Since its founding, the Nasher Museum has been an innovative leader for the arts at Duke and beyond. With campaign support, the museum can continue to achieve excellence while advancing the arts as an integral part of campus and community life.

After years of planning, the Nasher Museum opened in 2005 and quickly established itself as a top university art museum. With leading-edge exhibitions, a distinctive permanent collection, and programs that create interactions between prominent artists and scholars, students, and the community, the museum has become a cultural center where visitors can expect to encounter art in its highest, most imaginative form. In the process, we’ve also helped to elevate and transform the role of the visual arts within a Duke education, making it a visible and integral part of the student curricular and co-curricular experience.

Now, the Nasher Museum will play a key role in expanding the footprint of the arts at Duke through the university’s campus-wide arts initiative. As we plan for the future, we must build a strong endowment that will support our programs, collections, and people—and strengthen the Nasher Museum’s ability to serve as a leader for the arts.
Presenting Dynamic Exhibitions

The Nasher Museum’s identity has been shaped by its dynamic original exhibitions—many of which have traveled nationally and internationally. Highlights include *Street Level: Mark Bradford, William Cordova, Robin Rhode* (2007), which identified three young, multicultural, mixed-media artists whose careers have since exploded, and *El Greco to Velasquez: Art during the Reign of Philip III* (2008), co-organized with the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and ranked by *Time* magazine as one of the top exhibitions of the year. In addition, the Nasher Museum has presented popular exhibitions of works by Picasso, Matisse, and Calder through partnerships with major museums around the country.

Staging an exhibition is a significant undertaking. Through the Duke Forward campaign, we hope to make sustainable our ability to originate and present exhibitions of the highest caliber. Endowed support will also allow us to further develop creative, enriching programs and excellent publications.

YOUR GIFT OF $100,000 OR MORE

can establish an exhibition endowment that supports all aspects of mounting an exhibition, including publications and related programs.

YOUR GIFT OF $500,000 OR MORE

can establish an acquisition endowment that supports the purchase of significant works by emerging contemporary artists.

YOUR GIFT OF $1 MILLION OR MORE

can establish an acquisition endowment that supports the purchase of important works by established modern and contemporary artists.

Building the Collection

The Nasher Museum has distinguished itself from other university art museums by developing a collection with a strong focus on works by international contemporary and emerging artists. Equally important, we continue to refine our collection in other historical fields, leveraging the expertise of our talented curators and faculty, and reaffirming a commitment to our teaching and research mission.

But there is more work to be done to strategically build the museum’s permanent collection. With private giving during the Duke Forward campaign, we hope to add breadth and depth to our collection by creating endowed funds that will support important acquisitions now and in the future.

YOUR GIFT OF $100,000 OR MORE

can establish an acquisition endowment that supports the purchase of important prints and photographs.
The Nasher Museum was designed with Duke students in mind. And students have noticed, paying the museum more than 80,000 visits since it opened. From providing classrooms and study storage space that encourage hands-on experience with works of art, to dedicated curatorial positions that focus on faculty and student engagement—the museum is structured around ways to support an arts-rich curriculum at Duke across all 10 of its schools.

Some connecting points are brief but meaningful: As part of a required course in doctor-patient relationships, first-year medical students participate in museum sessions designed to improve observation and communication skills. Others provide a deeper dive, such as art installations assembled from our permanent collection to accompany the book chosen for each summer’s reading program for incoming freshmen. We have extended the power and reach of our exhibitions to different campus audiences through associated music concerts, academic symposia, film presentations, and gallery talks and lectures by artists, curators, and Duke faculty.

In 2012, Duke professors brought 1,146 students to visit the galleries on class tours. Nearly 950 students visited the museum’s collection in study storage.

Additionally, as Duke’s profile in the visual arts has grown, an increasing number of talented students have come here seeking to pursue advanced study in the visual arts. The Nasher Museum has a valuable role to play in offering these students the chance to learn about museum management and curatorship. Campaign support would enable us to sustain and expand all of these programmatic and professional opportunities for students.

**YOUR GIFT OF $100,000 OR MORE**
can establish an endowed internship that supports undergraduate students interested in art history, curating, and museum management.

**YOUR GIFT OF $250,000 OR MORE**
can endow a fellowship that allows graduate students to gain practical museum experience while completing their degree.
Engaging the Community through Programs

The museum and its programs connect Duke to Durham and the greater regional community. Nearly 40 percent of our annual visitors come from within a 30-mile radius to view exhibitions and participate in programming ranging from lectures and guided tours to films. Our popular free family days, which feature performances and activities related to the museum’s exhibitions, attract almost 4,000 parents and children per year. And more than 9,000 public schoolchildren tour the museum each year, including 4,200 who arrive via free transportation through our bus scholarship program for local schools.

With the projected population in our region expected to grow from 1.5 million in 2010 to 2.4 million by 2020, we have a tremendous opportunity and responsibility to attract and serve more people, particularly students in the Durham Public Schools. During the campaign we will seek endowed resources that will allow us to expand the Nasher Museum’s arts education outreach programs, further developing their relevance and impact, while investing in the economic and cultural development of our community.

YOUR GIFT OF $100,000 OR MORE can establish a school and community outreach endowment that supports K-12 bus scholarships for Title I schools visiting the museum, as well as free family days, and free museum admission on Thursday nights.

YOUR GIFT OF $1 MILLION OR MORE can establish an endowed curatorship for the Curator of Education, who is responsible for developing and implementing dynamic educational and social programs for K-12 students and teachers and for the local community.