



Contact:

Malina Tabor, Director of Marketing

mtabor@arkmfa.org

(501) 837-6566

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Darrell Walker Joins the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts Foundation

January 9, 2024 (LITTLE ROCK, Ark.) – The Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts (AMFA) appoints Darrell Walker as a new director for the AMFA Foundation. Walker is the head basketball coach at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and an avid collector of African American contemporary art.

“Mr. Walker brings broad expertise on art, museums, and community to the AMFA Foundation. His strong leadership is evident from his successful career on the court, and his keen knowledge of today’s art world will help shape the future of the Foundation’s Collection,” said AMFA Foundation Chair Warren Stephens.

Walker has extensive basketball experience at both the collegiate and professional level. His playing experience includes three years at the University of Arkansas and 10 seasons in the National Basketball Association, followed by a 20-year professional coaching career, including serving as head coach for two different NBA franchises.

“I began collecting art created by African American artists over 30 years ago and have spent a lot of time getting to know artists and discovering new contemporary and emerging artists,” said Walker. “I like to bring my passion for art to my players. I recently took the entire team to view the Whitfield Lovell exhibition at AMFA, and I look forward to continuing to introduce the next generation to the great artists of the past and future.”

In addition, John Ed Anthony will be stepping down as an AMFA Foundation Director. Anthony joined the Foundation in 2016, and he will continue to serve in an advisory capacity as a member of the investment committee. “We are grateful for John Ed’s contribution to the Foundation throughout the past seven years, which has been a transformative time for the museum,” Stephens said.

The AMFA Foundation is a nonprofit entity that owns the 14,000 works of art in the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts Foundation Collection. The Foundation board manages the endowment’s investments, supports the museum’s ongoing operations and growth, and oversees art acquisitions and care of the collection.

AMFA Foundation Directors include: Warren Stephens, Chair; Ben Hussman, Vice-Chair; George O’Connor, Treasurer; Victoria Ramirez, Secretary; Terri Erwin; Michael Mayton; Harriet Stephens; Robert W. Tucker, Past Chair; Darrell Walker; Stan Hastings, AMFA Board of Trustees President.

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About the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts:

Founded in 1937, the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts is the largest cultural institution of its kind in the state, offering a unique blend of visual, educational, and performing arts experiences. AMFA is committed to featuring diverse media and artistic perspectives within its permanent collection as well as through rotating temporary exhibitions. AMFA's international collection spans eight centuries, with strengths in works on paper, and includes notable holdings by artists from Arkansas, the South, and across the United States and Europe.

With a vibrant mix of ideas, cultures, people, and places, the museum extends its commitment to artistic diversity through the innovative Windgate Art School, a dynamic children's theatre and performing arts program, and community-focused educational programs for all ages. Located in Little Rock's oldest urban green space, MacArthur Park, AMFA's landmark building and grounds are designed by Studio Gang and SCAPE, in collaboration with Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects.