

Mission Statement

The Metropolitan Museum of Art was founded on April 13, 1870, “to be located in the City of New York, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining in said city a Museum and library of art, of encouraging and developing the study of the fine arts, and the application of arts to manufacture and practical life, of advancing the general knowledge of kindred subjects, and, to that end, of furnishing popular instruction.”¹

This statement of purpose has guided the Museum for over 150 years. The Met is devoted to a universal collection of art in the service of the public. During the 2022 strategic-planning process, the need for an updated, more inclusive and welcoming mission statement with a more tightly articulated expression of that purpose became apparent.

To that end, on May 10, 2022, the Trustees of The Metropolitan Museum of Art reaffirmed the above statement of purpose and supplemented it with the following statement of mission:

The Metropolitan Museum of Art collects, studies, conserves, and presents significant works of art across time and cultures in order to connect all people to creativity, knowledge, ideas, and one another.

Core Values

- **Respect:** Engage one another with collegiality, empathy, and kindness, always.
- **Inclusivity:** Ensure that all are and feel welcome and valued.
- **Collaboration:** Reach across boundaries to exchange ideas and work together toward our shared mission.
- **Excellence:** Lead the cultural world in quality and expertise—and inspire curiosity and creativity.
- **Integrity:** Hold ourselves to the highest moral standards, admit when we fall short, and then evolve.

Vision

As we look to the future, we seek to be an institution in service to the world and a valued resource to our local communities. Further, we aspire to bridge the past and the present moment, drawing connections between our vast cultural history and contemporary communities around the world. The Museum aims to become **increasingly relevant to a constantly evolving contemporary society** and to facilitate new connections between our objects and the issues of our time. By emphasizing the broader themes and larger questions that art has posed throughout the centuries, the Museum seeks to draw connections between our collections and the public. We must remain alert to the needs of our audiences and work harder to meet people where they are rather than assume that they will be drawn to the Museum regardless of what is on view and how it is presented. In so doing, the Museum will identify opportunities to present important and unfamiliar narratives and cross-cultural perspectives and foster a more diverse and expanded canon of art history.

There is much more that we would like to accomplish as **a global leader in scholarship**, including deepening and disseminating knowledge across a breadth of disciplines and balancing our dedication to object-centered scholarship grounded in the collection with a concern for larger historical and theoretical questions. We will increase resources, time, and support for the serious and sustained use of primary and secondary research materials for the creation of new knowledge. We will

support the work of our own staff and visiting scholars to present new insights and ideas that will engage both general and specialist audiences in the galleries and online.

Programmatically, we will expand our cross-departmental collaborations, including exhibitions and publications, that engage multiple perspectives. We will highlight the interconnectedness and multidimensional nature of culture through the ages. Such new interpretations involve broadening the voices that we invite to share their stories to include artists and our diverse audiences, for whom we aspire to create **an inspiring and welcoming visitor experience**. To advance this objective, we plan to add significant, impactful works that strategically transform the collection and gallery displays.

The Met of the future is both **increasingly global and more locally engaged**. The Museum will grow its international programming and institutional partnerships, in part by expanding access to its digital content. The Museum will also become more multilingual, multicultural, and inclusive in its outreach and will **deepen its relationships with local communities**.

Internally, the Museum is committed to fostering **a workplace that is inclusive, equitable, and transparent**, which requires that we become **more diverse, welcoming, supportive, and collaborative**. Further, we seek to provide new opportunities and resources for professional development and personal well-being. We will work to build a culture that embraces continuous improvement, experimentation, and innovation and that insists on fairness, opportunity, recognition, and accountability within every department and across the institution.

Through the ambitious and thoughtful redesign and development of new gallery and storage spaces, the Museum will **enhance the presentation, protection, and preservation of our collections**. In particular, our deep investment in the rethinking of gallery spaces will support the achievement of our programmatic and community engagement vision.

Finally, as a perpetual institution, we must **increase our focus on environmental and financial sustainability** as well as our investment in and integration of emerging technologies. The Museum will prioritize the preservation and strategic use of resources. As it creates new public spaces, it will ensure that they are environmentally sound and flexible for multiple potential future uses. Financially, the Museum will continue to recognize and nourish the philanthropic relationships that provide essential resources for core mission-related work, while also advancing opportunities to create new earned-revenue streams and philanthropic support that will sustain The Met into the future.

Five-Year Strategic Goals 2022–27

To realize our vision, we defined six primary goals to guide our activities over the next five years. The goals are supported by strategies and priority initiatives.

- I. Build a universally relevant institution that connects to contemporary audiences and reaffirm our commitment to scholarship
- II. Increase and promote the Museum’s global presence
- III. Deepen the Museum’s relationship with local communities
- IV. Strengthen The Met as a professional community and workplace
- V. Enhance the presentation, protection, and preservation of the collection
- VI. Maintain sustainable approaches to financial management, operations, and facilities

¹Charter of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, State of New York, Laws of 1870, Chapter 197, passed April 13, 1870, and amended L.1898, ch. 34; L. 1908, ch. 219.