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media@cincyart.org

513-639-2954

953 Eden Park Drive | Cincinnati, Ohio | 45202

www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org

**Images Available Upon Request*

Cincinnati Art Museum to host Cincinnati Art Award Gala Honoring Rhonda and Larry Sheakley Saturday, October 18, 2025

CINCINNATI — October 3, 2025 —The Cincinnati Art Museum will host the Cincinnati Art Award Gala on Saturday, October 18, 2025, from 6–10 p.m. For the first time, the museum’s annual gala and Cincinnati Art Award will come together in a single celebration, recognizing community leaders who champion the arts while raising essential support for the museum’s exhibitions and programs.

This year’s honorees are Rhonda and Larry Sheakley, whose leadership, vision and generosity have transformed the cultural landscape of Cincinnati. Longtime champions of the arts and community, the Sheakleys have supported numerous institutions including the Cincinnati Ballet, University of Cincinnati, Lighthouse Youth Services, the Boys and Girls Club, among others. In 2022, the Sheakleys’ gift to *A New View*—CAM’s most ambitious fundraising effort in its history—enabled the museum to surpass its campaign goal. In recognition of the Sheakleys’ extraordinary contributions, the museum will name its renowned Cincinnati Wing in their honor.

Opened in 2003, the wing transformed part of the first floor into 15 galleries dedicated to Cincinnati’s role in American art history—the first permanent display devoted to a city’s art legacy in the nation. Its debut coincided with the museum’s decision to eliminate general admission fees, made possible by a generous gift from the Rosenthal Family Foundation. Now, the naming of the Cincinnati Wing celebrates the Sheakleys’ enduring commitment to making art accessible to all.

“Rhonda and Larry embody the spirit of vibrant community life in Cincinnati,” says Louis and Louise Dieterle Nippert Director Cameron Kitchin. “Their dedication and friendship continue to lift the Cincinnati Art Museum to new heights. We are excited to celebrate together.”

Guests will enjoy an unforgettable evening beginning with a red-carpet style cocktail reception, featuring canapés and welcome drinks, followed by a program and award presentation. The celebration continues with a conceptual gourmet dining experience paired with fine wines and premium beverages. Throughout the evening, guests will be immersed in captivating performances and post-dinner indulgences. They can retreat to the Martini Lounge to enjoy hand-crafted cocktails, live music and passed sweets, or visit the Over-the-Rhine Premium Cigar Bar for exclusive cigar and bourbon pairings in the outdoor lounge. The night concludes on a lively note with dancing to a live band including stylish lounges for relaxation between sets.

Funds raised through sponsorships, table and ticket sales will help the museum present world-class exhibitions and educational programs.

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available at cincinnatiartmuseum.org/gala or by emailing gala@cincyart.org.

About the Cincinnati Art Museum

The Cincinnati Art Museum features a diverse, encyclopedic art collection of more than 73,000 works spanning 6,000 years. In addition to displaying its own broad collection, the museum conducts extensive research and

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creates and organizes several exhibitions each year. It also hosts national and international traveling exhibitions. Through these critical projects and art-related programs, activities, and special events, the museum contributes to a more vibrant Cincinnati by inspiring its people and connecting its communities.

The Cincinnati Art Museum is supported by the generosity of individuals and businesses that give annually to ArtsWave. The Ohio Arts Council helps fund the Cincinnati Art Museum with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The Cincinnati Art Museum gratefully acknowledges operating support from the City of Cincinnati, as well as its members. Free general admission to the Cincinnati Art Museum is made possible by a gift from the Rosenthal Family Foundation. Generous support for the museum's extended Thursday hours is provided by Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All program. Exhibition pricing may vary. Parking at the Cincinnati Art Museum is free. Accessibility accommodations are available. More information is available at cincinnatiartmuseum.org.

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