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Smith College Museum of Art (SCMA) Awarded \$280,000 from Art Bridges Foundation
"Access for All" funds allow museum to extend hours, outreach and programming



November 13, 2023, Northampton, MA—[Smith College Museum of Art \(SCMA\)](#) has been awarded \$280,000 over 3 years from [Art Bridges Foundation](#) through its new "Access for All" grant initiative. Joining a generous gift from Smith College alumnae Jan Fullgraf Golann '71 and Jane Timken '64 that enabled the museum to eliminate all admission fees, this funding will be used to provide further access to art through a wide range of initiatives. SCMA will invest in access and audience development with extended hours, innovative programming, and student outreach.

"Everyone, no matter where they live, deserves access to art. That's why we started Art Bridges: to support museums in deepening their connections with local communities, and to pave the way for new audiences to experience the creativity and joy that comes with seeing art," said philanthropist Alice Walton, founder and board chair of [Art Bridges](#). "We are deeply grateful to our generous alums and Art Bridges for ensuring that every member of our community has access to SCMA's inspiring collection and public programs. With the elimination of our admission fee we've seen an immediate increase in visitation. We look forward to building audience engagement with the support of this transformative grant from Art Bridges," said Jessica Nicoll, Director and Louise Ines Doyle '34 Chief Curator at the Smith College Museum of Art.

Art Bridges Foundation launched "Access for All" to provide \$40 million in funding to 64 museums nationwide. The initiative aims to increase access to museums across the country and foster engagement with local communities by covering the costs of free admission and expanded free hours as well as programming, outreach, and community partnerships that together, will eliminate many common barriers to access.

Museums participating in the Access for All initiative span 36 states and Puerto Rico. Smith College Museum of Art is among the 64 partners representing a broad range of locations including Howard University Gallery of Arts (Washington, D.C.); Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico (San Juan, PR); Plains Art Museum (Fargo, ND); Portland Museum of Art (Portland, ME); San Diego Museum of Art (San Diego, CA); Whitney Museum of American Art (New York, NY); Wichita Art Museum (Wichita, KS); and Yellowstone Art Museum (Billings, MT). The full list of participating museums can be found on the Art Bridges website at <https://artbridgesfoundation.org/access-for-all>

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ABOUT ART BRIDGES FOUNDATION

Art Bridges Foundation is the vision of philanthropist and arts patron Alice Walton. The mission of Art Bridges is to expand access to American art in all regions across the United States. Since 2017, Art Bridges has been creating and supporting programs that bring outstanding works of American art out of storage and into communities. Art Bridges partners with a growing network of over 220 museums of all sizes and locations on nearly 700 projects across the nation, impacting over 4.1 million people, to provide financial and strategic support for exhibition development, loans from the Art Bridges Collection, and programs designed to educate, inspire, and deepen engagement with local audiences. The Art Bridges Collection represents an expanding vision of American art from the 19th century to present day and encompasses multiple media and voices. For more information, visit artbridgesfoundation.org.

ABOUT SCMA

As a teaching museum affiliated with Smith College, SCMA is dedicated to connecting people to art, ideas and each other by engaging people with firsthand experiences of art, artists and museum practice; collecting, researching, presenting and preserving an expansive collection of art in the service of learning, teaching and critical dialogue; and by fostering an environment that welcomes diverse perspectives and inspires imagination.

In SCMA's galleries, classrooms and Cunningham Center for the Study of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs visitors experience a world-class collection that includes modern and contemporary art, American and western European masterworks, antiquities, emerging collections of Asian and African art and a comprehensive collection of works on paper. SCMA and the Museum Shop are open to the public year round Tuesday–Sunday, 11am to 4pm.

An accredited member of the American Alliance of Museums and a founding member of Museums10, a regional cultural collaboration, SCMA is also a member of the College Art Association and the New England Museum Association. For more information, visit scma.smith.edu.

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