BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

WE CHANGE PEOPLE. THEY CHANGE THE WORLD.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
THE JACK S. BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART at The University of Texas at Austin has played a vital role in the cultural life of the students of the University and the people of Texas since its founding in 1963. With the opening in 2006 of a new state-of-the-art, 180,000-square-foot facility, the Blanton became the largest university art museum in the country and the third-largest art museum in the state. The museum has reinvented itself, dramatically expanding its role and relevance in the communities it serves. In its new home, annual attendance has more than doubled, and the Blanton has introduced a number of new programs to reach out to its larger, more diverse audience — all of which have drawn national recognition to the museum. Blanton-organized exhibitions have traveled nationally and internationally and have captured the attention of The New York Times, Art Forum, and other leading publications. The Wall Street Journal said of the new Blanton, “Its resources as a teaching tool are equaled only by those of Harvard and Yale.”

The Blanton has the distinct honor of being part of one of the great public universities in America and also the principal art museum for a major metropolitan area. As such, it is committed to building a lively and engaged community of art lovers of all ages and backgrounds. The museum serves as a learning and training resource for University students in a broad variety of disciplines and a valuable link between the University and the public, offering research, teaching, and learning opportunities for all visitors.

THE BLANTON VISION

The Blanton has the capacity for unparalleled excellence — to become the leading university art museum in the country, to build institutional affiliations with the great international centers for research, and to be one of the great art museums of Texas. The University community’s investment in a new facility signaled its dedication to creating a world-class museum in every respect. Now, with a robust commitment to programming and the collection, the Blanton will heighten its impact on the cultural landscape of Texas for generations to come.

CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

In planning the next stage of development, the Blanton has set strategic goals that build upon its strengths and help realize its vision.

The Blanton will conduct and disseminate research by maximizing the use of the University’s breadth of resources and by building national and international collaborations:

• Expansive curatorial research and scholarship at the Blanton spark artist and scholar dialogues and engage museum audiences through exhibitions, publications, and commissions of new works of art. Support for these activities will deepen the Blanton’s contributions to the University’s research, teaching, and public service mission.
• The Blanton has a strong history of preparing students from the College of Fine Arts and departments across campus by giving them the opportunity to pair rigorous academic training with hands-on experience. Through the internship program, the Blanton will provide a premier training ground in art-museum practices for art historians, curators, and educators and will be a valuable resource to help attract the next generation of students and faculty to the University.

The Blanton will develop internationally recognized exhibitions and innovative programs that create extraordinary visitor experiences and that are models for museums across the country:

• Blanton-organized exhibitions have gained notable recognition, such as the 2007 award for “Best Thematic Show Nationally” from the International Association of Art Critics — one of the most prestigious in the art world. Organizing major exhibitions requires tremendous resources to support activities ranging from conducting historical research to interpreting and presenting the work of living artists. Support for a world-class exhibition program ensures the Blanton is an active contributor to the development of art and art history while elevating the University’s standing as an international leader in the field.

• Professors from the College of Fine Arts and academic departments across campus rely on the Blanton’s permanent collection and temporary exhibitions as teaching tools for a wide range of topics and disciplines. As one of the gems of the University campus, the Blanton’s collection also serves as a resource for signature courses designed to enrich the undergraduate experience. By broadening partnerships within the University, the Blanton will provide all students with a deeper understanding of arts and culture and help foster the next generation of arts advocates and patrons and community leaders.

• Through the collection and the expertise of distinguished faculty from a variety of disciplines, Blanton programs provide new learning experiences for the general public and the K-12 community. The Blanton will continue to serve as a gateway to the University by offering innovative educational experiences throughout Texas and the world at-large.

The Blanton will build excellent and distinctive collections by acquiring works and will ensure the accessibility and physical care of the collection by expanding storage capacity in the new facility:

• The museum’s rapidly growing collection includes more than 18,000 works with concentrations in art from the United States, Europe, and Latin America. These treasures are preserved, organized, and presented to support scholarship and education within and beyond the campus. The Blanton will continue to build and safeguard its collection, using it to convey new ways to understand the world through the prism of art and provide access to an artistic record of the highest quality.
A DISCIPLINED CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

The campaign for the Blanton Museum of Art is part of the University-wide campaign to increase resources across the campus and to create the “disciplined culture of excellence” called for by the Commission of 125, which established goals for the University for the coming 25 years. Gifts to the Blanton will support the following areas:

**Director and Curatorial Positions** ................................................................. $15 million

**Internship Program** ...................................................................................... $3 million

**Exhibitions, Publications, and Programs** ...................................................... $14 million

**Art Acquisitions and Collection Care** .......................................................... $8 million

Total .................................................................................................................. $40 million