

Artis—Naples

*Home of The Baker Museum
and the Naples Philharmonic*

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ARTIS—NAPLES HERALDS SUCCESS OF FUTURE—FORWARD CAMPAIGN FOR CULTURAL EXCELLENCE

Naples, FL (May 17, 2023) — Artis—Naples proudly announces the success of its Future—Forward Campaign for Cultural Excellence. Launched in 2016, the campaign initially aspired to raise \$50 million for the endowment, and then, following the impact from Hurricane Irma in 2017, was expanded to \$75 million for four key areas: improvements and upgrades to its physical campus, support for and expansion of artistic and community initiatives, growing The Baker Museum’s permanent collection and significantly increasing its endowment. With a campaign goal of \$75 million, Artis—Naples is pleased to proclaim the campaign’s success, with contributed revenue exceeding \$95 million.

“The overwhelming generosity of our community has enabled us to raise substantially more than we imagined for all four pillars of the campaign,” said Kathleen van Bergen, CEO and President of Artis—Naples. “We are thrilled at the extent to which our community of donors have stepped up and demonstrated their support for our mission and for the future of Artis—Naples. This includes full participation from the deeply dedicated Artis—Naples Board of Directors, who contributed over fifty percent of these committed funds. The involvement of so many underpins the success and vibrancy of this organization, ensuring that we can continue to bring world-class cultural offerings to the community for generations.”

“And an extraordinary final gift was made to the campaign just days before its completion,” van Bergen went on to announce. “We are moved beyond words that an angel donor, who already made a leadership gift of \$10 million at the start of the campaign to endow the Artistic and Music Director position, made another momentous \$10 million gift last month. Our deep and unwavering gratitude goes to Sharon and the late Timothy Ubben, whose legacy will forever resound throughout Artis—Naples.”

The completion and success of the Future—Forward Campaign is made all the more poignant by the recent appointment of Alexander Shelley as the incoming Sharon and Timothy Ubben Artistic and Music Director. These exciting developments have ushered in a new chapter for Artis—Naples that promises to marry artistic excellence with ambitious plans for the future, all underpinned by the unwavering organizational strength ensured by this campaign.

The priorities encompassed in the campaign included the repair and renovation of The Baker Museum, which was completed in 2020 and included an 18,000 square-foot expansion of its spaces. Additional improvements included an upgraded façade designed to withstand hurricane conditions, two repurposed galleries that have increased exhibition space for the permanent collection and visiting exhibitions and the creation of several new spaces for social interaction, performance, education activities and exhibitions.

Further priorities included the expansion of artistic offerings, which now take place nearly year-round and new, free community programs have been added in order to increase the opportunities for art lovers of all ages to engage with Artis—Naples programming. In addition, increasing The Baker Museum’s permanent collection has helped the relatively young museum grow in both scope and reputation.

As a result of the Future—Forward Campaign for Cultural Excellence, the endowment has grown to more than \$119 million since 2016, which provides fiscal stability and added financial support to the day-to-day operations of Artis—Naples.

Artis—Naples gives deep and enduring thanks to the visionary philanthropic leaders who have provided for the continued development and success of its programs and mission, including hundreds of donors who gave generously from \$100 to \$20 million.

ARTIS—NAPLES

Home of The Baker Museum and the Naples Philharmonic, Artis—Naples is unique among cultural institutions nationwide, equally dedicated to both the visual and performing arts featuring artists of global distinction.

KIMBERLY K. QUERREY and LOUIS A. SIMPSON CULTURAL CAMPUS

Led by CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen and, beginning in the 2024-25 season, Sharon and Timothy Ubben Artistic and Music Director Alexander Shelley, Artis—Naples offers more than 800 paid and free events annually across its 8.5-acre Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus. Artis—Naples welcomes thousands of visitors each year for a broad array of artistic and educational opportunities perfect for audiences of all backgrounds and interests. The cultural campus is home to five buildings, including two performance halls (Frances Pew Hayes Hall and Myra J. Daniels Pavilion), The Baker Museum, the Toni Stabile Education Building and the Kohan Administration Building.

NAPLES PHILHARMONIC

The Naples Philharmonic has long been recognized as one of the cornerstones of Southwest Florida’s arts community. As part of Artis—Naples, the Naples Philharmonic performs more than 140 orchestral and chamber music concerts, as well as opera and ballet, education, community and special event concerts annually between September and June in the 1,477-seat Hayes Hall, the 283-seat Daniels Pavilion and around the Southwest Florida region. The Naples Philharmonic has enjoyed a history of working with world-class music directors, and recently announced the appointment of Artistic and Music Director Alexander Shelley, who assumes the role of Artistic and Music Director Designate through the 2023-24 season. Renowned violinist James Ehnes continues as Artistic Partner through the 2023-24 season, working with Naples Philharmonic musicians in a variety of settings with a focus on inspiring and embodying a high level of artistry. Podium leadership includes Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, celebrating 14 years in this role in the 2023-24 season and bringing pops performances that celebrate music in its many forms. In 2017, conductor Radu Paponiu was named assistant conductor of the Naples Philharmonic and director of the Naples Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and in 2019 he was promoted to associate conductor. Alvin Ho joined the artistic team as assistant conductor of the Naples Philharmonic at the start of the 2022-23 season.

THE BAKER MUSEUM

The Baker Museum is one of the foremost fine art museums in Southwest Florida. The museum hosts several traveling exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from its permanent collection. Comprising more than 4,000 objects, the museum’s broad holdings of 20th- and 21st-century art reflect the generosity and commitment of area collectors. Of particular strength are The Baker Museum’s collections of American and Mexican modern art, including significant gifts from the collection of Olga Hirshhorn.

With more than two decades of collecting and exhibiting, the museum is dedicated to stewardship and scholarship from both its growing permanent collection and outside sources. At the same time, The Baker Museum seeks out the best traveling exhibitions from the leading arts institutions in the world—including recently the National Portrait Gallery, London and the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation—to enrich the Southwest Florida community. In 2020, Artis—Naples celebrated the opening of an 18,000-square-foot expansion of The Baker Museum, designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism, that created new spaces for multidisciplinary exploration and social interaction.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

In addition to creating and presenting visual and performing arts, Artis—Naples provides robust education and community activities for students of all ages in Collier and southern Lee counties. Each season thousands of Collier County Public Schools interact with Artis—Naples education programming both on its cultural campus and in their classrooms. The Lifelong Learning program provides engaging lectures and study opportunities for adults seeking to engage more deeply with the arts.

The Friends of Artis—Naples, with more than 3,400 donor households, offers activities, travel experiences and events geared toward creating a deeper relationship between patrons and the arts.

In 2017, Artis—Naples acquired the Naples International Film Festival (NIFF), expanding its film offerings and providing a platform for the festival’s continued excellence and growth. In 2019, NIFF was named one of *MovieMaker* Magazine’s “Top 25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World,” and 2023 marks the 15th anniversary.

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