

reigniting the FIRE

CREATING A METAL ARTS CENTER IN THE HEART OF MEMPHIS

METAL
MUSEUM

The Metal Museum, located in Memphis Tennessee, has launched a capital and endowment campaign to create a vibrant new center to build the Museum's capacity to serve its audiences and advance its mission.

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE METAL MUSEUM

At the 1975 National Ornamental and Miscellaneous Metals Association Conference, members proposed the idea of a national museum dedicated to the collection, exhibition, and preservation of ornamental metalwork. In 1979, the new museum opened its doors to the public. With the addition of a blacksmith shop, a foundry, and a library and resource center, the Metal Museum quickly expanded its mission to preserve, promote, and advance of the art and craft of all fine metalwork in all forms.

Over the last forty years, through the dedication of staff, board members, volunteers, and artists, the Metal Museum has become a leader in the field of fine metalwork. It is a center for metal arts — a place that promotes artists and their work through award-winning exhibitions and a dynamic permanent collection, teaches the next generation of artists in its studios, and advances the education of the public through active arts education and innovative community engagement.

LOOKING FORWARD

Over the past decade, the Metal Museum has experienced tremendous growth – expanding the slate of exhibitions, offering more classes and youth programs, and providing additional opportunities for artists. While this growth has brought additional recognition and support, the current facilities have unfortunately not kept pace with programming. An expansion to Overton Park enables the Metal Museum to provide an increased number of enhanced opportunities for its audiences while simultaneously creating new amenities for the park and Memphis. With spacious galleries, multiple classrooms and studios, a restaurant, and outdoor plazas, the Metal Museum in Overton Park will reignite a currently empty building to serve as a place to gather, connect, and create.

The Museum is on the cusp of a major transformation—one that simultaneously addresses the physical needs of the institution and elevates the Museum in the areas of arts education, artistic creation, and civic presence and inclusivity.

CELEBRATING THE FIELD OF METALWORK

As the field of fine metalwork has grown and expanded over the last four decades, the Metal Museum's curatorial and collecting activities have not only kept pace but have contributed to that growth, establishing the Museum as a leader within the field.

The exhibition program celebrates the talent and diversity within the field by showcasing all forms of metalwork and introducing visitors to a wide array of materials and techniques by contemporary artists. Through upwards of ten originally curated exhibitions each year, the Metal Museum advances the conversation and exploration of fine metalwork. Alongside exhibitions, the Museum holds a collection of contemporary artworks created since the Craft Revival of the 1960s, as well as historic objects, artwork, and drawings, that help visitors understand the history of American metalsmithing. The collection plays an important role in preserving the field of American metalsmithing by documenting the progress, decline, and rebirth of the field and by examining influences on contemporary American metalsmiths.

With larger gallery spaces, exhibitions at the Metal Museum in Overton Park will showcase a broader range of artwork – in height, weight, scope, and prominence – than currently possible. Without limitations placed on the artwork that can be shown, exhibitions can more accurately share artistic narratives with audiences. An ample, state-of-the-art collections storage facility and dedicated spaces for research will create new opportunities to enhance the existing collection and to study metalsmithing. As a result, both the Metal Museum and Memphis will be increasingly seen as a destination for scholars, artists, collectors, and curators interested in metalwork and fine craft.

One of the most valuable aspects of the collection is the Museum's acquisition of works by living artists to the advantage of the Museum, the artists, and Memphis.



CREATING ART AND IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

The Metal Museum is more than the artwork it displays. It is a place that fosters a vibrant community of artists, educators, learners, and people who are passionate about the metal arts. Through programs that celebrate process and learning in addition to well-crafted art, participants are connected to a community of artists and collectors, as well as to opportunities they may otherwise not have. Programs include two-year apprenticeships, summer and academic-term internships, conferences, and master workshops.

These immersive, artist focused experiences provide technical training, networking, and professional skill development to both emerging and established artists. The collaborative nature of the Metal Museum's studios also provides artists with the rare opportunity to work collaboratively across art forms.

As part of the expansion, a new building to house studios for forging, casting, and fabrication provides a consolidated space for learning and expanded collaboration across the Museum's various studio programs while simultaneously exposing visitors to every step in the creative process. The new studios, connected under one roof, will offer staff and visiting artists the ability for greater technical capacity and creation on a range of projects. The expansive space will bolster the programs offered by welcoming an increased number of

traveling metalsmiths for classes, conferences, and master workshops, who, through their interactions with staff, apprentices, interns, and workshop participants, foster an international community of metalsmiths.

The Metal Museum is an active education center that engages artists in metalsmithing and inspires the pursuit of new skills and creative opportunities.



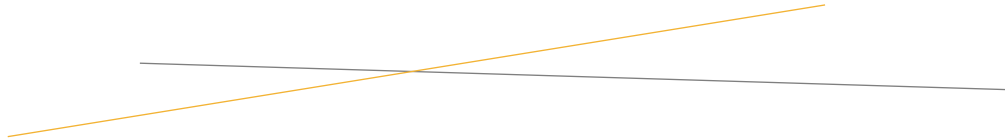
CULTIVATING CREATIVITY, INSPIRATION, AND OPPORTUNITY

The Metal Museum's community engagement programming promotes learning, appreciation, and skill development through educational offerings such as tours, hands-on activities, demonstrations, introductory classes, and special programs for young adults. With six times the space for education programs, the expansion dramatically impacts the opportunities available for youth and adult learners. Dedicated classrooms and studios provide new opportunities for engagement through an expanded roster of classes and workshops, while demonstration areas provide every visitor an experience like no other in the region.

Partnerships with K-12 schools, vocational programs, universities, and community-based organizations make these programs more widely accessible. Whether in gallery, in studio, or in the community, it is through these programs audiences are exposed to the diverse field of metalsmithing – often for the first time. Many participants use these programs as an entrance and connection point to more advanced artistic opportunities or as a conduit to vocational opportunities within related fields such as welding or industrial fabrication.

The Metal Museum in Overton Park enables the growth of existing partnerships, fosters new ones, and promotes new and innovative partnerships for on- and off-site programming. The centralized location, reachable by bus, bike, or foot, provides additional accessibility to programs, particularly for youth in surrounding neighborhoods. Through partnerships with nearby high schools, technical schools, nonprofit organizations, and community centers, the Metal Museum will further build artistic talent alongside business and workforce skills, expanding on opportunities provided in more traditional academic and vocational settings.

Education programs at the Metal Museum engage participants in not only learning about art, but in the active creation of it – providing a rich educational experience.



PRESERVING AND ENHANCING A LANDMARK

Many people know the iconic mid-century modern building in Overton Park, but few have experienced the building in its entirety – from the sweeping views of the park from the upper floors to the “secret” courtyard on the ground floor. Through thoughtful design interventions, the Metal Museum will preserve this beloved landmark while creating a cultural amenity for Memphis and Overton Park. The renovation includes an inviting ground floor entrance, a café featuring a terrace overlooking the golf course, and a shaded plaza providing new connections to Levitt Shell and the Brooks Museum of Art. The revitalized 350-seat auditorium will host lectures, films, and musical performances, while an assortment of rooms will be available for meetings and special events. Visitors will also have access to the rooftop terrace that overlooks the Greensward in one direction and Levitt Shell in the other.

The renovation also carefully considers the building’s role within Overton Park through new landscaping, a sculpture grove, and wandering paths around the building. Native plants support the ecosystem of the Old Growth Forest, while benches scattered along the path provide opportunities for reflection and engagement with the Museum’s collection.

By transforming the way the public interacts with this historic building, the Metal Museum provides a welcoming space to connect, explore, and learn.



INVESTMENT

The cost to transform the Overton Park campus into a world-class facility to provide the Metal Museum with the physical space to expand and elevate programming is anticipated to cost \$25M. This includes the construction of the new Metals Studios building that will feature large casting and forging studios, teaching spaces, demonstration areas, and support spaces. To maintain the capital investment and to ensure continued programmatic leadership within the field of fine metalwork, the campaign also includes \$10M to bolster the Museum’s existing endowment.

This comprehensive \$35M investment positions the Metal Museum for a strong and ever-growing presence in Memphis and throughout the world. We hope you will be part of this ambitious and exciting project. Your investment in this vision is an investment in the field of contemporary fine metalwork in all forms, in artists across disciplines and their careers, and in work that will inspire the next generation to take an active role in this unique art form. It is an invaluable investment in an internationally recognized center for metal arts and a unique Memphis cultural arts destination sought out by thousands.

Your support will transform the Metal Museum, enhance the city of Memphis, and strengthen the field of metalsmithing.

IMPACT OF EXPANSION

The Museum will serve triple the number of participants who seek creativity, inspiration, vocational connections, and more. Beyond Memphis, the Museum will continue to support the international metalsmithing community as a global leader in the preservation, promotion, and advancement of fine metalwork.

