Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art

Revitalizing Arkansas’ Cultural and Economic Landscape
Southern Legislative Conference
27 July 2014
George Inness
*Sunset on the River*, 1867
Oil on canvas
Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art welcomes all to celebrate the American spirit in a setting that unites the power of art with the beauty of nature.
Visitors Since 11/11/11 – 1.4 Million

Arkansas – 58%
Touch States – 22%
Other US – 17%
Visitors to Bentonville, Arkansas
Visitor Distribution by ZIP3
Impact shows:

- Increased recall of themes
- Desire to visit an art museum
- Higher critical thinking skills
- Increased tolerance
22 Hotels, 2 B&Bs
“Understanding and acknowledging the incredible economic impact of the nonprofit arts and culture, we must always remember their fundamental value. They foster beauty, creativity, originality, and vitality. The arts inspire us, soothe us, provoke us, involve us, and connect us. But they also create jobs and contribute to the economy.”

- Robert L. Lynch, President and CEO, Americans for the Arts
Is Bentonville The South’s Next Cultural Mecca?

October 6, 2012 | By Paula Disbrowe | Comments (21)

Not familiar with Arkansas terrain? That might change sooner than you think. Thanks to last year’s opening of Crystal Bridges Museum (founded by philanthropist Alice Walton, who chairs the museum’s board of directors), the stunning, shimmering structure created by architect Moshe Safdie, the town is ramping up to welcome a new breed of cultural tourists. As a result, there have been major efforts to spruce up the historic downtown square, connect that square to the museum via leafy bike paths, and ramp up the restaurant scene. New additions include Eleven, the museum’s breathtaking restaurant that’s suspended over water and nods to local flavor in dishes like Sweet Tea-Blinde Chicken and shrimp served over grits from nearby War Eagle Mill, as well as downtown gastropub Tusk and Trotter, Tavola Trattoria, and local favorite Petit Bistro.

“Bentonville is a big city with a small town mask on it,” says Matt McClure, the newly appointed chef at The Hive, the upscale restaurant in the forthcoming S1c Museum Hotel, which opens in the first quarter of 2013. The natural beauty of Arkansas provides the perfect backdrop for Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the Arkansas Arts Center, featuring “The Treasures of Kentwood House, London” – with works by Rembrandt, Van Dyck and Gainsborough. Inspiration is everywhere in The Natural State.

Plan your escape today. It’s easy. Just call for your FREE Vacation Planning Kit. Visit Arkansas.com or call 1-800-NATURAL.
NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

• 4th highest rate of non-farm job growth in 2013

• Current population is 482,200

• 44% increase since 2000

• 70% increase in building permits since 2008
Andy Warhol
*Hammer and Sickle*, 1977
Acrylic and screen print on canvas
Keith Haring
Two-Headed Figure, 1986
Polyurethane paint on aluminum
Jeff Koons
*Hanging Heart (Gold/Magenta), 1994-2006*
Mirror-polished stainless steel with transparent color coating
Edward Hopper (1882-1967)
*Blackwell's Island*, 1928
Oil on canvas
John Trumbull (1956-1843)
*Portrait of Alexander Hamilton*, 1792
Oil on canvas
Jointly owned by Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Gift of Credit Suisse, 2013
United States, Joseph K. Barbes, Joseph Janvier Woodward, Charles Smart, and George Alexander Otis, 1875

*The medical and surgical history of the war of the rebellion (1861-65)*

Washington: Govt. print. off.
Leo Villareal (b. 1967)
*Buckyball*, 2012
Aluminum tubing clad with LED lights atop aluminum plinth
Commissioned by the Madison Square Park Conservancy, New York, NY; loaned courtesy of the Madison Square Park Conservancy, Gering & Lopez gallery, and Leo Villareal
State of the Art
DISCOVERING AMERICAN ART NOW
SEP 13 2014 – JAN 19 2015
Mequitta Ahuja, b. 1976, Siena, 2014, Colored pencil on vellum, 19 x 17 in. Courtesy of the artist.
Photo: Courtesy of the artist
Angela Drakeford, b. 1983
*Self-Portrait II*, 2014
Tar paper, crepe paper, wire, glue, insulation foam board, and poplar
36 x 96 x 4 in.
Courtsey of the artist
Photo: Ryan Carroll
State of the Art
DISCOVERING AMERICAN ART NOW
AMERICA’S NEXT GREAT MUSEUM IS HERE

BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS
CrystalBridges.org