

## **Knight Foundation Provides \$10 Million to Fund Educational Programs at the New MAM in Museum Park**

Miami Art Museum's chairman of the board, Aaron Podhurst, praised the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation's announcement today that it would grant MAM \$10 million to fund **the Knight School Education Program**, an expanded educational program that will premiere at MAM's new home in downtown Museum Park. "We are grateful to Knight Foundation, its board and president, Alberto Ibargüen, for this visionary gift to our capital campaign that will benefit all Miamians as we build the Miami of our common future," said Podhurst.

The grant to MAM is part of a much larger Knight Foundation initiative supporting performing and visual arts programs throughout South Florida, it was announced Wednesday.

Said Alberto Ibargüen, CEO and president of Knight Foundation: "Our initiative aims to bond a diverse community through shared experiences in the arts. Bringing some 40,000 school children to MAM every year to share the gift of arts, in perpetuity, thanks to this new endowment, is a wonderful way of accomplishing this goal."

"Since its founding in 1996, MAM has built an outstanding, evolving art collection and presented significant exhibitions. The quality of both extends to the museum's educational programming. **The Knight School Education Program** will enable MAM to reach an estimated 40,000 school children across Miami-Dade County every year," MAM Director Terence Riley said. "We are honored that the Knight Foundation has granted us \$10 million as a program endowment as part of the Capital Campaign for our new building in Museum Park. Their support provides a solid future for our educational initiatives and furthers our shared goal of using the arts to transform our community."

MAM now provides arts education for more children than any other private institution in Miami-Dade County. As MAM's educational program grows into the larger new facility, **Knight School Education Program** will provide an expanded educational program aimed at engaging even more Miami-Dade County students in discovering art. The programs will evolve with students as they mature and connect the museum to the public school curriculum.

The **Knight School Education Program** program will provide:

- A visit to the new museum in Museum Park for every Elementary School student at least one time during their primary school years. An entire grade level will be reached each year with Museum programming through school visits, curriculum materials, or the results of a teacher training workshop. The specific grade, third or fifth, will be determined in consultation with the Miami-Dade School District.
- An opportunity for every Junior High School student to visit the museum in Museum Park at least once during their middle school years. MAM will encourage middle school students (grades 6, 7 and 8) to visit the Museum with their families through free passes, curriculum materials for their teachers, and special programs targeted to their interests.

- Intensive collaborative programs with three high schools to sponsor an in-depth magnet or honors program focused on art, design and/or technology. One school will be added each of the first three years in MAM's new facility. MAM will develop this program on the current magnet schools program. Students at the participating high schools will take an intensive course of study involving multiple visits to the Museum over the course of a school year.

While the new museum is being planned and built, MAM has developed several educational initiatives thematically tied to the construction of its new home in Museum Park as tools for engaging young people throughout Miami-Dade County in the museum and its programs.

Beginning this year, MAM will present **Brick by Brick**, an after-school program aimed at underserved teenagers, linking their home environment to the larger community and providing direct experience in fields such as architecture, computer graphics, geography, landscape design, mathematics and sociology. Participants in the two-year program, to be offered at the downtown YWCA, Little Havana Institute, Liberty City community center all girls' group and Barnyard - Coconut Grove Cares, will examine and document their immediate neighborhoods in the first year of the program. The second year will introduce the role of architecture in creating community. It has been generously funded by the Heckscher Foundation for Children, New York, for its first two years.

In addition to **Brick by Brick**, MAM is partnering with Design and Architecture Senior High (DASH) in a new program to engage its senior architecture students in the process of MAM's new museum facility. The construction process of the new museum will be used as an instructional laboratory. Students will meet at the site, the present museum facilities and other locations for the duration of the building project. School groups from throughout Miami-Dade County also are visiting MAM during the exhibition *Work in Progress: Herzog and de Meuron's Miami Art Museum* (on view through April 6, 2008), which gives them an insider's view into the design process behind the new museum.

The new MAM will be more than three times the size of its current facility, with 32,000 square feet of galleries, providing space for larger and more varied displays of the Museum's rapidly growing permanent collection and special exhibitions. The museum will be an anchor of the new, 29-acre Museum Park overlooking Biscayne Bay, which will include public gardens and sculpture installations. The building will also feature an educational complex with a library, auditorium, classrooms, and workshop space, and a cafe and store. A set of stairs the width of the Museum will link the building to the bay walk in Museum Park. In recognition of MAM's role as an emerging and rapidly growing art museum, the architects have designed a building which can expand organically from within without major disruptions.

Miami Art Museum is dedicated to engaging the public with art from the twentieth century through the present. Since its founding in 1996, the Museum has built a collection of modern and contemporary art with the goal of providing Miami with a legacy for future generations. MAM's collection has grown exponentially since *Art in America* called it "the quintessential Miami collection" in 1999. The MAM collection is dedicated to international art of the 20th and 21st centuries, taking a hemispheric perspective of the Americas.

The Museum will remain in full operation in its current location on Flagler Street until the new building is complete. MAM will continue its focused initiative to build the collection in coordination with the expansion.

#### **About the Knight Arts Partnership**

The Knight Arts Partnership is a \$60 million philanthropic initiative created by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to advance the arts in South Florida through three institutional endowments and an open-invitation community challenge. More at [www.KnightArts.org](http://www.KnightArts.org).

**About Knight Foundation**

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation promotes excellence in journalism worldwide and invests in the vitality of 26 Knight communities. Knight Foundation focuses on ideas and projects that create transformational change.

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Miami Art Museum is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts; with the support of Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners. Miami Art Museum is an accessible facility. For sign language interpretation or assistive listening devices please call MAM's Education Department 305.375.4073 at least five days in advance. Materials in accessible format may be requested.

Open Tuesday through Friday - 10 AM to 5 PM, Saturday and Sunday – noon to 5 PM. JAM@MAM Third Thursdays 5 PM until 8:30 PM. Closed Monday. Admission for MAM members, children under 12 and students (with valid ID) is free. Adults \$8, seniors \$4, JAM@MAM \$10. Free admission every second Saturday.

101 West Flagler Street  
Miami, FL 33130  
305.375.3000  
[miamiartmuseum.org](http://miamiartmuseum.org)

Garage Parking  
\$5 at 50 NW 2nd Ave  
between Flagler St and NW 1st St  
Overflow parking at 270 NW 2nd Street  
Metrorail: Government Center Station