

# Artis—Naples

*Home of The Baker Museum  
and the Naples Philharmonic*

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## **ARTIS—NAPLES ANNOUNCES VENUE PARTNER FOR NIFF**

**Naples, Florida (September 5, 2023)** — Artis—Naples today announced Paragon Theaters – Pavilion as the partner venue for the 15th annual Naples International Film Festival (NIFF), taking place October 26-29, 2023. This new collaboration enhances the festival experience by extending the screenings to Paragon’s state-of-the-art theaters, located just a short drive north from the Artis—Naples Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus.

The announcement follows the recent closure of NIFF’s longtime partner venue, Silverspot Cinema, which hosted the festival in previous years.

“We are thrilled to welcome Paragon Theaters as a partner for this landmark edition of the Naples International Film Festival,” said Artis—Naples CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen. “This strategic partnership not only preserves the festival’s tradition of celebrating the best of independent cinema but also ushers in a new chapter of artistic collaboration and cinematic excellence.”

“We are so excited to be the new home for NIFF 2023,” said Michael Whalen, co-CEO of Paragon Theaters. “We are Naples’ hometown theater, and we can’t wait to bring the festival into our house. We hope all audiences enjoy screening the entries at our newly renovated cinemas, which we feel truly provide the best in movie-watching experiences.”

The Naples International Film Festival is a highly anticipated annual event that brings together film enthusiasts, industry professionals and filmmakers from around the world. This year’s festival will feature a captivating lineup of more than 60 independent films, including narrative features, documentary features and short films. Filmmakers representing diverse cultures and perspectives will present their works, offering audiences a unique opportunity to engage with the creators behind the stories.

For more information on NIFF 2023, please visit <https://artisnaples.org/naples-international-film-festival/>.

*Festival Presenting Sponsors Dr. Richard Lublin and Christine Lublin.*

*Generous support is provided by the Collier County Tourist Development Council.*

*Special thanks to Opening Night Film and Party Sponsor The Woodruff Institute; Filmmaker Lounge Sponsors Stan and Sarann Kraushaar; Closing Night Awards Ceremony, Film and Wrap Party Sponsors Rick and Gayle Landuyt; and Theater Sponsors Bobbi and David Drobis, Entech and Vincent and Debra Maffeo.*

## **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 immediately 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. Radu Paponiu serves as associate conductor of the Naples Philharmonic and director of the Naples Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and Alvin Ho serves as assistant conductor of the Naples Philharmonic.

## **THE BAKER MUSEUM**

The Baker Museum is the foremost fine art museum in Southwest Florida, presenting an ambitious slate of 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 particular strengths in modern art of the United States and Mexico. The Baker Museum's collections reflect the generosity and commitment of area collectors, including significant gifts from the collection of the late Olga Hirshhorn.

With more than two decades of collecting and exhibiting, the museum is committed to the stewardship and scholarship of its collections and to fostering inspiring and transformative experiences with the visual arts. At the same time, The Baker Museum partners with the world's leading arts institutions to make extraordinary exhibitions accessible to the Southwest Florida community—including recently the National Portrait Gallery, London and the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation. 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, which 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 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. Beyond our commitment to youth education, 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, comprised of more than 3,500 donor households, offers activities, travel experiences and events designed to foster 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 the 2023-24 season marks its 15th anniversary in the community.

### **PARAGON ENTERTAINMENT HOLDINGS LLC**

Paragon Entertainment Holdings LLC was founded in 2009 by exhibition industry veterans Michael Whalen and Michael Wilson, who were responsible for introducing the luxury theater concept to the United States movie-going public.

Whalen and Wilson have successfully built a “customer-first” corporation consisting of a diverse portfolio of entertainment-related brands operating mainly in North Carolina, Virginia and Florida, including here in Naples, Florida. Key brands within the Paragon Entertainment umbrella include mainstream and independent theaters (Paragon Theaters and Lotus Cinemas), bowling and arcade (Penny Lanes) and restaurant/bar operations (The Agency Kitchen & Bar and The Agency Bar & Social).

With an emphasis on supremely comfortable design, elevated amenities, premium concessions, and reimaged sight and sound, Paragon Theaters presents a complete, state-of-the-art sensory experience. Paragon Theaters proudly showcases the innovative LuxBox VIP Dine-in Seating—a special enclave of luxury, heated, zero-gravity recliners with direct access to dine-in table service where guests can get premium concessions and cocktails delivered straight to their seats (available in every auditorium). Paragon is also home of the exclusive Axis15 screens. Axis15 theaters feature a tilted screen (the most optimal way to see a film while reclining), plus 4K laser projection and Dolby Atmos immersive sound technologies. Combine the two, and you have the best movie-watching experiences anywhere.

Visit Paragon Theaters Pavilion to experience all these amenities and more—the ultimate entertainment destination in Collier County and Naples. Located at the corner of Vanderbilt Beach Road and US 41 (Tamiami Trail). Paragon Theaters is headquartered in Deerfield Beach, Florida. For more information about showtimes, pricing and tickets, please visit [www.ParagonTheaters.com](http://www.ParagonTheaters.com).

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