

**Knoxville Museum of Art
Fiscal Year 2022
Annual Report**

The 2022 fiscal year (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022) encompassed more-or-less the third year of the COVID pandemic. At the KMA, as in the rest of the world, it was the year when things started to get back to normal, sort of. We started the year with a smaller-than-normal cohort of children, widely spaced and wearing masks. for Summer Art Academy. The museum returned to regular public hours (Tuesday-Saturday 10-5, Sunday 1-5) in late July, and visitor numbers for the year 46,124, an increase of 118% from the previous year, but still far from pre-pandemic levels. Masks were mandatory in all public areas for most of the year. In-person programming resumed, with a somewhat lighter schedule than before. Also in FY2022, documented engagements with the KMA's various digital platforms—knoxart.org, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.--reached nearly 500,000 as the museum's digital footprint continued to expand.

In many ways, 2021-22 felt like a normal year, but with an undertone of anxiety and uncertainty: if local infection and hospitalization numbers spiked, as they sometimes did, an event or program would have to be cancelled, rescheduled, or moved to an online platform. But mostly things went smoothly. We had our first real members' exhibition opening in nearly two years in late August, for [*Under Construction: Collage from the Mint Museum*](#), with welcoming remarks by the Mint Museum curator via video feed from Charlotte. This important exhibition, delayed for a year, assembled an important group of important collages by Charlotte native Romare Bearden and the stellar roster of international artists he influenced. The KMA was proud to host the Hola Hispanic Heritage Festival kick off in September, along with a small exhibition of works by local Latino artists. The [KMA Guild](#) and [Art House](#), the KMA's under-fifty auxiliary group, resumed in-person activities, and we resumed in-person education programs, all while keeping a close eye on local COVID numbers. December was a particularly busy month. Hundreds of (masked) teachers, students, and parents attended the opening of the [*East Tennessee Regional Student Art Exhibition*](#), where they were welcomed by Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon. The KMA Guild's Holiday Homes Tour, once again an in-person event, was the most successful ever in terms of net proceeds. Alive After Five fired up again after a nearly two-year hiatus, with new coordinator Brian Clay. Also in December, PBS aired a new episode of [*Craft in America*](#) featuring Richard Jolley's *Cycle of Life* and the musical composition it inspired, premiered in April (after a two-year pandemic delay) by the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra at the Tennessee Theatre.

Although East Tennessee is the KMA's primary focus, we always want to keep in sight the global landscape in which we operate. Thanks to the generosity of the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation, we had a great opportunity to look outward in winter 2022 with [*Global Asias: Contemporary Asian and Asian American Art*](#). While the KMA has hosted important exhibitions by individual Asian artists over the years, *Global Asias* presented a broad picture of the impact of Asian and Asian Americans artists on worldwide developments. We were grateful to have

Jordan Schnitzer here in February to share insights about his superlative collection. An Asian Art Festival, produced with the help of the Asian Center of Tennessee, brought 400+ people to the KMA to enjoy food, music, and entertainment, and highlighted the diversity of Knoxville's Asian communities. The Consul General of Japan for the Southeast came from Nashville for the occasion.

Other highlights of the 2022 fiscal year:

- Another successful [L'Amour du Vin](#) in early March.
- On March 15, the first Sarah Jane Hardrath Kramer Lecture in two years brought McArthur "genius" grant recipient Kellie Jones from Columbia University to talk about the twentieth-century African American sculptor Augusta Savage.
- Later in March, the prestigious international music festival Big Ears, after a two-year hiatus, once again (literally) brought the world to Knoxville. The KMA hosted the opening festivities and was the site of free Big Ears programming.
- We were able for the first time in two years to recognize in person the hundreds of volunteers who power the KMA and its programs at the Volunteer Recognition Reception in April.
- Also in April, [Collectors Circle](#) took its first out-of-town trip in several years, touring the new art museum and private collections in Asheville. The KMA Guild brought in several dozen plein-air artists to Knoxville to paint at various locations in and around Knoxville, culminating with a reception and sale at the KMA. Artists on Location has grown into a big fundraiser and generally fun way to connect artists and buyers.
- The year wrapped up with another successful Kick Off to Summer in May.
- We got word in spring that we would receive \$45,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts and \$145,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support the expansion and reinstallation of *Higher Ground: A Century of the Visual Arts in East Tennessee*, the museum's flagship permanent exhibition. NEH and NEA are intensely competitive grants, and securing both is a considerable achievement that says a lot about the quality of the project and represents an important stamp of approval for what we're doing. We had already received significant funding from the Terra Foundation for American Art and the Henry Luce Foundation. Gallery renovations for the new installation are slated to begin spring 2023. Work continued on planning the new installation and the expanded interpretive apparatus that will frame it, including guided tours in English and Spanish accessible via cellphone, and a color-illustrated exhibition catalogue.

- We received the happy news as the year came to a close that the KMA will receive \$775,000 over the next three years from Tennessee Nonprofit Arts & Culture Recovery Fund as part of a COVID relief programs administered by the Tennessee Arts Commission.

David Butler, Executive Director

FY 2022 At A Glance

Total number of visitors 46,124
Membership retention rate 78%
Number of membership households 1,217
Private gifts \$791,313
Earned income \$194,250
Endowment corpus \$6,020,461
Total operating revenue \$2,824,665
Total operating expenses \$2,155,847

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

KNOXVILLE MUSEUM OF ART

Gifts of \$1,000 and above received between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022

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