



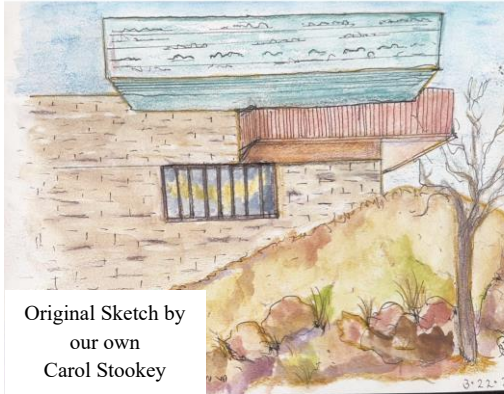
FOOTPRINTS

May 2025



“Every man must leave a track and it might as well be a good one.” -Thomas Gilcrease

President’s Message



Original Sketch by
our own
Carol Stookey

The museum grounds are erupting with color and fragrance as the new building settles into its footing with colors and textures symbolizing earth and sky. The building reflects the surrounding Osage hills to the west and the Tulsa skyline to the east. And Gillies, with strong roots and support from Director Brian Lee Whisenhunt, are also beginning to branch out and bloom again.

Five years has been a long time for Tulsans to wait to see the new Gilcrease Museum rise this spring. It’s been a long wait for Gillies, too. Together, however, we’ve stayed the course and

renewed our commitment to the Gilcrease. We were finally able to guide visitors as they got their first peek at the Earth and Sky stairs, the vistas from the terrace, and the galleries where *Shoshone Falls* and *Black Hawk and Whirling Thunder* will find a new home.

Our May 2024 *Footprints* newsletter encouraged Gillies to “rejoice, renew, reengage, and read” *Footprints* to keep informed. Thank you to every Gillie who stayed engaged, read *Footprints*, renewed their dedication to The Gilcrease Museum, and are now rejoicing in our gorgeous new museum! How do we know our Gillies have renewed, reengaged, read, and are rejoicing? Well, here’s a sampling of what you’ve done this year:

- For 2024-25, the total service hours were 6,008. With a volunteer hourly rate of \$34.79 (for 2024), that amounts to a \$209,018 total volunteer benefit to the museum. A full-time equivalent (FTE) is 2080 hours, so the total service hours is approximately equivalent to three full-time employees. *Thank you, Gillies for your continued service!*
- Gillies continued working at the off-site location and in HCAR.
- Our Speaking of Gilcrease program docents were given nine new programs including: Eastern Landscapes, Western Landscapes, Americans All, A Horse, Of Course, Rivers, Images of Women in Art, Women Artists, Gilcrease in Your Neighborhood, and Nocturnes. *Thank you to Marion Richardson, the Speaking of Gilcrease Chair, for her efforts to keep this program going and growing!*
- We updated and revised our membership rosters and docent core. *Many thanks to Glenda Kilmer and our IT Team, Nancy Hammond and Robin Leech, for their endeavors to make this happen.*
- In November, Gillies welcomed Mayor Bynum and other dignitaries into the new building at the ribbon cutting.
- Docents have begun giving tours in the new building.

- We are planning for additional tours of the building and getting ready for:
 - Scrollathon
 - Uncrease
 - The Gillies Intern Class of 2026
- We've reinstated dues and hourly requirements for all Gillies. *Thank you to our Treasurer, Sharon Patch, for her efforts to collect dues! Sharon also facilitated payments for the May luncheon at The Club at Indian Springs. AND, a special thanks for her delightful limericks!*
- We have reinstated attendance requirements for docents in 2025-26. Docents will be required to attend at least four Docent meetings in 2025-26.
- Gillies have continued their education by attending docent meetings. Please see our Docent Chair's summary of the year's meetings on page... *Thank you to our Docent Chair, Alana Trisler, for coordinating all these events!*
- Gillies enjoyed five travel opportunities this year which included: the Coleman Theatre and Tribal Council in Miami, the Will Rogers Museum in Claremore, the Chute in Sapulpa (where we warmed up in our own Snow Globe), a Treasures Tour of downtown Tulsa sites, and the Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville. *Thank you to our Travel Chair, Cindy Strasheim, for making all the arrangements for these educational and exciting adventures!*
- Our September Forum provided Gillies a chance to hear Dr. Zachary Qualls, one of the newest members of the Digitization Department, who discussed Cherokee basketry history.
- At the March Forum, Tulsa legend John Wooley shared his expertise on filmmaking in Tulsa. *Thank you to our Forum Chair and President Elect, Teresa Pena, for planning our Forum speakers!*
- We operated the Mayfest Booth in May so the Gilcrease staff could be with their families on Mother's Day.
- Gillies hosted the Family Festival Day at the Greenwood Cultural Center in November.
- Gillies Charley Wyatt, Kathy Horne, Robin Crowell, and our Anthro Babes: Nancy Setter, Diane Cox, Carli Amersek, Mary Elliott, and Sunny Wager were featured on Facebook for their work.
- Each month Gillies received a *Footprints* newsletter. Thank you for reading the newsletter to keep informed. *Special thanks to Rod Schneider for his work organizing the articles and photos sent to him every month into such a delightful and professional newsletter! We will be forever grateful, Rod!*
- Past Presidents met quarterly at The Club at Indian Springs. *Thank you to Carol Stookey, whose sketch you see on page 1, for organizing these gatherings.*

Wishing you all health, friendships, and the opportunity to, as Thomas Gilcrease might say, "leave good footprints" in our new Gilcrease Museum.

- Kathe



Docent Corner

By Alana Trisler, Docent Chair

A Trip Down Memory Lane

The 2024 – 2025 slate of Docent Meetings has ended - and what a glorious gallimaufry of talent and topics it was, and I want to thank you all for your faithful attendance. The following is a recap of our presenters:

June 2024 – The meeting began with a big bang! Gilcrease's new Director, Brian Lee Whisenhunt, kicked off our Gillie year by sharing his guiding philosophy and vision for the museum as well as his obvious passion for art. He also arrived early to give the Gillies an opportunity to visit with him one-on-one. Following Brian, Cindy Strasheim took us on a visual tour of her latest trip to Oaxaca, Mexico. To accompany her presentation and share with the audience, she brought a large sampling of treasures from her trip.

August – Alison Rossi, the Anne and Henry Zarrow Director of Learning and Community Engagement, shared an in-depth study of the newest GIYN installation which was a photograph from the Eddie Faye Gates Tulsa Race Massacre collection.

October – Mia Hoskinson, Community Engagement Manager shared her expertise in DEIA by dissecting characteristics of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility and how they impact our daily interactions.

November – The November meeting was cancelled.

December – William Smith, PhD., Helmerich Center for American Research Associate Director, shared his current research on the History of the *Cherokee Hymnbook* from 1829 to the present. In August 2024, Dr. Smith presented his research on the intersection of The Cherokee Hymn Book and Isaac Watts, the father of English hymnody, at Cambridge, UK, for the American Society of Church History to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the birth of Reverend Isaac Watts.

January 2025 – Gillies Kathe Crapster, Becky Hatchett, Sharon Patch, and Julie Gentz shared the latest findings from their attendance at the National Docent Symposium in Atlanta as well as Kathe and Becky reporting on their successful presentation on the Gillies involvement in the GIYN project. Their presentation was so successful they have been invited to present it for the docents at the Bellevue Arts Museum in Bellevue, WA on April 28, 2025. Well done, Gillies Docents!

February – Laura Bryant, Director of Repatriation, joined us to discuss the intersection of NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990) and the Gilcrease collection.

April – What an exciting ending for this year's presentations. Stephen Towns, the Baltimore based artist who was Gilcrease's first artist-in-residence under our new Director, mesmerized the audience with his detailed stories and descriptions of his personal philosophy, his efforts to make sense of the realities of race in America, and how his understanding of it informs and guides his art. And the bonus: Stephen remained for quite some time to visit with each and every Gillie who approached him! **(Continued on next page)**

Reminder: There is *no May Docent Meeting*, but we hope to see you all at the
End of Year General Membership Luncheon
May 9, 10:00am at Indian Springs Country Club in Broken Arrow.

Our next Docent Meeting will be in June. There may be a date change but the times – Refreshments at 9:30am and Meeting at 10:00am will remain the same. Check the June *Footprints* for the confirmed date.

Gillies Welcome Our First Artist in Residence, Stephen Towns!



The Prophet

From the Nat Turner Story Quilts Series



Stephen Towns



God's Ways are Mysterious

From the Black Magic Series



Building Tours Begin Amid Springtime at the Gilcrease



Places to Go!



The Nelson-Atkins proudly presents its first-ever exhibition of wildlife and wilderness art. *Survival of the Fittest: Picturing Wildlife and Wilderness* showcases paintings by the influential artists Richard Fries, Wilhelm Kuhnert, Bruno Liljefors, and Carl Rungius. Follow them on a trek across the world, into far-flung scenes beyond our urban centers and domesticated lives.



Wilhelm Kuhnert (German, 1865—1926). *Giraffes in Blooming Field, Ulanga, Tanzania*, no date. Oil on canvas, 30 x 47 inches. Collection of the Rijksmuseum Twenthe, Enschede, Netherlands. Photograph by Rik Klein Gotink.



Richard Fries (German, 1854 — 1918). *Three Polar Bears*, 1912. Oil on canvas, 15 ¼ x 22 ½ inches. National Museum of Wildlife Art, National Museum of Wildlife Art, Jackson, Wyoming. Gift of Tim and Karen Hixon.



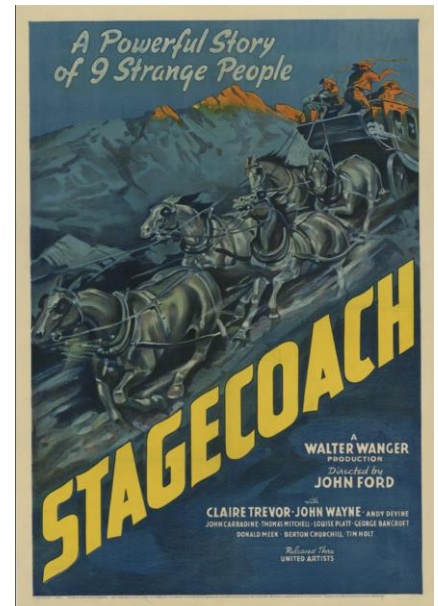
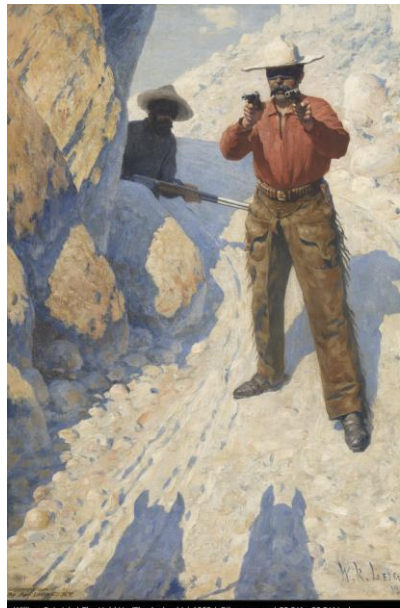
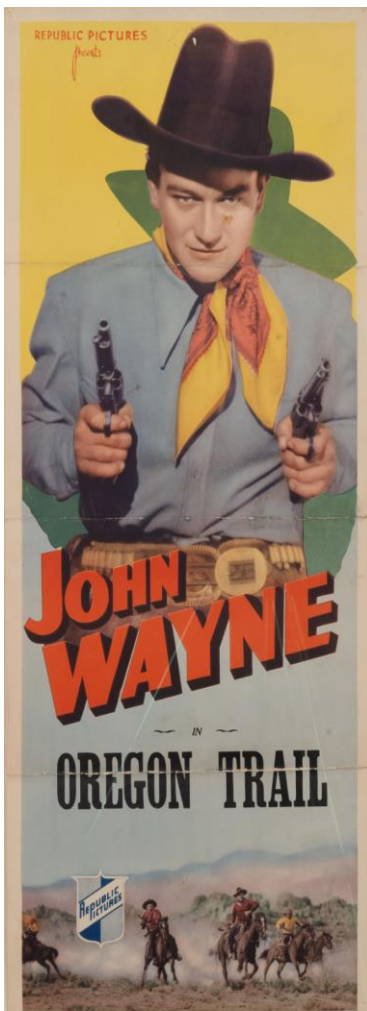
Carl Rungius (German, 1869 — 1959). *Old Baldface*, ca. 1940. Oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches. JKM Collection®, National Museum of Wildlife Art, Jackson, Wyoming. © Estate of Carl Rungius.

Places to go (continued)



The Cinematic West: The Art That Made the Movies examines the connection between artists [Frederic Remington](#), [Charles Russell](#), and other artists at the birth of Hollywood's Western film genre. Their depictions of the American West—its landscapes, characters, and mythology—directly shaped the visual language and narrative conventions of early Western films. By placing paintings, sculptures, and illustrations alongside clips from silent Westerns, vintage movie posters, and related ephemera, the exhibition reveals striking parallels between the visual storytelling of these artists and the cinematic techniques employed by early filmmakers.

THE CINEMATIC WEST: The Art That Made the Movies **Sid Richardson Museum, Fort Worth** **Opens May 3rd, 2025**



Trip to Miami

By Cindy Strasheim, Travel Chair



Seventeen Gillies spent an education day in Miami, OK. Gillies attended the Inter-Tribal Council meeting for the nine Federally recognized tribes living in Ottawa County. Gillies Docent Chair Alana Trisler presented a brief introduction of the Gillies, an update on the Gilcrease timeline, and a handout including links to the Gilcrease website showing art from each of the tribes. Watching the interaction of the nine Chiefs with the community issues coming before them was a unique opportunity.



The Coleman Theatre is on the National Register of Historic Places. Serendipitous stories have taken the treasure from the wrecking ball to the magnificent Orpheum of today. Passionate volunteers kept this theatre open continuously since 1929!



The Dobson House was built in 1915 in the Craftsman style of the day and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Most everything in the house is original including the furniture. Miss Nellie Dobson left the house and family artifacts to the Ottawa County Historical Society. The Dobson Museum holds



most of the community related artifacts. The Nellie Dobson Trust continues to fund these two historic sites.



Myaamia Heritage Museum was fascinating! The collection *Neehaapilkasiciki: The Healing Threads of Myaamia Ribbon Work* on display was on loan from the National Museum of the American Indian, the Cranbrook Institute of Science, and MHMA. Exquisite is the word! "*Myaamia Ribbonwork*", authored by Andrew J. Strack, Karen Baldwin, and Alysia Fischer, has been added to the Gillie Library.



Waylon's Kuku was our last stop. The welcome sounds of beverages through straws were a wonderful way to end the day for tired, thirsty Gillies who were educated on many new topics through the long day of tours.

All Gillies are Invited to Retirement Celebration for Bob Pickering



THE UNIVERSITY of
TULSA
McFarlin Library

TU Provost George Justice cordially invites you to a retirement celebration for

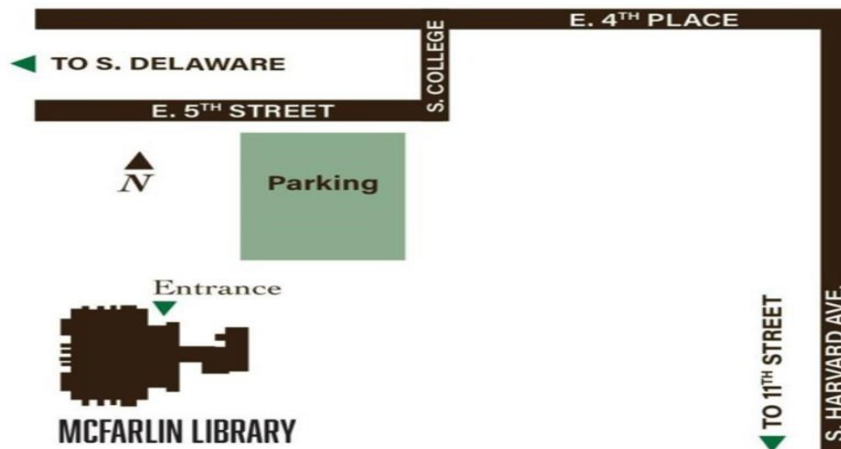
Bob Pickering *R.M. and Ida McFarlin Dean of the Library*

Tuesday, May 13, 2025
McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa
Cocktails & light hors d'oeuvres reception • 4 p.m.
Ann and Jack Graves Faculty Study
RSVP to UAAE-Events@utulsa.edu or 918-631-2651.

Write a Letter or Share Photos



Robert B. Pickering, Ph.D., serves as the R.M. and Ida McFarlin Dean of the Library at The University of Tulsa. Previously at TU, he was the Founding Director of the Museum Science and Management master's degree program and professor of Anthropology. In 1984, he received a Ph.D. in physical Anthropology from Northwestern University after completing his B.A. and M.A. degrees at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Pickering has served in various positions combining research, education, and administration in museums including the Field Museum of Natural History, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, the Buffalo Bill Center for the West, and the Gilcrease Museum. His career combines anthropological research with the broader educational goals of museums. For more than three decades, Pickering also has conducted archaeological and physical anthropological research in the U.S. and Mexico. He has served as a forensic anthropology consultant for the U.S. Army at the end of the Vietnam War, and to numerous medical examiners and coroners around the country. Pickering has written more than 70 articles and nine books for academic and general audiences. His most recent book "Luck is a Fortune," published by the Oklahoma Historical Society, is based on two diaries written by soldiers stationed at Fort Gibson, Oklahoma in 1841. As a curator, Pickering has developed more than 20 museum exhibitions.



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THE GILLIES

2025-26

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Cindy Strasheim

Special Assignments: *For the 2025-26 year, Kathe Crapster will help with the **newsletter**, preparing for the next **Intern class**, and making sure the Gillies **service hours** are collected every month. Teresa Peña will help by staffing **public programs** as they become available and be our official **photographer**. Thanks to both of them for taking on these extra assignments for this interim period until the Gillies are full-strength again.*



Secretary's Report

- Changed Diane Cox's email: dianekcox43@gmail.com
- Oliver Sundby's status has changed to Associate.
- Tom King has resigned as a Gillie.

Please send changes in contact information such as address, phone, and email, as well as news about a Gillie who is ill, to Gillies Secretary, Julie Gentz at: julie.gentz55@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar

- May 2 Joint Executive Committee meeting in HCAR @ 9:00am
- May 2 Joint Board of Directors meeting in HCAR @ 10:00am
- May 9 End of Year Luncheon at The Club at Indian Springs Country Club @ 10am. Address: 16006 East 131st St S, Broken Arrow, OK 74011
- June 6 Docent Meeting (All Gillies Welcome) in HCAR @ 9:30am

Welcome To New Gilcrease Staff



Onyx Montes
Manager of Fellowships and Programs



Laurel Benson-Wrench
Director of Learning & Community Engagement



Alex Mann
Director of Curatorial Affairs

Gillies Board of Trustees Report

2024-2025 Service Hours

Service Area	Hours
Admin. Hours for Year	1,070
Anthropology	520
Archives/HCAR	847
Auditor	2
Board of Directors	248
Conservation	504
Continuing Ed.	391
Docent Meeting	600
Digitization	79
Docent Tour	15
Executive Committee	191
Footprints Newsletter	168
Forum	251
Gilcrease In Your Neighborhood	44
General Membership Meetings & Planning	414
Hospitality	52
Nominating Comm.	13
Public Programs	103
SOG Meeting/training	70
SOG Presentations	200
Technology	89
Travel Committee	118
Total	6008

*Footprints was Published & Edited by
President Kathe Crapster*

