lives were upended and who lost loved ones due to the health crisis, and to the selfless healthcare workers who sacrificed so much to treat critically ill patients and comfort their families.

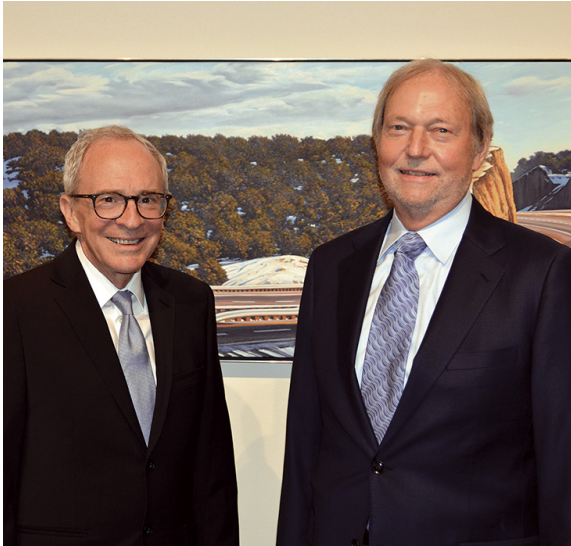
The challenges of 2020 also brought out the best from our philanthropic community, and we thank those who stepped up financially to assist arts and cultural organizations in Indianapolis. In March 2020, due to the pandemic, it became a necessity to temporarily close the museum. As a result, the Eiteljorg — like other businesses and organizations — faced a loss of critical earned revenue. This loss could have had severe and lasting results, but the generosity of individual donors and foundations helped us prevail. Through tireless efforts of the museum's Board of Directors, Board of Advisors and the development and business departments in pursuing grants, gifts, sponsorships and alternate funding sources, the Eiteljorg survived what could have been a catastrophic year. Thanks to the generosity of our Eagle Society members, grants from local foundations and other sources, the Eiteljorg was able to pivot to offering virtual services, so the public could explore exhibitions and programs remotely. We facilitated virtual art sales for our Indian Market and Festival artists when in-person events had to be rescheduled. When the Eiteljorg reopened in June 2020 with new health and safety protocols, we were prepared to safely welcome back visitors.

What the museum's creative staff accomplished before and after reopening through donors' and sponsors' support was remarkable. Summer and fall visitors turned out for the special exhibitions, *Quilts: Uncovering Women's Stories* and *Please Touch! The Sculptures of Michael Naranjo*. With the cooperation of individual and institutional lenders, we were able to extend the run of these exhibits to allow more people to experience them. Both in person and remotely, Eiteljorg guests experienced our collections of contemporary and customary Native American art and Western art, and participated in a wide range of free virtual cultural events such as the *Día de Muertos* Community Celebration. Because of a well-developed plan to ensure visitor safety, our holiday model railroad, *Jingle Rails: The Great Western Adventure*, again could delight families and the visiting public. Western art aficionados relished their collecting opportunities during the 2020 *Quest for the West*® Online Art Sale, which achieved many of its goals in spite of being 100 percent virtual.

Since opening in 1989, the Eiteljorg Museum has been committed to diversity, inclusion and cultural sensitivity in its presentation of the art, history and cultures of Native Americans and all the peoples of the West. In 2020, as the nation reckoned with racial injustice, the Eiteljorg board and staff recognized the need

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Eiteljorg President and CEO John Vanausdall, left, and Chair of the Board of Directors L.G. Edwards, right, as seen in the museum's Western Art Galleries near the oil painting *Snow / Interstate* by Woody Gwyn (painting created 1987-1990.)

to update our diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion statement. The process renewed and expanded our promise to make certain everyone is welcome to experience the museum, to find themselves in our offerings, and to be a part of our staff, board and volunteer program. Also, we received wonderful news in December 2020 when Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded the Eiteljorg a \$2.5 million grant from the Religion and Cultural Institutions Initiative to support our *Religion and the American West* efforts in coming years.

The Eiteljorg's curators, collections stewards, programming staff and all museum employees, along with the Board of Directors and volunteers, worked enthusiastically during 2020 to bring out the best in art and programming for a diverse audience. The fact that donors, members, sponsors and foundations moved to ease our economic pressures was a great relief, and allowed us to continue to bring forth the kinds of museum experiences the public expects and deserves. With the help of these supporters, we also are able to plan exciting capital projects in 2021 and beyond. In the following pages, we make the case that supporting the Eiteljorg Museum is a good investment.

As you will see reflected in this 2020 annual report, we at the Eiteljorg are grateful for the donors large and small, whether individuals, corporations or foundations, whose generosity assisted us through the most challenging year in the museum's history. In a real sense, you bring out our best.


John Vanausdall
President and CEO


L.G. Edwards
Chair, Board of Directors

YEAR IN REVIEW

The Eiteljorg Museum was able to present outstanding exhibitions and programs in 2020, in person and virtually. Despite a temporary closure brought on by a national public health emergency, the Eiteljorg flourished thanks to donors, supporters and foundations.



On Jan. 18, 2020, artist Michael Naranjo (Santa Clara Pueblo), seated, led a public talk at the opening of his exhibition, *Please Touch! The Sculptures of Michael Naranjo*. Naranjo, who is blind due to a combat injury in the Vietnam War, is a renowned sculptor. Details here: <https://bit.ly/3rhc6Gi>



The public was allowed to touch the bronze sculptures in the multisensory exhibition *Please Touch! The Sculptures of Michael Naranjo*. To be accessible, the exhibition featured a video and descriptions in Braille and audio, and it was extended until Feb. 7, 2021.



As the year 2020 began, the exhibition *Blurring the Line: The Eiteljorg Contemporary Art Fellowship 2019*, was concluding its remarkable run. One of the installations was a museum commission, *water song: peemitanaahkwahki sakaahkweelo*, 2019, by Hannah Claus (Bay of Quinte Mohawk). The Eiteljorg has one of the world's best collections of contemporary Native American art. Visit the Fellowship website: contemporaryartfellowship.eiteljorg.org.



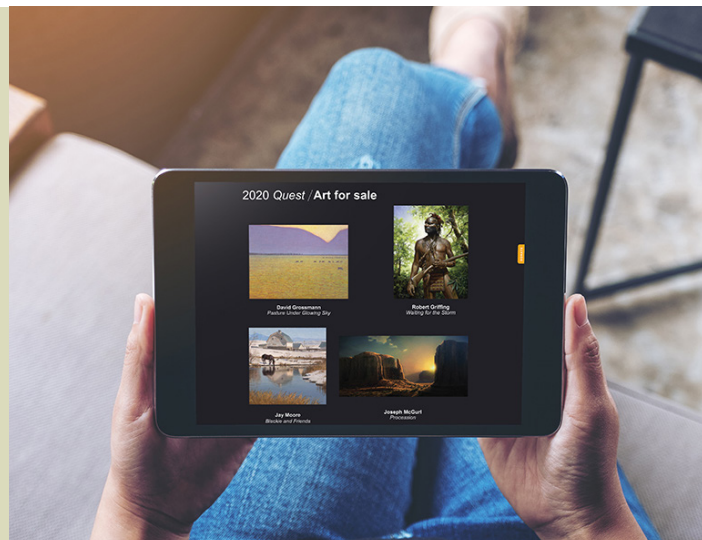
The exhibition *Quilts: Uncovering Women's Stories* opened March 7, 2020, and due to the pandemic was extended until Jan. 3, 2021, so that more visitors could experience it. The exhibition explored how quilts have been a storytelling medium for women of the West for generations. *Quilts* was part of the Eiteljorg's theme for 2020-2021, *Honoring Women*.



The exhibition *Quilts: Uncovering Women's Stories* featured a Community Corner where fiber art by local artists was showcased. On March 6, 2020, local artist Ann D. Luther, right, was interviewed about her fiber art piece *Great Grandmother*, top left, by WISH-TV reporter Aleah Hordges, left. Watch the interview here: <https://bit.ly/3cBg9pP>.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Eiteljorg Museum was required to temporarily close March 18, 2020; it reopened to the public June 27, 2020 with new safety rules. The Eiteljorg had already forged working relationships with quilters and quilting clubs. When hospitals reported a shortage of personal protective equipment for healthcare workers in spring 2020, the Eiteljorg encouraged quilters to use their fabric scraps and sewing machines to sew homemade face masks and donate them as needed to healthcare facilities.



In 2020, the annual *Quest for the West*® Art Show and Sale became the *Quest* Online Art Sale. To build interest in the sale, the Eiteljorg hosted a series of virtual cocktail receptions where art buyers could meet *Quest* artists online. In 2020, the *Quest for the West*® co-chairs were Patty Gibbs and Catherine Turner.



From Oct. 28 to Nov. 2, 2020, *Día de Muertos* (Day of the Dead) became a free virtual celebration, with music and dance performances and cultural presentations online at Eiteljorg.org. Among them was Amber Martinez of Meztli Cultural, whose presentation was titled *Día de Muertos: A Blooming Tradition in the United States*. The events were presented in partnership with Nopal Cultural and Arte Mexicano en Indiana.

During October 2020, artist DG House (Cherokee of NE Alabama) served as artist in residence, and shared her painting, drawing and prints virtually from her studio in Bozeman, Montana. Details: <https://bit.ly/3cdk5xP>.



The Eiteljorg's second-floor Native American galleries feature customary and contemporary artworks by Indigenous artists from across North America. The galleries are scheduled to be renovated and reinstalled, and will include a special emphasis on the Native cultures of the Great Lakes region.



The first rotation of the exhibition *Powerful Women: Contemporary Art from the Eiteljorg Collection*, ran from Sept. 19, 2020 to March 21, 2021, and featured works by Native American women artists. A second rotation of *Powerful Women* in 2021 features works by women artists who are African American, Latina, Asian American, Native American and European American. The exhibition is part of the Eiteljorg's 2020-2021 theme, *Honoring Women*.



Reporter Sherman Burdette of WXIN-FOX59, left, interviewed Eiteljorg President and CEO John Vanausdall, center, about the opening of the 11th annual *Jingle Rails: The Great Western Adventure*, the Eiteljorg's holiday model train display, which ran from Nov. 21, 2020, to Jan. 18, 2021.



Fifth Third Bank was presenting sponsor of *Jingle Rails: The Great Western Adventure*, and was recognized on one of the G-scale model trains, and on a building miniature in the model railroad. The backdrops in *Jingle Rails* are made of all-natural materials by Applied Imagination of Alexandria, Ky.

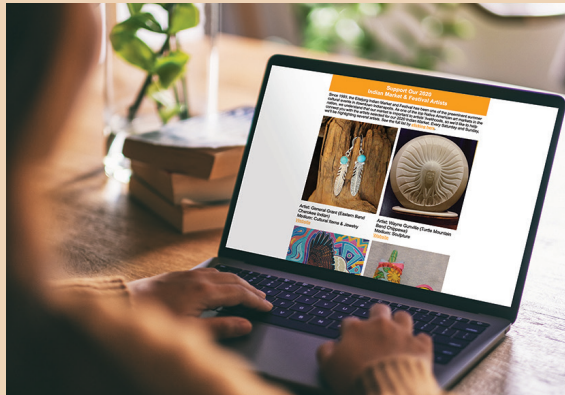


Visitors to the Eiteljorg's Western Art Galleries experienced artworks emphasizing the diversity of the American West, including the 2003 oil painting *The Golden Mountain: Arriving San Francisco, 1865*, by renowned artist Mian Situ (American, born in China).

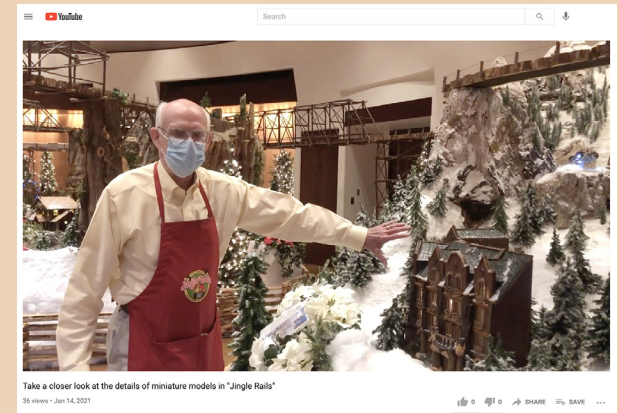
VERSATILITY

When the pandemic shutdown hit in March 2020 and in-person events had to be canceled, the Eiteljorg staff quickly pivoted to offering virtual content on the new webpage, [EiteljorgAtHome](https://www.eiteljorg.org/at-home). The museum's Education and Public Programs department went to great lengths to develop virtual programming. Once the public health situation allowed, the museum promptly reopened June 27, 2020, with safety precautions, and welcomed visitors throughout the summer and fall.

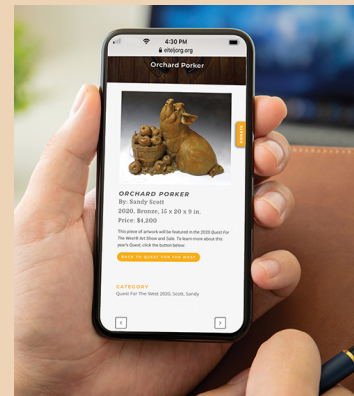
The pandemic prevented the Eiteljorg Indian Market and Festival from taking place in person in June 2020. So that longtime Indian Market artists could still connect with market-goers and sell their artworks, the Eiteljorg created a webpage linking to the artists' websites, [Eiteljorg.org/indianmarketandfestival/](https://www.eiteljorg.org/indianmarketandfestival/). The same Native American artists, performers and culture bearers were invited back for the 2021 Virtual Indian Market.



The exhibition *Quilts: Uncovering Women's Stories* opened March 7, 2020, and due to the pandemic was extended until Jan. 3, 2021, so that more visitors could experience it. The exhibition explored how quilts have been a storytelling medium for women of the West for generations. *Quilts* was part of the Eiteljorg's theme for 2020-2021, *Honoring Women*.

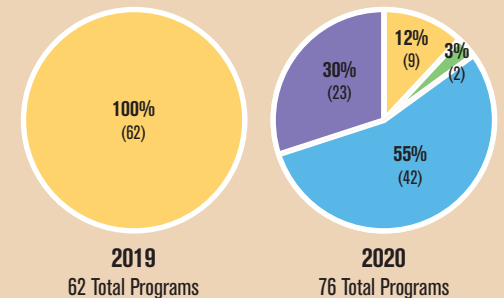


Volunteers serve important roles at the Eiteljorg Museum in assisting and educating visitors at events and inside galleries. Volunteer Mike Davis was one of the "train guys" who provided expert knowledge about the model trains in the *Jingle Rails* holiday display. Watch a video of Mike here: <https://bit.ly/2OfbT5>

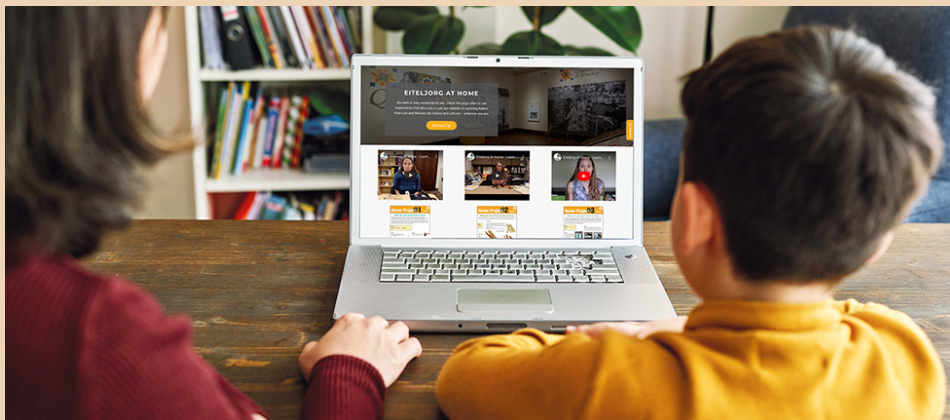


In 2020, the annual *Quest for the West*® Art Show and Sale became a virtual art sale. In the weeks leading up to the *Quest* Online Art Sale, the museum issued weekly digital newsletters to participants to build buzz for the event.

2019 vs 2020 Programming How Programs were Presented/Consumed



- In Person
- Hybrid
- Live Virtual +23 recordings of live virtual programs
- Pre-Recorded Video



During the pandemic shutdown of spring 2020 when many workplaces and schools were closed, families were stuck at home in isolation. The museum responded by creating the [EiteljorgAtHome](#) webpage filled with virtual tours of exhibits and art-making videos. After the museum reopened to the public June 27, 2020, the EiteljorgAtHome page remained active, with fresh content regularly posted.



From Oct. 28 to Nov. 2, 2020, *Día de Muertos* (Day of the Dead) became a free virtual celebration, with music and dance performances and cultural presentations online at Eiteljorg.org. It was presented in partnership with Nopal Cultural and Arte Mexicano en Indiana.

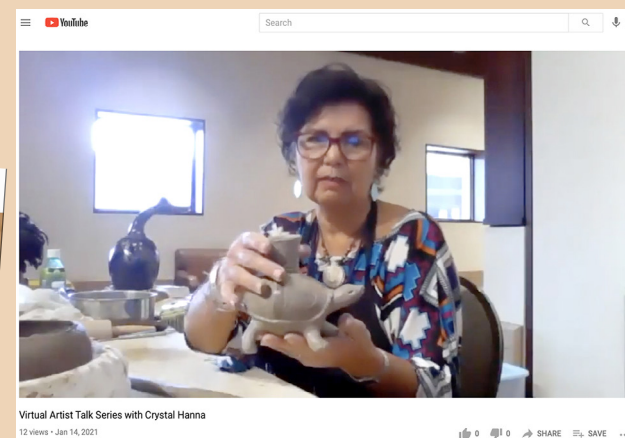


During the 2020 pandemic, for the safety of artists and visitors, some programming events that previously would have been in person were held virtually. During a virtual artist talk with Eiteljorg supporters via Zoom, contemporary artist Luzene Hill (Eastern Band of Cherokee), an Eiteljorg Fellow, discussed her installation work *Retracing the Trace*. That installation appeared in the first rotation of the exhibition *Powerful Women: Contemporary Art from the Eiteljorg Collection*, open Sept. 19, 2020-March 21, 2021.



Social Media

In 2020, the Eiteljorg's social media personality Juniper the horse explored the museum during and after the temporary shutdown. Juniper (with the help of two-legged friends) sent out a steady hoofbeat of whimsical social media messages to remind social media followers of all the Eiteljorg has to offer.



In September 2020, artist in residence Crystal Hanna (Cherokee) did an artist residency in person at the Eiteljorg, demonstrating how she creates works of pottery. Her residency was also shared online through a virtual artist talk. Watch the video here: <https://bit.ly/3eulAcF>

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

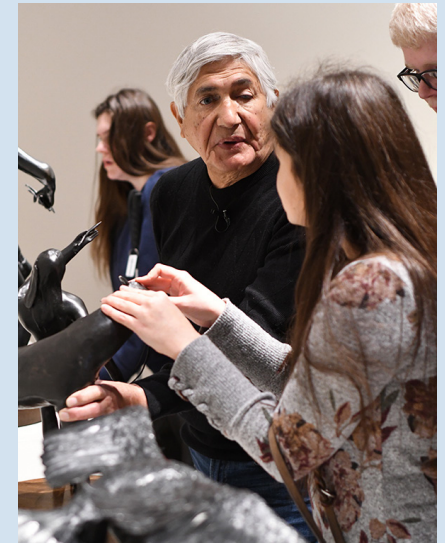
As the only museum in the Midwest to focus on the art, history and cultures of Native Americans and the American West, the Eiteljorg Museum from its start has been committed to diversity. In 2020, the Eiteljorg began the process of updating and revising its diversity statement and undertaking related efforts. The museum also has focused on accessibility of galleries — through Braille and audio descriptions, for example — and making exhibitions and programs inclusive from the outset.



On Feb. 15, 2020 at the Eiteljorg, author and documentarian Candacy Taylor discussed her book, *The Overground Railroad: The Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel in America*. Taylor's talk and book-signing were part of the Leon Jett Memorial Lecture Series, which brings quality multicultural programming to the museum. This program was sponsored by the Central Indiana Community Foundation.



Bonnie Devine (Ojibwa, born 1952), *Canoe*, 2003
Mixed media, graphite on paper, thread, twine, beads
Museum purchase from the Eiteljorg Contemporary Art Fellowship
Featured in the first rotation of *Powerful Women: Contemporary Art from the Eiteljorg Collection*, Sept. 19, 2020-March 21, 2021



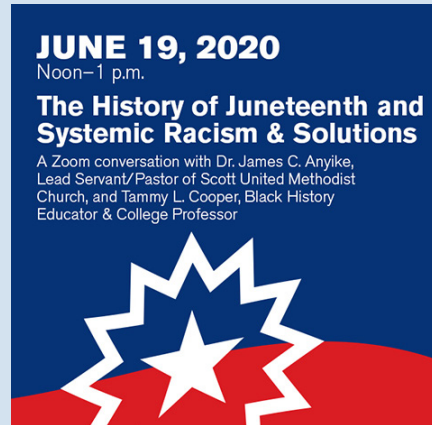
Michael Naranjo (Santa Clara Pueblo), a sculptor who is blind, met with students and teachers from the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ISBVI) at the opening of his exhibition, *Please Touch! The Sculptures of Michael Naranjo*, on Jan. 17, 2020. The public was invited to touch the bronze sculptures in the exhibition. Naranjo also served as an Eiteljorg artist in residence and taught ceramic art to students at ISBVI for one week in January 2020.



A city government agency, EmployIndy, taped a diversity video Aug. 28, 2020, at the Eiteljorg in front of the 1998 Bruce LaFountain *Wisdom Keepers* sculpture. Appearing on camera sharing a diversity message were Alvina Laforge (Crow / Kiowa), left, and Carolina Castoreno-Santana (Lipan Apache / Mescalero Apache / Yaqui), executive director of the American Indian Center of Indiana, right. The video appeared in the 19th annual Mayor's Celebration of Diversity Awards.



On Feb. 29, 2020, at the Eiteljorg, award-winning poet and educator Shonda Buchanan discussed her memoir *Black Indian* and her legacy of being African American with Native American roots, and held a book-signing.



Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery and arrival of freedom in Texas in 1865 at the end of the Civil War. In 2020, the Eiteljorg's annual Juneteenth Community Celebration became a virtual observance, and featured a discussion about racial justice issues with Dr. James C. Anyike and Tammy L. Cooper.



Día de Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is celebrated in Mexico, the United States and other nations as a time to honor the memories of family members who have passed on. From Oct. 28 to Nov. 2, 2020, the museum's *Día de Muertos* Community Celebration became virtual, with free music and dance performances and cultural presentations online at Eiteljorg.org. The events were presented in partnership with Nopal Cultural and Arte Mexicano en Indiana.



The exhibition *Quilts: Uncovering Women's Stories*, which opened March 7, 2020, and was extended until Jan. 3, 2021, featured quilts by historic and contemporary women artists who are African American, Asian American, Native American, Latina and European American.

In 2020 the Eiteljorg Museum updated its diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion statement, the first step in a multi-part diversity effort. A task force composed of five members of the Board of Directors and Board of Advisors and 10 employees — and led by Eiteljorg staff member Liz Ale — developed the diversity statement, presented here:

A COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

Our Commitment

The Eiteljorg Museum is committed to presenting the art and heritage of the American West and the Native peoples of North America as a diverse story of human accomplishment, adversity and perseverance with respect and sensitivity to all cultures. In order to fulfill this commitment, the Eiteljorg must keep diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion at the forefront of everything we do.

Respect For Native Lands And Peoples

Our museum sits upon the land of the Miami and Lenape peoples and the wider Indiana region encompasses the homelands of the Kickapoo, Shawnee, Peoria and Potawatomi peoples. Therefore, the Eiteljorg Museum has a distinct responsibility to educate the public about these living cultures of our local area and the Great Lakes region. The Eiteljorg is dedicated to fulfilling this responsibility and carrying out its broader mission to present the arts, histories and cultures of the Native peoples of North America through exhibitions and programs that demonstrate sensitivity and respect toward Native peoples and their cultures. We are also committed to inclusivity by incorporating Native peoples' perspectives and their direct participation into our work.

Representing Diverse Communities

In our presentations of the art and history of the American West, the Eiteljorg is committed to an inclusive approach that challenges past practices of museums and the Western art world that often omitted the experiences of all those who shaped the West and its art, including people who are Native American, Black, Latino, Asian, members of the LGBTQ+ community and others of different backgrounds and beliefs. The art we collect will include works by and about these underrepresented peoples, and the exhibitions, interpretation, programs and publications we create will bring to light this diversity.

The following people served on the task force that developed the diversity statement:

Board of Directors and Board of Advisors members: Jasmin N. French, Norman “Tom” Funk, Afshan Paarlberg, José Samperio and Judith Thomas.

Eiteljorg employees: Liz Ale, Johanna M. Blume, Madison Hincks, Lezlie Laxton, Dorene Red Cloud (Oglala Lakota), Ashley Robinson, Hyacinth Rucker, Rebekah Ryan, Sandy Schmidt and John Vanausdall.

The rest of the museum staff and Board also contributed as part of a holistic team effort. Community partners also provided advice, including the Central Indiana Community Foundation, Women's Fund of Central Indiana and the IUPUI Africana Studies Department.



Creating A Welcoming Environment

The communities we welcome and serve at the Eiteljorg include, but are not limited to, peoples of all ages, races, ethnicities, sexes, gender identities and gender presentations, sexual orientations, cultures, national origins, languages, abilities, educational backgrounds, socioeconomic statuses, physical appearances, veteran statuses, personalities, religious or spiritual beliefs and political views. We also recognize and celebrate the diversity of our downtown Indianapolis neighborhood and are committed to serving the needs of our local community. The Eiteljorg Museum strives to be accessible to everyone and seeks to break down barriers that might prevent people from visiting. Our advertising, marketing and promotional activities must also consider our diverse audiences, and are the first, critical step in welcoming everyone to participate.

Diversity Of Voices In The Room

To be a successful museum about diverse peoples, it is essential that the people who work, volunteer and provide consulting and contract services for the museum reflect the diversity of our mission and the communities we serve. Our human resources practices must also be inclusive and equitable regarding leadership, governance, planning and policymaking.

Fulfilling Our Commitment

The Eiteljorg aspires to become a museum where all people feel that they are heard, represented and respected. By working to fulfill the principles outlined in this statement, the Eiteljorg Museum is committed to building a more accessible, inclusive and equitable future for the diverse communities we serve.



Collections Information Specialist Liz Ale examines an Ojibwe beaded vest.
Image by Aaliyah Hunt

RESULTS AND REPUTATION

The Eiteljorg Museum enjoys a national reputation for excellence. Thanks to the support of donors and members, the Eiteljorg reaches the general public by maintaining a robust presence in the news media and on digital and social media, and by publishing an award-winning magazine. Eiteljorg staff have been quoted in national publications.

Eiteljorg in the Headlines

The Eiteljorg's Marketing and Communications department works to secure news coverage about the museum and its artworks in mainstream media and promote them through social media. In 2020, the Eiteljorg Museum was featured in news coverage in respected media outlets:

The Indianapolis Star

"A Vietnam grenade caused his blindness. Now he makes sculptures he invites you to touch."

Feb. 27, 2020

<https://bit.ly/3rhc6Gi>

The New York Times

"This Year Will End Eventually. Document It While You Can."

July 14, 2020

<https://nyti.ms/3clYcHW>

WISH-TV8

"Celebrating Women's History: Artists share stories through quilting with new exhibit"

March 12, 2020

<https://bit.ly/3cBg9pP>

Native American Art magazine

Preview article about the exhibition *Powerful Women*

June 2020

<https://bit.ly/31cQxew>

Fine Art Connoisseur magazine

"Same Quest, New Format"

Sept. 5, 2020

<https://bit.ly/2PANMBk>

The Daily Journal of Johnson County

"Montana artist connects with Indy fans in virtual event"

Oct. 16, 2020

<https://bit.ly/3cdk5xP>

TheStatehouseFile.com

"Eiteljorg welcomes visitors for a virtual look at museum exhibits"

April 29, 2020

<https://bit.ly/3brhukV>



In August 2020, WISH-TV8 reporter Randall Newsome, center, interviewed Alisa Nordholt-Dean, vice president of public programs and Beeler family director of education, left, about the Indiana Women's Suffrage Centennial celebration.



Artist Michael Naranjo (Santa Clara Pueblo), right, has been a renowned sculptor for decades, having lost his eyesight due to a combat injury during the Vietnam War. An exhibition of his work, *Please Touch! The Sculptures of Michael Naranjo*, opened at the Eiteljorg Jan. 18, 2020, and was extended to Feb. 7, 2021. Before the show opening, Naranjo was interviewed by journalists from *The Indianapolis Star*: reporter Domenica Bongiovanni, left, and photojournalist Michelle Pemberton, center. Find their article and images here: <https://bit.ly/3rhc6Gi>



The popular exhibition *Quilts: Uncovering Women's Stories* was featured in news media coverage throughout 2020.

Membership Benefits

More than 2,600 households enjoy various membership tiers that allow free admission to the Eiteljorg Museum and invitations to in-person and virtual events. Over the years, members of the Eagle Society have joined in exciting trips to the West to experience landmarks and visit artists in their studios. To become a museum member, contact Jennifer Hiatt at jhiatt@eiteljorg.com or 317.275.1360.



Storyteller magazine

The Eiteljorg's award-winning museum magazine, *Storyteller*, provides illuminating coverage of upcoming art exhibitions and programming events. In 2020, for the second year in a row, *Storyteller* won the Award of Honor for best magazine from the Public Relations Society of America, Hoosier Chapter. Eiteljorg members receive a free subscription to *Storyteller*. Visit this link: <https://eiteljorg.org/our-story/storyteller-magazine/>



Social Media and Website

The Eiteljorg is active on social media platforms. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube, or link to them through our website, [Eiteljorg.org](https://eiteljorg.org), where you can subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter. Here are the Eiteljorg's digital media analytics from January to December, 2020:

Facebook – 25K followers, 812.4K impressions, 477 posts sent

Twitter – 12.7K followers, 472 tweets sent

Instagram – 4.8K followers, 429 posts sent

LinkedIn – 20.8K impressions, 318 posts sent

e-Newsletter – 17.5K subscribers

In 2020, Eiteljorg.org won the Award of Honor from the Public Relations Society of America, Hoosier Chapter, for best website. Iconic Digital of Fishers, Ind., provided website design.

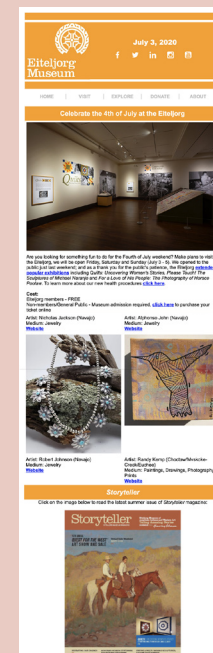
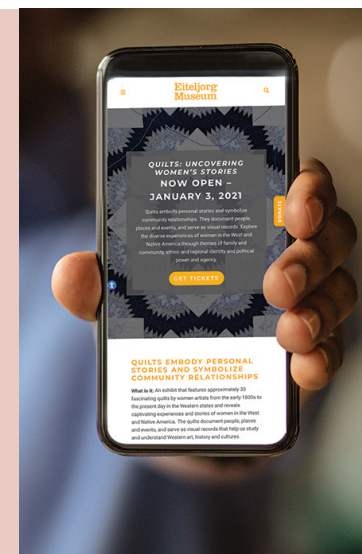
Website traffic for 2020:

Page views – 494K

Biggest day – 8,261 views – Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020
(Quest for the West® Online Art Sale)

eNewsletter

Each week the Eiteljorg emails a brief but informative eNewsletter to approximately 17,500 subscribers, to keep them updated on museum programs, exhibitions and volunteer opportunities. In 2020, the Eiteljorg marketing staff and interns also created a separate eNewsletter to inform subscribers about the *Quest for the West*® Online Art Sale.



RELEVANCE

Through donors and their support and gifts of art, the Eiteljorg's remarkable collections have grown, underscoring the museum's national prominence.



Dean Mitchell
For Freedom, 2020
 Watercolor
 30 x 22 inches
 Gift of Catherine Turner, 2020.6.1

The Eiteljorg Museum continues to add to its collection through gifts, purchases, bequests, and transfers. The collection comprising more than 80 percent Native American art and nearly 20 percent Western art has been supported through major gifts. These gifts have added prominence to the collection and supported the artworks' ongoing care. Through that support, the museum has quadrupled the collection since its founding in 1989.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, some anticipated gifts of art were put on hold to ensure staff and donor safety. However, the museum has still acquired some wonderful pieces through purchases and gifts.

The museum has purchased two significant items this year: a purse titled *MMIW* by Katrina Mitten (Miami of Oklahoma), and a mask titled *Chilkat Protector* by Lily Hope (Tlingit). These important items by amazing artists address current issues including missing and murdered indigenous women and the impact of the pandemic.

The museum was gifted an Iñupiaq parka by Ed and Marlene Fenstermacher in honor of Robert Fenstermacher. An edition of the McKenney and Hall *History of the Indian Tribes of North America* (three volumes) was a gift of Gordon and Llura Gund. The museum has acquired by purchase a Menominee cradleboard and miniature moccasins.

An impressive 2020 watercolor by artist Dean Mitchell, *For Freedom*, highlights the important historic role of African American soldiers who fought for the Union in the Civil War. During the 2020 *Quest for the West*® Online Art Sale, the Mitchell painting was purchased by Catherine Turner, a longtime Eiteljorg supporter, and she gifted *For Freedom* to the museum, for the public to enjoy and appreciate.

Another artwork purchased via *Quest for the West*® joined the museum's collection in 2020: an oil painting by Indiana artist Mark Kelso, *Tearin' It Up*, a strikingly lifelike portrayal of two bison charging one another. *Tearin' It Up* won the *Quest* Harrison Eiteljorg Purchase Award. Funds donated by the Western Art Society, a group of devoted supporters, allowed the museum to purchase the work for the permanent collection.

The Eiteljorg Museum houses more than 10,000 works of customary and contemporary Native American art and Western American art. The museum's collections department staff ensures the preservation of items by monitoring and maintaining an appropriate storage environment, prepares them for installation in the galleries, rotates them into and



Dean Mitchell.
 Photograph courtesy of the artist.

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Katrina Mitten (Miami of Oklahoma, born 1962)
MMIW, 2017
Leather, board, metal, size 13 seed beads, thread, satin, cotton
Museum purchase with funds from the Native American Acquisitions Fund, 2020.3.1



Lily Hope (Tlingit, born 1980)
Chilkat Protector, 2020
Thigh-spun Merino wool and cedar bark wefts, Merino wool warps, Ermine tails, tin cones, dye
Museum purchase with funds from the Native American Acquisitions Fund, 2020.5.1

out of exhibitions and coordinates loans of objects to other institutions.

Following best practices, the museum does inventories of the collection. During 2020, the collections staff conducted a full inventory of all the objects in the museum's care.

The department also received an important honor in 2020 when the Eiteljorg was one of only 75 museums nationwide chosen for the Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP), supported by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation and the Institute for Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS). Participating in CAP has helped the Eiteljorg identify preventive conservation needs and prioritize collections care efforts. Details here: <https://bit.ly/2MFmmsZ>.

Through the Eiteljorg's active lending program, artworks from the collection travel to other institutions in North America and worldwide, and 2020 was no exception. The Eiteljorg extended the time that loaned objects could remain at other museums, and loaned other objects to institutions such as the Taft Museum of Art in Cincinnati, the Heard Museum in Phoenix, the Plains Art Museum in Fargo, N.D., and the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Ark.

Looking ahead, the Eiteljorg under its Contemporary Art Fellowship program plans to acquire works of contemporary Native American art from five artists in the 2021 Fellowship. The collections staff also will be involved in a major project: reinstalling artworks in the Native American galleries as part of the 2021-22 reconstruction on the second floor.



Mark Kelso
Tearin' It Up, 2020
Oil on panel
36 x 48 inches
2020 Quest for the West®
Harrison Eiteljorg Purchase Award

THE FUTURE

With a goal to raise \$40 million for the museum's endowment and \$14 million for capital projects, the *Project 2021* capital/endowment campaign has hit many milestones since it began in 2016. Approximately \$32 million of the endowment goal has been recognized as of December 2020 in cash, pledges over time and through planned giving. More than \$7 million has been raised towards capital projects. To support these efforts, contact Vice President for Advancement Nataly Lowder at nlowder@eiteljorg.com or **317.275.1311**.

Native American Galleries: Reconstruction and Reinstallation

The Eiteljorg's second-floor Native American galleries had showcased artworks on largely the same floorplan since the museum opened in 1989. As part of *Project 2021*, the Eiteljorg is completely reconstructing the galleries and reinstalling Native artworks to present them in a state-of-the-art space and create a more contextual experience. The Eiteljorg has engaged Origin Studios and Kubik Maltbie to design and build the new galleries. Native artworks will be organized around the themes of Relation, Continuation and Innovation. In addition to showcasing Native and First Nations art from across North America, the new galleries will have a special emphasis on the Indigenous peoples of the Great Lakes region, incorporating the Richard Pohrt, Jr. Collection, an acquisition facilitated through a \$2.83 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. The galleries are scheduled to reopen in June 2022, and the museum is still seeking partners in supporting the project.

A project rendering by Origin Studios of how the reconstructed Native American galleries will appear in 2022



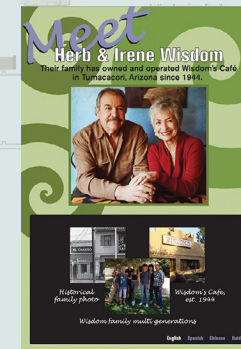
Origin Studios



Most of the Eiteljorg's Native American Art galleries (seen above as they appeared in 2020) had not been extensively renovated since the museum's opening in 1989, apart from the addition of the *Mitchseenionki: The People's Place* section (above right) in 2002. The Eiteljorg is reconstructing the second-floor galleries and will reinstall the Native art, to present the works more contextually and in a visually striking way, with a special emphasis on Indigenous cultures of the Great Lakes.

Nina Mason Pulliam Education Center: Renovation

Located in the Nina Mason Pulliam Education Center on the canal level, the Eiteljorg's children's discovery area, the R.B. Annis Western Family Experience, has delighted thousands of visitors since it opened in 2010, but is in need of a refresh. The renovation will transform the space to focus on five diverse multigenerational families of the contemporary West. New features will include the Wisdom Café, the Stephenson family's Texas ranch, the Hansen Wheel & Wagon Shop, the story of the Indianapolis Totem Pole and its relationship to the Yeltatzie and Wallace families, and the local Shew family's experiences as descendants of Chinese immigrants. Activities, art and technology will highlight the five diverse families' experiences, and the popular stagecoach will remain a focal point. For the convenience of visitors with young children or those with special needs, the renovated space will include a quiet room and nursing room. The Stephen and Sharon Zimmerman Resource Center will be remodeled to open into the children's discovery area, and the Watanabe Family Research Library will remain available by appointment. The museum seeks additional partners in the renovation, part of *Project 2021*.



The renovated R.B. Annis Western Family Experience will focus on the homes and workplaces of five multicultural families of the West, including the Wisdom family's cafe in Tumacacori, Arizona, left, and the Hansen Wheel & Wagon Shop, above.

Allen Whitehill Clowes Sculpture Court: Expansion

The Eiteljorg's multipurpose event space, the Allen Whitehill Clowes Sculpture Court, hosts rental events such as wedding receptions and corporate meetings. It also is the site of *Jingle Rails* from mid-November to mid-January each year, and hosts Indian Market and Festival artists' booths, as well as museum concerts, lectures and presentations throughout the year. Plans call for expanding the space by moving the current east wall to enclose the entire One America Terrace facing West Street. Expanding over the terrace would approximately double the Clowes space, allowing nearly 400 seats at events, and potentially making room for additional Indian Market artist booths and more *Jingle Rails* model train scenes. The Eiteljorg is seeking partners in the expansion.



The existing Allen Whitehill Clowes Sculpture Court multipurpose facility is used for meetings, receptions and concerts. Plans call for expanding it by enclosing the outdoor One America Terrace, doubling the size of the space.



Browning Day

GRATITUDE

Thanks to the generosity of donors, funders, members, supporters and volunteers, the Eiteljorg Museum was able to weather the difficulties of 2020. We are especially grateful to those who donated their time and experience to help the museum fulfill its mission.

Boards and Councils, 2020

Civic leaders generously gave of their time and expertise to help the museum formulate its strategies.

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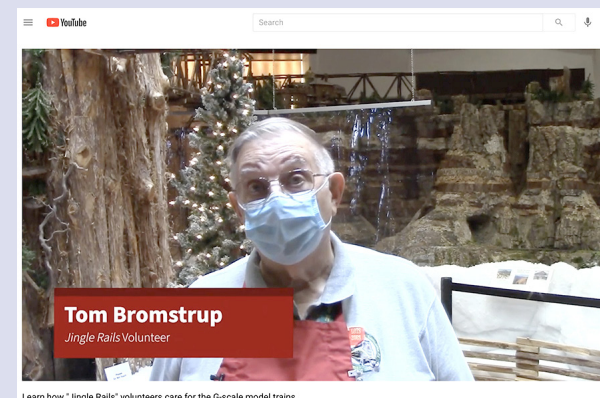
Kelsey Jones
Maria Keyler
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Taylor Whitaker
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*Deceased

Volunteers in 2020

The following people are among those who volunteered their time to the Eiteljorg, serving as gallery guides, staffing *Jingle Rails*, lending their expertise or assisting in other ways. Please also see the listings for the Boards and Councils on pages 19 and 20, and the listing for interns on page 30. To volunteer, visit <https://eiteljorg.org/give/volunteer/>, e-mail volunteers@eiteljorg.com or call volunteer services coordinator Jay Harkness at 317.275.1325.

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Learn how "Jingle Rails" volunteers care for the G-scale model trains

Volunteers at the Eiteljorg Museum are instrumental in helping the museum fulfill its mission. Volunteers serve as gallery guides and assist at Indian Market and Festival and other events, or work in one of the museum's internship programs. During *Jingle Rails: The Great Western Adventure* in 2020, a dedicated group of model train enthusiasts kept the holiday model railroad running smoothly and explained the layout to visitors. With his expertise in model train hobbying, Tom Bromstrup is the "chief engineer" of the *Jingle Rails* volunteers, and Tom has appeared in many TV news interviews about the holiday display. Watch a video with Tom Bromstrup here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSXEglelLM>

Memberships and Donations

We express our sincere appreciation to all 2020 donors for their generosity and commitment to the Eiteljorg Museum. Without your help, 2020 would not have been as successful.

Due to space limitations, only gifts of \$100 or more are listed — except for annual fund gifts given in honor of or in memory of someone.

If your name is not listed correctly, please accept our sincere apology and call 317.275.1311 to let us know.

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The first rotation of the exhibition *Powerful Women: Contemporary Art from the Eiteljorg Collection*, ran from Sept. 19, 2020 to March 21, 2021, and featured works by Native American women contemporary artists. A second rotation of *Powerful Women* in 2021 features works by women contemporary artists who are African American, Latina, Asian American, Native American and European American. The exhibition is part of the Eiteljorg's 2020-2021 theme, *Honoring Women*.

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Noreen and Alan Poorman
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The Eiteljorg hosted traveling exhibition of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian, *For A Love of His People: The Photography of Horace Poolaw*, that began in 2019 and, due to the temporary closure, was extended to Aug. 9, 2020. The show featured documentary-style photographs by a Kiowa photographer of his Oklahoma community during the mid-20th century. Details: <https://bit.ly/2ygpqgLL>

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The Eiteljorg's second-floor Native American galleries feature customary and contemporary artworks by Indigenous artists from across North America. The galleries, which first opened in 1989, are scheduled to be reconstructed and reinstalled in 2021-2022, and will include a special emphasis on the Native cultures of the Great Lakes region. Details: <https://bit.ly/2NarUMv>

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The public was allowed to touch the bronze sculptures in the multisensory exhibition *Please Touch! The Sculptures of Michael Naranjo*. To be accessible, the exhibition featured a video and descriptions in Braille and audio, and it was extended until Feb. 7, 2021.

In Honor of Our Aunt Eileen
 Kayla Dawson
In Honor of Deanna DeBrier for her April Birthday
 Patt Norton
In Honor of the Fantastic Development Team at the Eiteljorg Museum
 Sarah and Evan Farthing
In Honor of Eiteljorg Staff
 Larry and Connie Kane
 Susan and Mike Lewis
 John Vanausdall
Thanks to John and the Eiteljorg Team
 Dr. Charles R. Bantz and Dr. Sandra Petronio
In Honor of P.M.G. Harris
 Prof. Marianne Wokeck
In Honor of Deborah Kish's Retirement
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In Honor of Clifford and Mary Lomahaftewa
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In Honor of Jennifer Complo McNutt
 Harry Nungesser
In Honor of Missy Orr
 Dr. Darrell La Lone
In Honor of John Vanausdall
 Renata R. Harris
In Honor of and in Grateful Appreciation for the Work of John Vanausdall
 David and Donna Sease
In Memory of Bryant Bechtold
 John Vanausdall
In Memory of Richard Lewis Bloch
 Lorenzo Clayton
In Memory of Kathy's Mother, Barbara, Who Always Enjoyed

Visiting the Museum
 Kathy A. Cala and Danny R. Cala

In Memory of Barbara Brewer Clark
 John Vanausdall

In Memory of Christel DeHaan
 John Vanausdall

In Memory of Jan Eason
 Harriett Cole
 Erinn Wold

Larry and Karen Zimmerman
In Memory of Harry Fonseca
 Harry Nungesser

In Memory of Nancy Greve
 Colleen Bailie

In Memory of Llura Gund
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In Memory of Elberta Huffman
 Sheila and Richard Jackson

In Memory of Needham S. Hurst
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In Memory of Debbie Hyde
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In Memory of Nakotah LaRance
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In Memory of Molly Neptune
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You make it possible

HOW TO SUPPORT THE EITELJORG

Individual donors are essential to the Eiteljorg Museum; they are the museum's No. 1 driver of revenue. That's why museum staff are prompt about returning donors' phone calls and emails and addressing their questions. Donors have a broad menu of options for financially supporting the Eiteljorg and its annual fund and capital and endowment campaigns. Planned giving through an estate plan empowers donors to make charitable decisions years in advance and specify their wishes. Supporters also have gifted donations of art collections, real estate or stock, or have named the museum as beneficiary in their estate plans. Naming rights to particular locations, endowed positions and programming are available.

Also, corporations that provide support to the Eiteljorg's exhibitions and programs in turn benefit from raised community awareness through the museum's advertising and marketing campaigns. A variety of corporate sponsorship opportunities and levels are available, including corporate recognition and logo placement in a wide range of museum communication tools.

To discuss tailoring a gift to the Eiteljorg that leaves an impactful legacy, or for details on how to raise brand awareness for your company with museum visitors, contact Nataly Lowder, vice president for advancement, at nlowder@eiteljorg.com or **317.275.1311**.



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Rear exterior view of the Eiteljorg Museum, showing The Sails, a shade structure under which outdoor events can be held. Image courtesy of Zach Malmgren.

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2020 EXHIBITIONS

Please Touch! The Sculptures of Michael Naranjo

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Honoring Women 2020

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Quilts: Uncovering Women's Stories

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Quilts Plus

GRANTS AT WORK

By Sally Dickson, development manager

Foundations from across the nation support the work of the Eiteljorg, but in 2020 it was the support of the local community especially that made the difference. The Eiteljorg is enormously grateful to these foundations and endowments, such as Lilly Endowment Inc., that historically have supported the museum with general operating support, special project and event support — and in this history-changing year, rescue and restart support. This sample of noteworthy grants highlights the continued good work of the Eiteljorg, the impact of COVID-19, the resilience of the Eiteljorg and the importance of community.

- The Eiteljorg was able to continue focusing on its mission and adapt to the ups and downs of 2020 because of the support and affirmation of local foundations and funders: Avis Foundation, Swisher Foundation, Nicholas H. Noyes, Jr. Memorial Foundation, Penrod Society, Ayres Foundation, Margot L. Eccles Arts and Culture Fund (a fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation), Indiana Arts Commission, Arts, Cultural & Destination Marketing and others.
- The Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation (Restart with Hope grant) was among the first supporters to look forward and anticipate good things by asking organizations, "What hopes do you have?" They stepped up at a most critical time and supported work that makes those hopes a reality and moves the Eiteljorg forward: universal accessibility, collections online, digital resources and virtual opportunities.
- Arts Midwest's United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund "to catalyze recovery and build resilience" responded to the Eiteljorg's story of how change is being accomplished, especially through the focus on Native American voices in the collection, gallery reinstallation, programming, collections online, digital resources, Eiteljorg Fellowship sub-site and planning toward the future. This Fund was made possible by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.
- The Arts Council of Indianapolis' Indy Arts and Culture Restart & Resilience Fund, made possible by Lilly Endowment Inc., extended its transformational support throughout the pandemic and soundly into the future. The Fund made it possible to safely reopen while meeting public health guidelines, adjust the operating model in a world informed by COVID-19 realities, and focus on future delivery of mission with diversity, equity, inclusion and access as core priorities.
- Religion and spirituality throughout the American West and Native America will be the focus of significant future exhibitions and programs thanks to a \$2.5 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Religion and Cultural Institutions Initiative. Elements include:
 - Religion and spiritual beliefs will be incorporated into the reinstallation of the Eiteljorg's Native American galleries (2022).
 - The exhibition, *Acts of Faith: Religion and the American West* (2024), presented in partnership with the New-York Historical Society.
 - A companion publication to *Acts of Faith: Religion and the American West*, led by the Eiteljorg.
 - A symposium on Religion and the American West with the Clements Center for Southwestern Studies at Southern Methodist University (2023).
 - A new endowment, including support for a position, to make religion a central element of the museum's work.





The 11th annual *Jingle Rails: The Great Western Adventure* ran from Nov. 21, 2020, to Jan. 18, 2021, and included scenes of the downtown Indianapolis skyline and landmarks of the American West, made out of all-natural materials such as pine cones, tree bark and seed pods by Applied Imagination. In 2020, families visiting *Jingle Rails* enjoyed miniature representations of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, left, and the Indiana State Fair, right.

Powerful Women I: Contemporary Art from the Eiteljorg Collection

Sponsored by
Ann W. King Fund of the
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Faegre Drinker
Ice Miller LLP
Margot L. Eccles Arts &
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2020 Jingle Rails: The Great Western Adventure

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2020 Quest for the West® Online Art Sale 15th Anniversary

Presented by
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Avis Foundation

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\$24,999)*
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Catherine Turner
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Buckaroos \$1,500-\$2,499

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2021 Eiteljorg Contemporary Art Fellowship

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2020 SPECIAL EVENTS

Juneteenth

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Day of the Dead

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LUNA Language Services
Nopal Cultural

Artists in Residence

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Accessibility Items Donor

Easter Conservation



The exhibition *Quilts: Uncovering Women's Stories* opened March 7, 2020, and due to the pandemic was extended until Jan. 3, 2021, so that more visitors could experience it. The exhibition explored how quilts have been a storytelling medium for women of the West for generations. *Quilts* was part of the Eiteljorg's theme for 2020-2021, *Honoring Women*.



The Watanabe Family Gardens outside the Eiteljorg Museum features many plant species native to Indiana. The Eiteljorg's hard-working facilities staff maintains the beautiful museum grounds and building.

IN MEMORIAM

Dedication

During the past difficult year, the Eiteljorg Museum lost dear friends who had supported the museum with their time, talent and leadership or who made generous gifts to the museum through the years. Our sadness at the passings of these supporters is assuaged by the knowledge that their steadfast support has created a lasting legacy for the Eiteljorg that will impact future generations of artists and visitors. We dedicate this annual report to these friends.

Frank (Mitch) Battese

(Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation /
Chickasaw Tribe of Oklahoma)
May 11, 2020

George Charbonneau

January 13, 2020

Christel DeHaan

June 6, 2020

William S. Denton

January 12, 2020

Llura Gund

March 15, 2020

Robert P. Hunter

August 17, 2020

Needham S. Hurst

January 1, 2020

Debra "Debbie" Hyde

June 10, 2020

Nakotah LaRance

(Hopi / Tewa / Assiniboine)
July 12, 2020

Beverly Lloyd

April 8, 2020

John F. McGinty

March 23, 2020

Robert L. Muller

March 17, 2020

F. Timothy Nagler

February 16, 2020

Coyeen "Cody" Newcomb

June 5, 2020

Michael J. O'Brien

June 13, 2020

Harriet Sebald

April 17, 2020

Terry G. Thompson

April 25, 2020

Gil D. Waldman

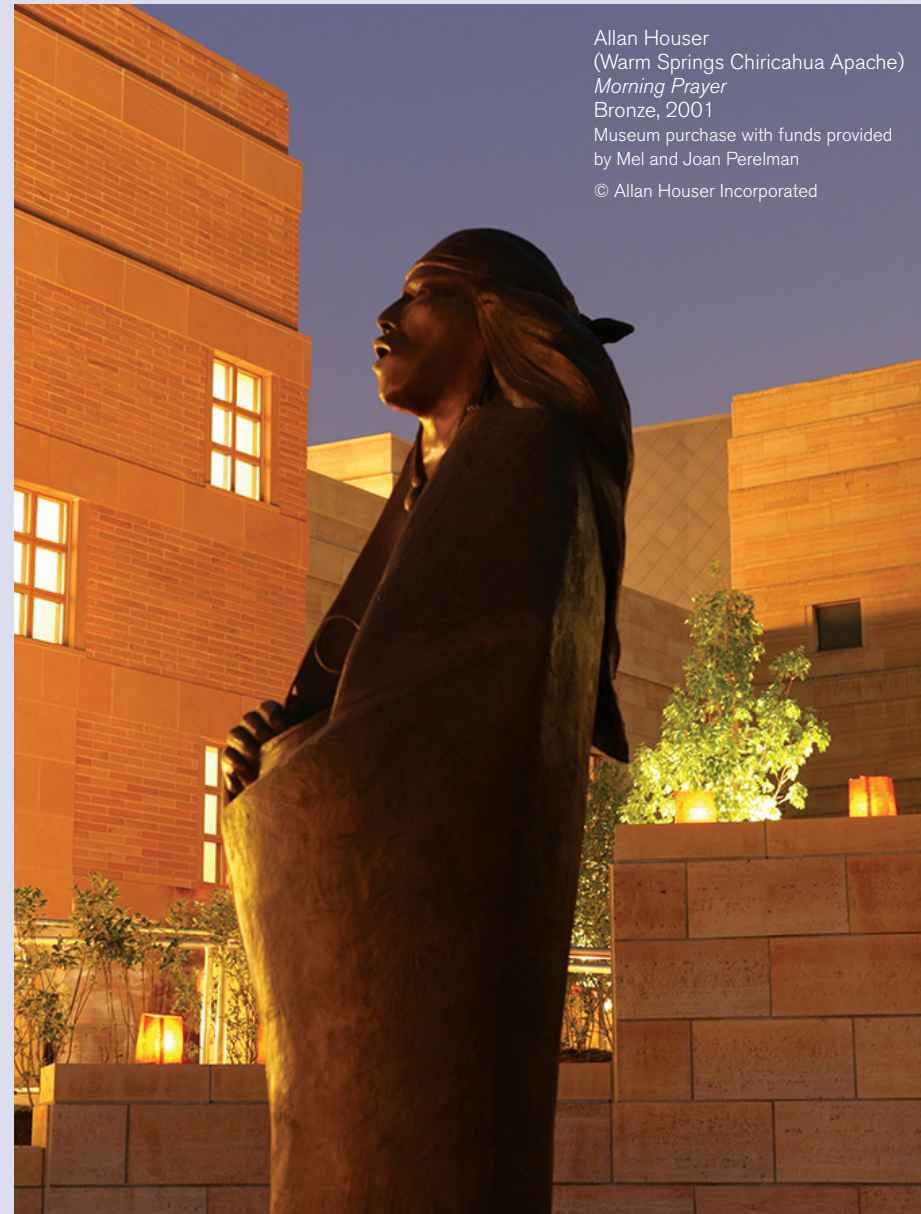
June 6, 2020

Richard D. Wood

April 16, 2020

Shirley Yegerlehner

March 3, 2020



Allan Houser
(Warm Springs Chiricahua Apache)
Morning Prayer
Bronze, 2001
Museum purchase with funds provided
by Mel and Joan Perelman
© Allan Houser Incorporated

EITELJORG MUSEUM STAFF WHO SERVED IN 2020-2021

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Robert Tate
Blair Trusty**
John Vanausdall
Mary Whistler**
Katelyn Woolery**

**Former employee

The following interns served at the Eiteljorg in 2020:

Alisha Baginski
Alisha Beard
Haley Bryant
Andrew Darragh
Ross Edelstein
Elias Garcia
Chyan Gilaspy
Kelsey Henry
Sophia Holt-Wilson
Jen Kreighbaum
Megan Owens

Katherine Roell
Maria Sanders
Sara Spieth
Caroline States
Kelly Wolf



At the Frank and Katrina Basile Museum Store, Eiteljorg visitors can shop for a beautiful variety of authentic Native American jewelry, Pendleton blankets, Western-themed home décor, art books and video documentaries, cards, posters and children's items. To shop online, visit shop.eiteljorg.org or call 317.275.1300 or email store@eiteljorg.com. The store can ship merchandise.



At the Eiteljorg Museum Café, visitors enjoy delicious Southwest-inspired menu items, including salads, sandwiches and quesadillas. Kahn's Catering creates the outstanding café menu and also caters private rental events, receptions and parties at the Eiteljorg. Visit <https://eiteljorg.org/visit/cafe/> for the menu.



The Allen Whitehill Clowes Sculpture Court, a multipurpose facility, features skylights and a beautiful picture-window view of downtown Indianapolis. Meeting rooms at the Eiteljorg can be rented for corporate events and catered private parties, such as wedding receptions. Make an impression at your next event; contact mhincks@eiteljorg.com for rental details.



Eiteljorg Museum

Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art

White River State Park
500 West Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
eiteljorg.org

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Sophia Holt-Wilson
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Zach Malmgren