



LAUREN ROGERS
MUSEUM *of* ART

LRMA News

WINTER 2025

MEMORIES & INSPIRATION

The Kerry and C. Betty Davis
Collection of African American Art

February 4 - April 20, 2025
Lower Level Galleries



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We closed out 2024 with *The Crystal Ball*, and I want to thank Gala Chairmen Katie and David Sullivan for their service and time. Under their leadership, the auctions raised more than \$130,000 for our education and exhibition programs. I would also like to commend Premier Auction Chair Christa Alexander, Auction Chairmen Amanda and Nick Roll, Decorations Chair Angie Scruggs, Preview Party Chair Susan Haines as well as all of our committees.

Of course, an event the magnitude of the gala could not happen without the support of our auction donors, and we are grateful for their assistance and generosity. A listing of our gala volunteer committees and donors can be found in this issue. I also would be remiss if I did not recognize the hard work of the LRMA staff in making this annual fundraiser a success—it is truly a team effort.

When you are housed in a historic building like we are here at LRMA, changing or altering anything original is a difficult challenge. When that change is replacing iconic front doors original to the 1923 museum, it is really difficult! The need for new front doors allowed us to rethink their design and include glass panels for a more welcoming look. I must commend local craftsman Mike Hunter who created our new doors—they are exquisite! I also thank Morgan Brothers Millwork of Laurel for their assistance as well as blacksmith Walter Neil of Oxford for creating new pull handles and push plates. We look forward to those doors welcoming visitors for another 100 years.



New museum front doors were installed in the fall.

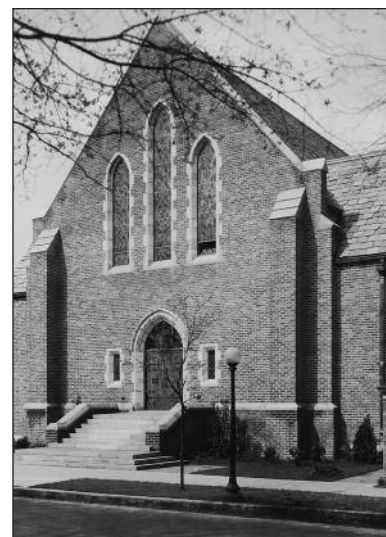
We are pleased to have two new exhibitions on view. *Memories & Inspiration: The Kerry and C. Betty Davis Collection of African American Art* offers a variety of artists and artistic styles. We are honored to host such an important collection which has traveled the country the last three years. *Nuestro Mississippi* allows us to celebrate our state's varied Latin history and is sponsored by the Mississippi Humanities Council. Comprised of 18 photographic portraits of Mississippians taken by Austin, Texas photographer Roj Rodriguez, this exhibit tells the rich story of our Hispanic community.



Matisse collage activity at the museum

Of course, our strength continues to be our education and public programming, and the next few months promise to offer a variety of opportunities for our community to engage with us at the museum. From classes to festivals and from yoga to concerts, I hope you will seek out the wonderful events planned at the museum and participate as much as you can. We will always strive to keep education as the center of our focus—just as our founders intended.

Speaking of our founders, 2025 marks the centennial of the construction of First-Trinity Presbyterian Church built in memory of Lauren Rogers with primary funding provided by Lauren's grandparents, his parents and the family of his widow. Standing tall at the other end of our 5th Avenue block and lovingly referred to as "Laurel's Cathedral," this magnificent church is built in gothic architecture with exquisite stained glass



First-Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1925

windows. As part of the church's 100th anniversary this year, we are partnering with them on a variety of programs, one of which is a lecture on stained glass and gothic architecture on May 1st, the museum's 102nd anniversary. A tour of the church and its windows will follow the lecture.

— George Bassi

EXHIBITIONS

MEMORIES & INSPIRATION

The Kerry and C. Betty Davis Collection of African American Art

FEBRUARY 4 - APRIL 20, 2025 LOWER LEVEL GALLERIES

Exhibition generously sponsored by



The Jean Chisholm Lindsey
Exhibition Endowment Fund

Comprising 67 spectacular works of art, *Memories & Inspiration: The Kerry and C. Betty Davis Collection of African American Art* is the culmination of a 35-year journey into a realm that few have explored with such passion and dedication—the world of art and art collecting. *Memories & Inspiration* draws generously from the Davis Collection, a treasury of artworks located in a private home in Atlanta, Georgia, primarily by African American artists but also featuring some works from other parts of the African diaspora. This landmark collection was assembled by Kerry and Betty Davis, an ordinary working class couple who happily sacrificed material goods and comforts in order to surround themselves with the drawings, paintings, prints, and sculptures they loved. Guided by a passion for collecting and by their extensive knowledge of art—as well as a desire to preserve cultural memories and inspire their community—the Davises have built one of the richest private collections of African American art in the world. This traveling exhibition is their way of sharing some of its highlights with art lovers nationwide.



Charles White, *Lily C.*, 1973, etching. Photograph by Gregory Staley. © 2021 The Charles White Archives



Memories & Inspiration: The Kerry and C. Betty Davis Collection of African American Art is organized and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC.



Kerry and Betty Davis

CONVERSATION WITH THE COLLECTORS

Thursday, February 6, 2025

5:30 p.m. Program 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Reception Free and open to the public

Please join us for a conversation between Curator of Collections and Exhibitions Kristen Miller Zohn and collectors Kerry and Betty Davis. The couple will describe how they began to collect art, the relationships they have with the artists in their collection, and how they live with the works in their own home.

Kerry Davis, a native of Atlanta, Georgia, is a former sergeant of the United States Air Force, a retired carrier with the United States Postal Service, and an ordained deacon. He began collecting in the mid-1980s in partnership with his wife, Betty, who shared his passion for art. Begun originally with the modest aim of enhancing the interior decor of their mid-century split-level home in suburban Atlanta, the Davises' collection has grown to over 650 works of art by 115 of the most distinguished African American artists of the twentieth century.

Inspired by previous generations of African American art collectors, who understood the importance of preserving cultural expression, memory, and imagery, Davis has sought to contribute to this legacy and be a source of inspiration for others in the community. The Davis residence—dubbed an “In-Home Museum” by visiting neighbors, parishioners, and friends—serves as a meeting place and cultural hub for artists, collectors, and art enthusiasts.

EXHIBITIONS

MEMORIES & INSPIRATION

The Kerry and C. Betty Davis Collection of African American Art

FEBRUARY 4 - APRIL 20, 2025 LOWER LEVEL GALLERIES



Kevin Earlee Cole, *When Blessings Meet Opportunity*, 2000, Mixed media, 26 x 23 1/4, Photo by Greg Staley, © Kevin Earlee Cole



Sam Gilliam, *Untitled*, 1974, oil acrylic on rice paper. Photograph by Gregory Staley. Courtesy of David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA. © Sam Gilliam.



Kevin Cole

MEET THE ARTIST KEVIN COLE

Thursday, March 20, 2025

5:30 p.m. Program 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Reception and Book Signing Free and open to the public

Kevin Cole's work is included in the Museum's permanent collection and is featured in *Memories & Inspiration*. Born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Cole holds a B.S. from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, an M.A. in art education from the University of Illinois at Urbana, and an M.F.A. from Northern Illinois University. Within the past 32 years, he has earned 31 grants, 66 art awards, and 51 teaching awards, including 2025 Retired Art Educator of the Year by Georgia Art Educators and Most Notable Georgian in 2023 by *Georgia Trend Magazine*. His artwork has appeared in over 500 exhibitions worldwide and is in more than 4,500 collections, including the Smithsonian, High Museum of Art, and Yale University Art Gallery. Cole has created over 47 public art pieces, notably a 15-story mural for the 1996 Olympic Games. His work has been featured in *The Guardian*, *The Washington Post*, *Sculpture Magazine*, and *Forbes Magazine*.

Cole will highlight his life and work, and he will speak about how he came to know Kerry and Betty Davis. After the lecture, he will be signing copies of a book about his exhibition at The Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia titled *Where Do We Go from Here?*

Nuestro MISSISSIPPI

January 21 - March 23, 2025

Christian Gallery

Nuestro Mississippi documents Mississippi's fastest-growing population: its Hispanic community. Immigrants from Latin America have set down roots and created communities across the Magnolia State for generations. Today, from Hernando to Biloxi, they work as farmers, public health professionals, business owners, professors, dancers, artists, archivists, and community organizers. A series of portraits by Austin-based photographer Roj Rodriguez and related programming highlight their resilience, historical impact, and ongoing contributions to Mississippi culture.

This project and its presentation at the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art are the result of a unique partnership between the Mississippi Humanities Council (MHC) and the Immigrant Alliance for Justice & Equity (IAJE), with support from the Community Foundation for Mississippi.

Nuestro Mississippi documenta la población de más rápido crecimiento de Mississippi: la comunidad hispana. Durante generaciones, las personas inmigrantes de América Latina han echado raíces y creado comunidades en todo el Estado de la Magnolia. En la actualidad, desde Hernando hasta Biloxi, trabajan como agricultores, profesionales de la salud pública, dueños de negocios, profesores, bailarines, artistas, archiveros y organizadores comunitarios. Una serie de retratos del fotógrafo Roj Rodriguez, radicado en Austin, junto con una programación relacionada, resaltan su resiliencia, impacto histórico y contribuciones continuas a la cultura de Mississippi.

Este proyecto y su presentación en el Lauren Rogers Museum of Art son el resultado de una asociación única entre el Consejo de Humanidades (MHC) de Mississippi y la Alianza de Inmigrantes por la Justicia y la Equidad (IAJE), con el apoyo de la Fundación Comunitaria para Mississippi.

Roj Rodriguez is a photographer based out of Austin, Texas. His book, *Mi Sangre*, documents people and everyday life on both sides of the Texas-Mexico border. His work is part of the permanent collections of The Museum of Fine Arts of Houston, The San Antonio Museum of Art, La Plaza de Cultura y Artes in Los Angeles, and the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago.



Hector Boldo



Lorena Quiroz and family



Dr. Karina Zelaya



Elizabeth Morales

EDUCATION

DROP-IN CLASSES

home school ART

4th Thursdays – January 23 · February 27 · March 27 · April 24

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. · Museum Annex

Join other home school families for an afternoon of drop-in art adventures in the Annex. From toddlers to teenagers, everyone will enjoy this hands-on art experience. Activities change monthly and no registration is required.

ARTful Yoga

Wednesdays in April · 9:00 a.m.

FREE - no reservations required

Join us for an artful yoga class and engage in a practice that focuses on relaxation, balance, and strength! Ann Barrow, a certified yoga instructor, will lead each drop-in class. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothes and bring their own yoga mat. Beginners are welcome.



PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Spring Break FESTIVAL

Tuesday, March 18 · 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

This FREE family event features hands-on activities, live demonstrations, interactive art experiences and more!

CHALKFEST

Saturday, April 19 · 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Chalkfest is back for its fifth year! We are once-again closing the street so artists of all ages and stages can drop by and make their mark. Draw a quick doodle or a detailed design to share with the community!

KIDS CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

(advance registration required)



CLAY CREATIONS: CHILDREN'S POTTERY

Tuesdays · February 11, 18,
and 25

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Grades 3 – 6

\$63 members / \$75 non-members

Instructor: Jeremy Brooke

Students will discover the basics of slab construction and hand-building with clay. From learning the fundamentals to exploring underglazes and textures – participants will do it all! No prior experience is necessary, and all supplies are included.



ADULT CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

(advance registration required)

ADULT POTTERY: THROWING ON THE WHEEL

Wednesdays · March 12, 19, 26 and April 2 and 16*

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. · Carriage House Studio

\$120 members / \$140 non-members

Instructor: Byron Myrick

Join us for this 5-session class focusing on the art and technique of throwing on the wheel. Supplies are included and ceramic enthusiasts of all experience levels are welcome. Space is limited and registration is required.

*Class will not meet on April 12.



“GALentines” PAINTING PARTY

Thursday, February 13

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. · Carriage House Studio

\$25 members / \$30 non-members

Instructor: Laura Jones

Grab your girlfriends and join instructor Laura Jones to create an acrylic work of heART! Refreshments and all supplies will be provided.

LIGHTEN UP, LOOSEN UP: ONE-DAY WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

Wednesday, March 5

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

\$85 members / \$100 non-members

Instructor: Richard Stephens

In this workshop, participants will experience a mix of technical insights, entertaining demonstrations, and personalized guidance with accomplished watercolor artist Richard Stephens. The day will begin with a brief, interactive presentation followed by a complete watercolor demonstration where Stephens explains his techniques, tools, and design principles. Afterward, students work on their own paintings or participate in exercises focused on lightening up and loosening up their approach. Throughout the day, Stephens offers one-on-one support tailored to each student's unique style and goals, creating an educational, relaxed, and non-competitive environment. The workshop emphasizes process over perfection, helping students discover their own voice in watercolor painting.

ONE-NIGHT CERAMICS WORKSHOPS

Friday, February 28 -
Chip and Dip Platters

Friday, March 21- Vases

Friday, April 11 -
Kitchen Accessory Sets

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Carriage House Studio

\$35 members /

\$40 non-members

Instructor: Jeremy Brooke

In each of these workshops, participants will use various clay types and unique surface decoration techniques to create beautiful pieces of art for inside or outside their home. No previous ceramic experience necessary and all materials and tools provided.

ONE-NIGHT WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

Friday, April 25

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Carriage House Studio

\$25 members /

\$30 non-members

Instructor: Laura Jones

Looking for a creative night out? Join us for a relaxed and fun guided painting experience. From the set-up to the supplies to the step-by-step instructions, everything you need to confidently create your own original piece of art will be provided. No experience is necessary.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

MUSIC *in the* MUSEUM

Friday, February 21, 2025
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

*Leontyne's Playlist: A Birthday
Tribute to an Operatic Icon*

Dr. Katrina L. Cox, mezzo-soprano
Dr. Christina Mathis, piano

With over 200 captivating performances across sixteen diverse roles at the Metropolitan Opera, Leontyne Price's illustrious career is nothing short of legendary. Her rich discography includes approximately 110 albums, 17 singles and EPs, and 85 compilations, each capturing the essence of her unparalleled artistry. Join us as Dr. Katrina L. Cox presents *Leontyne's Playlist*, a specially curated recital that journeys through the timeless songs and operatic masterpieces that defined her extraordinary legacy. Join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating the voice that forever changed the world of opera.



Dr. Katrina L. Cox

Friday, March 14, 2025
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

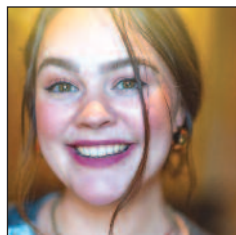
*Voices of Women:
A Celebration of Female
Composers*

Dr. Christina Mathis, piano
Cassia Mathis Taylor, vocals

Join us for an evening that shines a spotlight on the remarkable contributions of women to the world of classical music. This performance will bring together a diverse selection of works by composers whose voices have historically been underrepresented in the concert hall. From trailblazing figures of the past to contemporary innovators, *Voices of Women* showcases the depth, breadth, and brilliance of female composers across time.



Dr. Christina Mathis



Cassia Mathis Taylor

20
25

LAUREN ROGERS MUSEUM of ART

GARDEN LECTURE

presented in partnership with The Laurel Garden Club



FRIDAY, FEB. 21 · 10:30 AM

EMILY GROHOVSKY CEDAR HILL GARDEN CONSULTING

Emily Grohovsky, a Mississippi native, founded Cedar Hill Garden Consulting to teach people how to design and build beautiful and productive kitchen gardens. Join us as Emily illustrates how anyone can grow fresh, organic food regardless of space, budget, or time constraints.

Tickets \$30 • Lunch included

to REGISTER

LRMA.ORG or **601-649-6374**

STAINED GLASS & GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE

May 1, 2025 1:30 p.m.

Lecture by Dr. Jennifer M. Feltman, Associate Professor of Medieval Art and Architecture, Department of Art and Art History, The University of Alabama

Following the lecture, LRMA Director George Bassi will lead a tour of the windows of First-Trinity Presbyterian Church.



Photo by Michael Underwood

Sponsored by the Selby & Richard McRae Foundation Lecture Series

GALA 2024

The Crystal Ball

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Katy and Stephens Bateman



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Mandy and Robert DeSantis



Amanda and Hunter McLeod



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Pamela and Larry Thomas



Amy and Stone Thames, Nicki and Andrew Hudson



Bryn and Hoss Nasajpour



Mary and Andrew Ousley



Katy and Scott Ainsworth

DEVELOPMENT

The Lauren Rogers Museum of Art

provides exposure to the visual arts through focused collections, diversified exhibitions, and educational programs; encourages awareness of the aesthetic and cultural values of the visual arts; and seeks to enhance the quality of life in Laurel and Jones County, the state of Mississippi, and the Southern region.

LRMA is a private, non-profit organization operating for the benefit of the public.

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Tues-Sat, 10 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Sunday, 1 - 4 p.m.
Closed Mondays

ADMISSION IS FREE.

LRMA is supported by Memberships, Donations, The Eastman Memorial Foundation, Jones County, Laurel Arts League, Mississippi Arts Commission and The National Endowment for the Arts. This publication is funded in part by a grant from The Mississippi Arts Commission and The National Endowment for the Arts.

LRMA CONTRIBUTIONS:

HOW MUCH IS DEDUCTIBLE?

If you have questions concerning the deductible limits of your Museum contributions for IRS purposes including fund-raising events (i.e. Gala), please call the Museum Office.

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(8/16/2024 through 12/15/2024)

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For: Mr. Bruce Gavin

From: Mr. & Mrs. George Bassi

For: Mr. & Mrs. Stewart Gilchrist (Gene)

From: Ms. Jene Stevens

For: Mrs. Thomas Harris Jr. (Page)

From: Mr. & Mrs. George Bassi

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Mr. & Mrs. Gardiner Green Jr.

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For: Mrs. Earl Schneider (Peggy)

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Ms. Nancy Guice

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From: Mr. & Mrs. William Carter

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Herring

For: Dr. Jerry Welch

From: Mr. & Mrs. William Carter

Tributes

(8/16/2024 through 12/15/2024)

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From: Pam, Beth, Caroline, Julia & Jeanne

For: Mr. & Mrs. Carl Gambrell

Mr. Frank Gilchrist

Ms. Sara Goodwin

Mr. & Mrs. David Justice

Mr. & Mrs. Tim Stinson

From: Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Harrington

For: Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Harrington

From: Mr. & Mrs. David Justice

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For: Mrs. David Moffett (Towana)

From: Mr. Russell Moffett

For: Ms. Jene Stevens

From: Mr. & Mrs. David Justice

Mr. & Mrs. Holt McMullan

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(8/16/2024 through 12/15/2024)

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Jones College Workforce
Jones County Medical Supplies
Ms. Laura Jones
Julie Vos
Juniker Jewelry Co.

Katelyn Harbaugh Art
Mr. & Mrs. Brad Kent
Kim Keyes
Kim's Auto Group
Mr. & Mrs. Zan Kiparizoska
Ms. Tina Lutz Kirk
Knight Butcher
Dr. & Mrs. Seth Ladd
Landmark Landscape Services
Laurel Country Club
Laurel Dental Care
Laurel Laserworks
Laurel Nursery
Mr. & Mrs. Franc Lee
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander C. Lindsey
The Loft
Ms. Mary Loving
Magnolia State Bank
Mahogany Hall Resort
Maidenhair Studio
Dr. Amanda Mathews
Ms. Elise Mathews
Dr. & Mrs. Harlon Mathews
Mr. & Mrs. William McLean
Mr. & Mrs. Hunter McLeod
Michael McKinnon Architecture
Mr. Nick Messersmith
Mr. & Mrs. John Milham
Ms. Rachel Misenaar
Mohawk Steel & Glass Studio
Molloy-Seidenburg & Co. PA
Ms. Mundise Mortimer
Ms. Lisa Moynihan
Mr. & Mrs. William S. Mullins III
Mr. & Mrs. Trent Mulloy
Mr. Byron Myrick
Ms. Erin Napier
Napier Frames
New South Restaurant Group
North Laurel Family Dentistry
Novi Creations
Dr. & Mrs. Steven Nowicki
The Outdoor Store
Columbia Block & Brick

Mr. & Mrs. Eric Parish and
Parish Transport
Patina's
Pediatric Dental Group of Hattiesburg
& Laurel
Phillips Building Supply
Ms. Andrea Prestridge
Mr. Jim Provost
Quarter Century
Mr. & Mrs. David Ratcliff
Mr. Gary Redditt
Jeff Reich
The Remnant
Renew Medi-Spa
Ms. Carol Roark
Mr. Everett Robinson, IV
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Roll
Ms. Kelly Arcarese Rosa
Mr. & Mrs. William Sanderson
Mr. & Mrs. Adam Sauls
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Sauls
The Scent Library
Scotsman Manufacturing
Ms. Darlene Scott
Scruggs Photography
Shug Boutique
SouthGroup
Ms. Ali Stayer
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Steinwinder
Ms. Cherilon Stevens
Dr. Rusty Stevens & Dr. Jamie Sisk
Ms. Susan Crawford Stevens
Dr. Shelley & Mr. Truitt Taylor
Ms. Lauren Temiyakarn
Mr. Kermit Thames
Mr. William L. Thames
Dr. Edward Turnbull
Dr. John Wallace
Mr. & Mrs. Jamie Walley
Wayne-Sanderson Farms
Ms. Adrienne Whatley

When asked to chair the 2024 Crystal Ball, my husband and I did not hesitate to accept the challenge because we consider the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art to be a true treasure for all. It was an honor to even be considered for this task and it was a real delight to work with so many exceptional people. Amanda and Nick Roll graciously accepted to head the Auction Committee and selected a highly dedicated "staff" of very committed item procurers. We cannot thank each of you enough! Christa Alexander secured donors for our Premier Auction and as always went far and beyond what was asked of her. I enjoyed shopping with her and respect her exceptionally good taste. Angie and Robby Scruggs continue to amaze me with their artistic talents and outdid themselves with the decorations. We must also thank Sadie and Emmy for their tireless efforts! Many times the LRMA staff are overlooked for their efforts to make any Gala a success, but we would personally like to commend all the staff for making this year extra enjoyable for all.

These few words can never completely express our gratitude and admiration for all who worked diligently to celebrate our magnificent museum. We have been blessed with a community of volunteers who understand the importance of art and what a wonderful rare jewel we have in our little old town. May this New Year bring your family continued blessings and thank you all for stepping up for a very worthwhile cause.

*Always,
Katie and David Sullivan, 2024 Gala Chairmen*

AROUND THE MUSEUM



LRMA Education Outreach program at the Laurel Senior Center in the fall



Choctaw Days in October featured stickball demonstrations.



Under the Oaks: Light Up the Night was held in October.



Heritage Arts Festival was a success in October.



The Laurel Arts League helped with our Very Special Arts Festival in November.



Students from the Laurel Magnet School for the Arts at Night at the Museum in November



Participants at Heritage Arts Festival in October enjoyed a craft activity led by Lori Hearn's State Farm Insurance Agency.

Follow LRMA on Facebook at [Lauren Rogers Museum of Art](#) and Twitter @[LaurenRogersMoA](#).



Send your email address to info@LRMA.org if you would like to receive membership e-blasts with updates on events and art classes.


LAUREN ROGERS
 MUSEUM *of* ART

565 NORTH 5TH AVENUE
 POST OFFICE BOX 1108
 LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39441-1108

Telephone 601.649.6374
 Fax 601.649.6379
www.LRMA.org

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Sign language interpreter is available for tours and programs upon request; one week's notice is required.



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