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.

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

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 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.


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


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: pemitanaahkwahki 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.
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.

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/3ck45xP

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.

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 Dia de Muertos: A Blooming Tradition in the United States. The events were presented in partnership with Nopal Cultural and Arte Mexicano en Indiana.

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.

#EJQuiltersHelpHealthcareHeroes

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/3ck45xP
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.

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. 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/. The same Native American artists, performers and culture bearers were invited back for the 2021 Virtual Indian Market.

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.

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/2OftbT5

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.
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.

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.

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/3euAcF

**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.
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.

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.

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.

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.

*Dia 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. 29 to Nov. 2, 2020, the museum’s *Dia 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.

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.

On June 19, 2020, noon–1 p.m.

*The History of Juneteenth and Systemic Racism & Solutions*

A Zoom conversation with Dr. James C. Anyike, Lead Servant/ Pastor of Scott United Methodist Church, and Tammy L. Cooper, Black History Educator & College Professor

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.
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.

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.

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.
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

**The New York Times**
“This Year Will End Eventually. Document It While You Can.”
July 14, 2020
https://nyti.ms/3cIYcHW

**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

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.

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, 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)

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/

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.

17,500 Subscribers

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2020 General Member Households: 2,493
2020 Eagle Society Member Households: 125
17,500 Subscribers
Through donors and their support and gifts of art, the Eiteljorg’s remarkable collections have grown, underscoring the museum’s national prominence. 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...
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.
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.

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 Mitohseenonki: 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.

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.
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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2020

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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/](https://eiteljorg.org/give/volunteer/), e-mail volunteers@eiteljorg.com or call volunteer services coordinator Jay Harkness at 317.275.1325.

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=qSXEgIeIILM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSXEgIeIILM)
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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 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/2ygpggL
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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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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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**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).
  - 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.

*Deceased*
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.

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 Potowatomi 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
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.