



About Crystal Bridges

The mission of Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art is to welcome all to celebrate the American spirit in a setting that unites the power of art with the beauty of nature. We explore the unfolding story of America by actively collecting, exhibiting, interpreting, and preserving outstanding works that illuminate our heritage and artistic possibilities. Opened to the public on 11-11-11, Crystal Bridges was founded in 2005 by the Walton Family Foundation as a non-profit charitable organization for all to enjoy. Philanthropist and arts patron Alice Walton chairs the museum's board of directors. Since its opening, the museum has welcomed 3.5 million visitors, and garnered 15,000 membership households. Some 200,000 school children have participated in the museum's Willard and Pat Walker School Visit program, which provides educational experiences for school groups at no cost.

Crystal Bridges takes its name from a nearby natural spring and the bridge construction incorporated in the building, designed by world-renowned architect [Moshe Safdie](#). A series of pavilions nestled around two spring-fed ponds house galleries, meeting and classroom spaces, and amenities such as a restaurant overlooking the ponds, museum store designed by architect Marlon Blackwell, and a library featuring more than 50,000 volumes of art reference material. In addition to the museum's stunning architecture, a Usonian house designed by [Frank Lloyd Wright](#) was preserved, acquired, and moved to the museum grounds in 2015, and a rare [Buckminster Fuller's](#) Fly's Eye Dome was installed in 2017, both providing access to American architectural masterworks in a natural setting.

Sculpture and walking trails link the museum's 120-acre park to downtown Bentonville, Arkansas. A new entrance, elevator tower, and pedestrian bridge was added to the north side of the building in 2017, increasing access to the museum's north lawn and newly enhanced North Forest Trail. More than 600,000 visitors a year utilize the museum's four miles of walking trails.

Crystal Bridges' [permanent collection](#) spans five centuries of American masterworks ranging from the early American to the current day. Great American artists such as John Singer Sargent and James McNeill Whistler reflect on distinct moments in the early American artistic evolution. Iconic works such as Gilbert Stuart's *George Washington* and Georgia O'Keeffe's *Jimson Weed* enhance the permanent collection, in addition to contemporary artists such as Andy Warhol, Kerry James Marshall and Maya Lin, the collection continues to grow through a strategic acquisition plan and is enhanced by an array of temporary exhibitions.

Crystal Bridges provides year-round programming for all ages. In 2017, more than 800 public programs and events were offered, including lectures, performances, classes, and continuing education for K-12 teachers. An award-winning app, and a new podcast called [Museum Way](#) are available for free, and many of the museum's lectures such as the Distinguished Speaker Series are on [Crystal Bridges' YouTube channel](#). An [online-learning](#) initiative provides opportunities for students and teachers with arts-based courses.

Crystal Bridges also offers two research fellowship programs. The [Tyson Scholars](#) in American Art program supports full-time scholarship in the history of American art. The [Reese Teacher Fellowship](#) provides for research into the development of interdisciplinary connections between American art and core curriculum subjects of language arts, history, social studies, and the sciences. In addition, Crystal Bridges administers the awarding of the [Don Tyson Prize](#), an unprecedented award recognizing significant achievements in the field of American art. Additional information about Crystal Bridges is available online at CrystalBridges.org.