

## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES ANNOUNCES \$750K GRANT FOR TAFT MUSEUM OF ART**

*Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grant awarded to support Taft's  
Historic House renovations in Bicentennial year*

**CINCINNATI**— January 14, 2020—The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) announced, via a press release, that the Taft Museum of Art (TMA) has been awarded the competitive Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grant in the maximum amount: \$750,000. The grant will directly support the TMA's Bicentennial infrastructure project kicking off later this year. The funds will help to preserve and reconstruct the Museum's 200-year-old Historic House.

"As the Taft Museum of Art embarks on our Bicentennial infrastructure project, we are thankful to our partners in this endeavor and to the National Endowment for the Humanities for supporting our Historic House's much-needed rehabilitation efforts. This will ensure that the TMA, its historic architecture, and culturally enriching offerings remain in excellent condition for future generations."—Deborah Emont Scott, Louise Taft Semple President/CEO, Taft Museum of Art

To learn more about the NEH's Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grant, visit:  
<https://www.neh.gov/news/neh-announces-309-million-188-humanities-projects-nationwide>

#### **About the Taft Museum of Art and the Historic House:**

The Taft Museum of Art (TMA) is one of the finest small art museums in America, a National Historic Landmark built in 1820, and the oldest domestic wooden structure in situ in Cincinnati. The Historic House was the home of several prominent Cincinnatians, including Martin Baum, Nicholas Longworth, David Sinton, Anna Sinton Taft and Charles Phelps Taft.

The house was originally built in 1820 by Martin Baum, an early resident and businessman of Cincinnati and purchased in 1829 Nicholas Longworth. Longworth extensively redecorated the interiors and hired African American painter Robert S. Duncanson to paint eight landscape murals, which are now recognized as the most significant pre-Civil War domestic murals in the United States and are one of the Taft's largest pieces of artwork, only second to the Historic House itself.

After Longworth's residency, the house was purchased by David Sinton, father of museum co-founder Anna Sinton Taft. Anna Taft lived in the house with her husband Charles Phelps Taft from 1873 until their respective deaths in 1931 and 1929. In 1908, Charles Taft's half-brother William Howard Taft accepted the nomination for U.S. president underneath the house's portico adding to its significance in our nation's public life. The Tafts bequeathed their historic home and private collection of 690 works of art to the people of Cincinnati in 1927, which included European and American master paintings, Chinese porcelains, and European decorative arts from masters like Rembrandt, Hals, Goya, Gainsborough, Reynolds, Turner, Ingres, Whistler, and Sargent, as well as one of the greatest Gothic ivory sculptures in America.

In 1932 the home opened as the Taft Museum of Art and in 1976, the house was designated as a National Historic Landmark. From 2001-2004, the Historic House underwent internal repair and maintenance. A new building addition featured an exhibition gallery, preparation and storage areas, offices, a classroom, lecture hall, café, and shop.

Standard Museum hours are Wednesday–Friday, 11 a.m.–4p.m. and Saturday–Sunday, 11 a.m.–5p.m.; Sundays are always free. Complimentary on-site parking is available.

For more information, visit [taftmuseum.org](http://taftmuseum.org).