MISSION STATEMENT

Providing meaningful experiences by connecting people with great art, both in a historic setting and in the community.
Forty years ago, the Taft Museum of Art was honored to receive designation as a National Historic Landmark for our Baum-Longworth-Sinton-Taft house. As we embark upon another decade in 2020, we are delighted to celebrate the 200th birthday of this prominent and much-loved house. In the coming months we will unveil our exciting plan of 200 Days for 200 Years. In the meantime, I am pleased to share with you some recent highlights, some of which you may have experienced firsthand.

This year again we were thrilled to connect people and art in our historic setting and in the community. In the past year, community volunteers had the opportunity to work alongside artist Patrick Dougherty, helping him create *Far Flung*, which now graces our front lawn. Our volunteers and staff digitally painted two murals on the side of the Federal Reserve Garden building during BLINK, and our 2017 Duncanson Artist in Residence, Stafford C. Berry, Jr., performed in the BLINK parade. In April, we launched our new series, *House Party*, which opens our doors for free to the community one evening a month, and more than 1,500 people have attended since its inception.

Recently, many first-time visitors flocked to see our highly anticipated exhibition, *Ansel Adams: A Photographer’s Evolution*. We are also proud to note that annually, about a quarter of our visitors travel from outside our region to visit us. In the past year we hosted visitors from 48 states and 44 countries.

Last January we celebrated the memory of Sallie Robinson Wadsworth, our longtime supporter, who endowed the Sallie Robinson Wadsworth Chief Curatorship with a $5 million gift. Sallie’s gift will be transformative for the Taft, as it enables us to conduct the research and development needed to continue creating self-organized exhibitions such as the 2016 exhibition *Daubigny, Monet, Van Gogh: Impressions of Landscape*.

After a nationwide search, we welcomed Elise Solomon, director of learning and engagement, from the New Orleans Museum of Art. Elise was the recipient of the prestigious Louisiana Art Education Association’s “Art Museum Educator of the Year” award in 2017. I hope you will take the opportunity to meet her; I am sure that you have already experienced the energy and great passion that she brings to the Taft and our mission.

Thank you for all that you do for the Taft—from your financial support to your attendance at our programs, your visits here with your out-of-town guests, and so much more. As you read on you will get a glimpse into some of our upcoming plans, including new experiences and capital enhancements that will help the Taft thrive for future generations. We are excited to celebrate the 200th birthday of our historic house—just around the corner!

With appreciation,

Deborah Emont Scott
Louise Taft Semple President/CEO
In the Community

The Taft Museum of Art is a place for everyone—a place you want to go for inspiration, fun, and to create memories with a friend or your family! Our team at the Taft delivers exceptional and meaningful experiences through each of our programs and events.

Over the past year, more than 81,000 people were inspired through our programs—for example, meeting different animals during our family-friendly 3rd Sunday Funday; interacting with our family tour guide for Louis Comfort Tiffany: Treasures from the Driehaus Collection, and other exhibitions; or learning about Cincinnati’s brewing tradition during our monthly Lunch & Learn.

Perhaps, however, it is the more intimate experiences that make the Taft so special—small-group tours with our docents, or multi-visit school field trips with our Art for Underserved School Audiences (AUSA) program, or, perhaps, a 16-person drawing workshop.

We will continue to provide experiences that keep your creativity flowing, your inspiration high, and your hearts hungry for more art!

With fun and engagement,

Elise Solomon
Director of Learning and Engagement

Looking Ahead to 2020

Visitors will enjoy enhanced experiences through an easier-to-access audio guide to the permanent collection, as well as a pilot program for digital interactive interpretation of the Museum.

Duncanson Artist-in-Residence

The Taft Museum of Art annually recognizes the achievements of contemporary African American artists working in a variety of disciplines during an October residency.

4,325+ youth and adults impacted in 2017 by the Duncanson Artist-in-Residence program

“Last year’s artist-in-residence, Stafford C. Berry, not only brought his incredible artistic gifts/talents, he also had a powerful message: ‘When we dance together we have no time to hate.’

His dance and message of peace reminds us of the power of the arts—to heal our fractured world.”

—Nick Nissley, EdD, Executive Director, the School for Creative & Performing Arts

Stafford C. Berry, Jr. delighted audiences across Greater Cincinnati during his residency.
AUSA reached **12 classrooms** and **325 individual at-risk students** this year, providing more than **1,200 engagements** through programming connected to special exhibitions.

The Taft’s Learning and Engagement team worked with Cincinnati schoolchildren to explore the idea of quilts and community, connected to the exhibition *Elegant Geometry: British and American Mosaic Patchwork Quilts*. The completed quilts were exhibited at the main branch of the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library.

**QUILTING BY THE NUMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>64</th>
<th>hours engaged with students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>participating schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>hard-working docents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>energetic students and their teachers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESULTING IN:**

- **1,000** 6-inch cotton squares
- **4,582** individual hand stitches (give or take a stitch!)
- **60** hours assembling the quilts
- **200** 12-inch finished quilt squares
- **2,000** feet of ribbon

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“I loved being outside, eating and drinking with friends, while getting an opportunity to do some hands-on crafts.”

“I look forward to the next one!”

“I enjoyed being able to sit in the courtyard, listen to music, have a drink, and socialize.”

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**ART FOR UNDERSERVED SCHOOL AUDIENCES (AUSA)**

Introduced in June 2018, House Party is a happy hour with hands-on activities that appeal to young patrons under 40, as well as to the broader community. The event features live music, food, special tours, talks, demonstrations, and drop-in art-making workshops.

“I enjoyed being able to sit in the courtyard, listen to music, have a drink, and socialize.”
Our goal is to provide the community with special exhibitions that speak to the collecting interests of our founders, Anna and Charles Phelps Taft, and then expand from that point, providing our visitors with access to art that they won’t see elsewhere in Cincinnati. We presented three exhibitions in the Fifth Third Gallery this past year:

- **Elegant Geometry: British and American Mosaic Patchwork Quilts** (October 21, 2017–January 21, 2018)
- **Louis Comfort Tiffany: Treasures from the Driehaus Collection** (February 17–May 27, 2018)
- **Ansel Adams: A Photographer’s Evolution** (June 23–September 16, 2018)

The small Sinton Gallery allows an intimate exploration of a topic or artist that relates to our collection or to a larger temporary exhibition. This past year’s three Sinton Gallery exhibitions included:

- **A Sense of Home: New Quilts by Heather Jones** (November 17, 2017–February 18, 2018)
- **Eternal Blooms: Chinese Painted Enamels on Copper** (March 2–June 24, 2018)
- **vanessa german: running with freedom** (July 13–October 21, 2018)

Besides mounting exhibitions, the curatorial and collections team is always busy preserving and researching the permanent collection. For example, this past year we hired a specialist conservator to repair three Chinese enamels that had become disfigured over time so that they could appear in the *Eternal Blooms* exhibition. We began work on a new book about the Taft collection, which will be published in 2020. Our team has also been working on an application for a grant to digitize our collection. Digitization would make all our works available via our website, so that the whole community and beyond would have access to them.

Yours in the shared appreciation of art,

Lynne Ambrosini
Deputy Director and the Sallie Robinson Wadsworth Chief Curator

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**LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020**

Our curatorial team is developing an exhibition featuring Cincinnati art and artists spanning the roughly 100 years—1820 through 1930—that the house was inhabited by three prominent Cincinnati families. The exhibition will feature rarely seen artworks selected from local private collections and regional museums.

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**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

- 4way String Quartet
- AIGA Cincinnati
- Alliance Français
- Alzheimer Association
- Amelia Public Library
- Blink
- Braeze Glass Studios
- Brewing Heritage Trail
- Campbell County Public Library
- The Children’s Home of Cincinnati
- The Children’s Theatre of Cincinnati
- Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library
- Cincinnati Art Museum
- Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra
- Cincinnati Musicians Union
- Cincinnati Public Schools
- Cincinnati Shakespeare Company
- Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden
- Clifton Cultural Arts Center
- Cold Springs Library
- Comedy Sportz
- Contemporary Art Center
- Cool Critters
- Crystal Clear Science Inc.
- EchoBats
- Elements
- Eye of the Artist/Dada Rafiki
- Fern (Plant Studio)
- Findlay Kitchen
- FotoFocus
- Ft. Thomas Library
- Girl Scouts of Western Ohio
- Green Township Library
- Harriet Beecher Stowe Historic House
- Honey Hill Farm
- Kennedy Heights Arts Center
- LAG Productions
- Madcap Puppets
- Manifest Gallery and Drawing Center
- Melodic Connections
- Mercantile Library
- Music Hall Re-Opening
- MyCincinnati
- Nature Conservancy
- Newport Aquarium
- Newport Scholar House/ Brightton Center
- Notre Dame Urban Education Center
- Pones
- Price Hill Boys and Girls Club
- Pull Club Studios
- Rockwood Pottery
- Sierra Club, Ohio Chapter
- Silk Road Textiles
- Society for the Preservation of Music Hall
- Sunrock Farm
- Taft’s Ale House
- Woman’s Art Club of Cincinnati
- Wump Mucket Puppets
- WW Carpenter Foundation

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**ON OUR WALLS**
EXHIBITIONS

“Three Chinese enamels from the recent bequest of more than 80 enamels from Compton Allyn, a steadfast friend of the Taft, were conserved this past year, resulting in their display as part of the exhibition Eternal Blooms.”

— Visitor, May 9, 2018

CONSERVATION

Three Chinese enamels from the recent bequest of more than 80 enamels from Compton Allyn, a steadfast friend of the Taft, were conserved this past year, resulting in their display as part of the exhibition Eternal Blooms.

Visitors were thrilled to have the opportunity to see these Chinese works of art. A notable comment included:

“How beautifully detailed these pieces are, such rich yet delicate colors! We are so lucky to have them here at the Taft. Looking forward to seeing more of them in future.”

— Visitor, May 9, 2018
OUTGOING LOANS

Two key works from the Taft’s collection traveled abroad to be shared with other communities over the past year:

Jean-François Millet, *Maternity*, about 1870–73, oil on canvas

This painting was seen in France for the first retrospective in many years of Millet’s highly influential work. It appeared at the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Lille, in northern France, not far from Millet’s birthplace.

Gerard ter Borch, *The Sleeping Soldier*, about 1656–57, oil on canvas

This painting was requested by and traveled to the Musée du Louvre in Paris, the National Gallery of Ireland in Dublin, and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., where it was featured as part of a small, select, and highly praised exhibition of 17th-century Dutch works, *Vermeer and the Masters of Genre Painting: Inspiration and Rivalry*.

ON OUR WALLS
USA Today, in a list of ten “Must-See Museum Exhibitions for Winter 2018,” noted the national debut of Louis Comfort Tiffany: Treasures from the Driehaus Collection. The Taft Museum of Art is recognized both nationally and locally for its special exhibitions and programs.

The Taft is a staple in the new “Arts Front” section of the Cincinnati Business Courier. The column represents a first-of-its-kind partnership with ArtsWave and other cultural organizations that help to promote the arts as the important economic drivers that they are.

Additionally, we have celebrated many accomplishments featured in local and regional publications, including the construction of Patrick Dougherty’s Far Flung, which has spurred hundreds of photos on our Instagram and Facebook pages, as well as incredible shots by local photographers like the one Robert Flischel captured one May evening (see photo at right). Guests have expressed their awe at viewing the sculpture, with one long-time member commenting, “The present installation . . . suddenly springing from the earth on the front lawn of our Taft Museum of Art, fills one with wonder and some powerful, precious moments of serenity and serendipity. A sincere nod of gratitude to the Taft.”

Just for our members—we continue to give you our best!—this year at the Ohio Museums Association’s (OMA) Visual Communication Competition, the marketing materials produced for Bijoux Parisiens: French Jewelry from the Petit Palais, Paris received both a Gold Award and Best in Show.

Thank you,

Emma Caro
Director of Marketing, Communications, and Audience Development

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020

Do you have a story related to our historic house? We’d love to hear from you! Throughout 2020, we will be sharing stories about how our community has been influenced by this home and its residents, Anna and Charles Phelps Taft. Please, email pr@taftmuseum.org to share!
SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

27,079
Facebook fans and Instagram and Twitter followers

More than 10% increase from 2017

PRINT MEDIA COVERAGE

Ansel Adams: A Photographer’s Evolution received front-page coverage in the Cincinnati Enquirer.
Eighty-eight years ago, Charles Phelps and Anna Taft inspired a community through their civic leadership and namesake Museum. Today we recognize that individuals, like you, are mirroring their investment in our cultural community—and we thank you.

In June, a 96-year-old woman returned her membership renewal card with regrets that she would no longer be able to renew her membership, as she resides in a nursing home. She included a six-page “fan letter” that told of her own artistic life of painting, of exhibiting her work, and the history of her family’s and her personal connection to, and love of, the Taft:

I am at a loss to say what my favorite part of this wonderful place [the Taft] is. I have educated many friends about the grisaille enamels, watch, and miniature collections on view. My brother and I growing up always looked for our favorite ones. We were introduced to the Taft by our father who was a scholarship student in [Frank] Duveneck’s classes . . . Keep up the good work of thrilling Cincinnati with your wonderful shows and art collection.

The desire to give back also extends to the younger generation. We were touched by a letter from high-schooler Darion H., an award recipient of our Artists Reaching Classrooms (ARC) program. Darion expressed his interest in paying forward the generosity of the experience he received thanks to the Taft:

My thanks go on one thousand-fold, and I hope one day I will be one of the amazing artists who teach in the Artists Reaching Classrooms program, but until then, I will proceed to be a devout patron of the Taft and appreciator of the rich art scene of Cincinnati. Never stop believing that what you all are doing is going to echo into the art world for years to come, because, truly, it will.

These two letters are from members of different generations, who have lived different experiences, yet share the same feeling of ownership and desire to support the Taft Museum of Art in whatever way they can.

**Giving continues to be a meaningful way to keep the Museum thriving.** Approximately 10 percent of our members give donations each year in addition to their membership to support the Taft and its many programs. No matter the size, the act of giving to support the arts is vital to our community.

With much gratitude,

Lindsey NeCamp, CFRE
Vice President of Philanthropy and Deputy Director of Visitor Experience

### LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020

One of the many capital enhancements the Taft Museum of Art will be making in 2019 in anticipation of the historic home’s 200th birthday is the painting of the house exterior. Stay tuned to learn more about how you can help support this high-visibility project.
The 2018 Taft gala, *Nouveau in the Garden*, was inspired by the exhibition *Louis Comfort Tiffany: Treasures from the Driehaus Collection*. More than **$170,000** was raised to support educational initiatives at the Museum.

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Whitney and Phillip Long

**Event Co-Chairs**
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- Ron Bates
- Jennifer Buchholz
- Carrie Carothers
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- Anne Shanahan
- Caroline Kalnow Shemony
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**ARTISTS REACHING CLASSROOMS (ARC)**

ARC directly impacts **12 area high schools**, reaching **286 students** with multiple interactions.

The program immerses high school art students in Cincinnati’s visual arts community and exposes them to careers in the arts. Professional artists visit classrooms to talk with the students about both the creative and practical aspects of a career in art. The students also visit an artist’s studio, such as a painter’s atelier, a glassworks, or fine arts press.
LEADERSHIP MEMBERSHIP AND ANNUAL SUPPORT

September 1, 2017–August 31, 2018

We would like to thank the many generous individuals, foundations, and organizations who have given financial support to the Museum over the past year.

$1,000,000+
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ANNIE AND CHARLES TAFT LEGACY SOCIETY

The Annie and Charles Taft Legacy Society is an exclusive group of donors who have decided to make a lasting impact by naming the Taft Museum of Art as the ultimate beneficiary of a planned gift.

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Anne Warrington Wilson
Ms. H. Drewry Gores and Mr. George H. Warrington
Mr. and Mrs. David Wolf
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Woodward and the Woodward Family Charitable Foundation
Linda and Jeff Wyler
Alison and Jim Zimmerman

A LEGACY OF GIVING THAT CONTINUES TODAY
The Volunteer Lunch was held in June 2018 and recognized the many accomplishments of our volunteers.

Over the past year, **48 docents contributed more than 5,000 volunteer hours** supporting the programs highlighted in previous pages, as well as all programs led by our Learning & Engagement team.

**GIFTS OF TIME**

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**AMBASSADOR volunteers contributed 488 hours supporting administrative tasks, public programs, and more.**
Fiscally Strong

The Taft Museum of Art continues to be very strong fiscally. Once again, we have finished our year with a balanced budget, ensuring financial success.

Revenue is driven by the generous individuals, foundations, and corporations that provide critical funding to help underwrite the special exhibitions, educational programs, and other initiatives described here. Without these supporters, we simply could not provide as many quality meaningful experiences.

Our largest expenses are directly related to facility and program and exhibition costs. These costs drive continued scholarship and create arts experiences that keep our visitors inspired, engaged, and coming back to see more.

Sincerely,

Beth Kipp Siler, CPA, CGMA
Chief Financial Officer
A LOOK BACK AT 2018  By the Numbers

81,714 community members impacted by Taft activities

2,736 Taft member households

Volunteers make all of this possible!

488 ambassador hours

5,035 docent hours

39 youth and family programs

70 schools served

138 community volunteers helped artist Patrick Dougherty create this magical sculpture, titled *Far Flung*.

6 tons of willow tree saplings were twisted and turned over the course of three weeks.

7 Memories in the Museum programs for guests with memory loss

Photo by Robert A. Flischel Photography