



Footprints

“Every man must leave tracks and they might as well be good ones.” - Thomas Gilcrease

July 2026



Indian Children Learning to Hunt

by William de la Montagne Cary, late 19th century, oil on canvas

One morning in June I woke up and amazingly enough by the end of the day I would be the President of the Gillies - not something I had on my calendar. I thought I had a year before that was going to happen. Growing up as a kid on a farm and ranch in southern Oklahoma, I remembered an old 4-H Club motto “Learn by Doing.” My Dad one day said, “Here’s a big empty hay field and the keys to the pickup. Teach yourself to drive.” My point being, I’ve done this most of my life.

So, with a great set of past Gillies presidents on my side and an eager and capable bunch of officers, some of whom are also learning on the go, I’m ready to tackle this new learning venture. In addition, and according to the potential Gillies interviews I got to sit in on, we have an incredible class of interns joining us for the first time in six years.

It will be the dawning of a wonderful new episode of Mr. Gilcrease’s dreams. We’re going to have a new year for the Gillies to do what we do best. We’ll be able to work with Brian and the amazing staff that he has assembled in a beautiful space that is designed to house an unparalleled collection of art and artifacts of American history and the West. No matter if we’re actively interacting with patrons or working behind the scenes in Conservation, Anthropology, Digitization, or the Archives, we’ll be there making it work - just as we have for sixty years!

Looking forward to a great time in our new space!

Dan Lowrance, Gillies President

Docents' Corner

July 2026

By Alana Trisler, Docent Chair

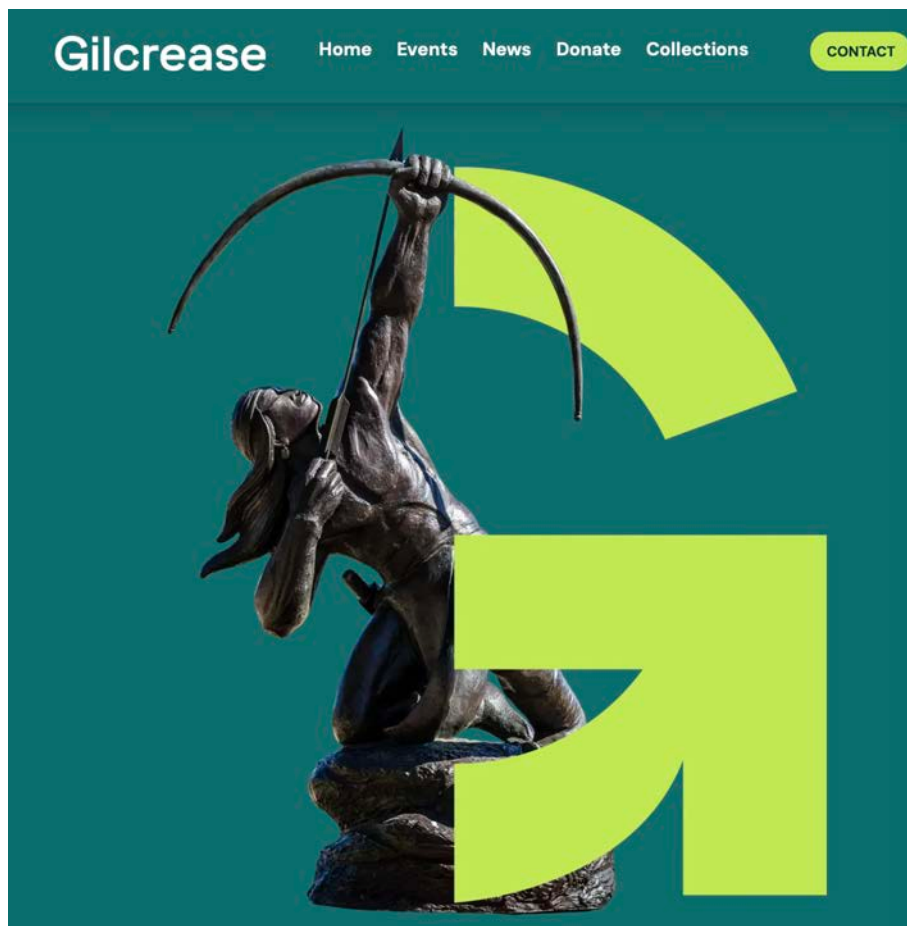
Dear Gillies and Docents,

There will be no Gillies/Docents meeting in July. The next meeting will be Friday, August 7. The Gilcrease Museum Digitization team, Joseph Carriger and Zachary Qualls will share the world of the online collection and how to maneuver it.

Next Docent meeting: August 7

PACCAR room in Helmerich Center

Refreshments at 9:30 Meeting at 10:00



Wiemann Metalworks

By Cindy Strasheim

Wiemann Metalcraft Tour with Tulsa Foundation for Architecture on June 25, 2026



Founded in 1940 in Tulsa by German journeyman mechanic Ernest Wiemann, Wiemann Metalcraft has grown into the largest blacksmith shop in Oklahoma and is nationally recognized in architectural metal fabrication. For more than 85 years, the company has blended traditional blacksmithing craftsmanship with cutting-edge technology to create custom metalwork projects in every U.S. state and on 3 continents.

Specializing in both ornamental and large-scale architectural fabrication, Wiemann Metalcraft produces stairs, metal and glass railings, canopies, gates, decorative fencing, entry doors, gazebos, site furnishings, and more. Their work spans municipal projects, private estates, and hospitality spaces.

The expert artisans work in bronze, steel, and stainless steel. They combine centuries old forging techniques with advanced tools. Wiemann is also a recognized leader in blackened steel and bronze finishes. (Adapted from Tulsa Foundation for Architecture bulletin.)

The Metalworks at Gilcrease

According to Doug Bracken, President of Wiemann Metalworks, Ernest Wiemann personally or through the business donated the gates to Gilcrease in the 1990's

All the metalworks around the Gilcrease House were created and installed by Wiemann in the late 80's. The landscape artist for the Rose Garden was Jim Crosby of Planning Design Group.



More From Metalworks Tour



Gas fired oven to heat the metal. It is then pressed into shapes by industrial machines and fine finished by hand. This craftsman has a master's degree in blacksmithing.



This is coal fired and hand-crafted metal art. You will see some of the ornate works in the artistic ironwork around the Gilcrease house.



Coal fire blacksmithing. This intern is from France.

June 6, 2026, Crystal Bridges

By Cindy Strasheim, Travel Chair

June 6 brought a lot of morning rain. No Gillies were able to make it to the opening of The Crystal Bridges Expansion and America 250 exhibits. I was able to soak in a lot of information. It was Fabulous! The new exhibition space is 114,000 square feet and is spacious! With thousands of people there, it did not feel crowded. Everything was free for everyone. *America 250: Common Threads* exhibit told the story of America through the years with a mix of paintings, sculptures, and collectors' items. Patrons talked about memories that the display brought to them.

The music was outstanding. The 106th Army Band played Americana and a medley of popular tunes. Jazz at Lincoln Center performed in a cozy corner of the Visions of America Gallery. Their interpretation of the history of America through Jazz was exhilarating.

Screen Printing an apron with Bobby C. Martin was an exceedingly popular event. I was able to introduce myself to him. He recognized our new Gilcrease logo from my T-shirt!! He is anxious for Gilcrease to open to be a partner in the future of art. The rest of this report will be snippets of what I learned in the Artist

Talk given by Bobby C. Martin. (The C stands for Clyde.)



The Guardians, oil, encaustic, collage, 24k goldleaf on Birch panel. 7' x 10'

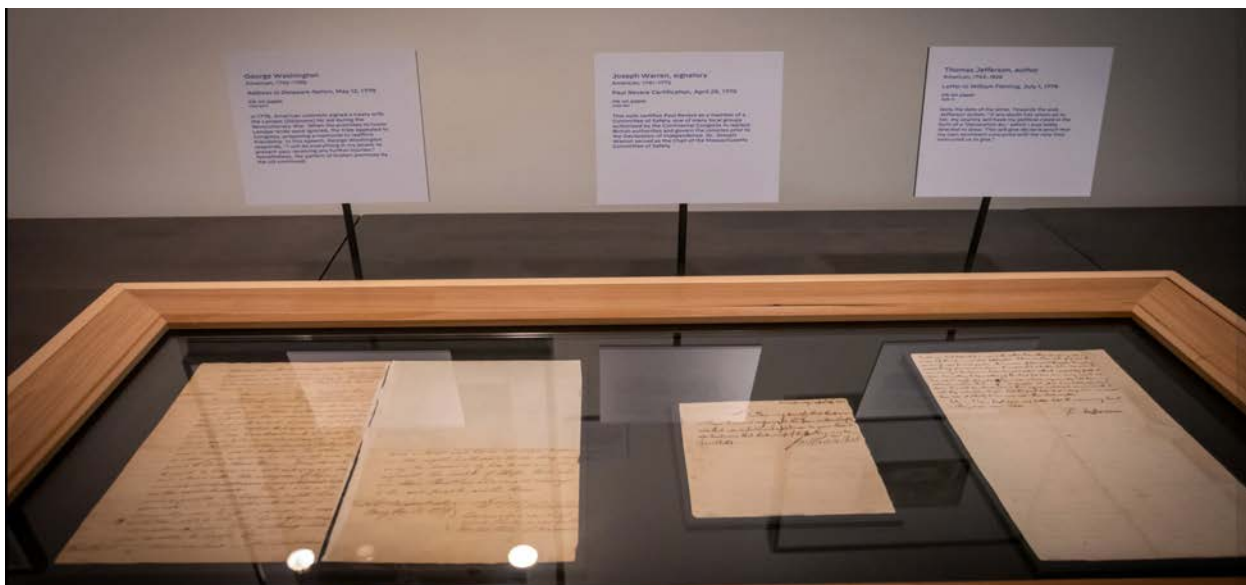
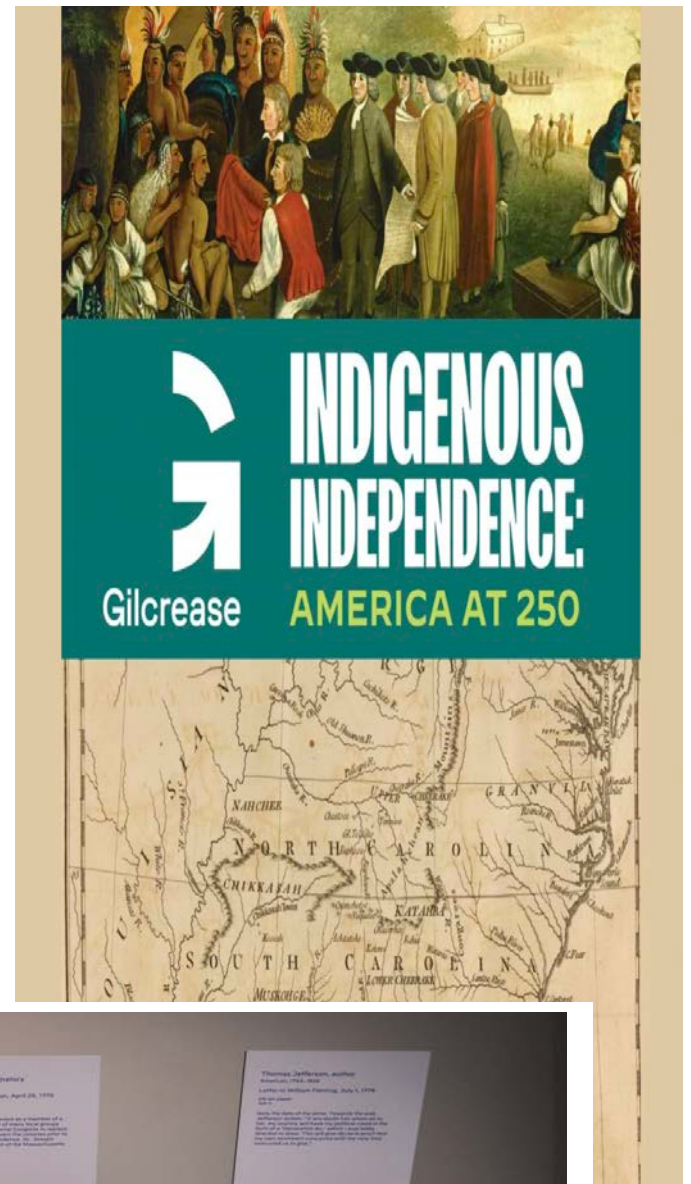
The talk was historical as he stood in front of his first large scale gallery painting. This scene was painted from an old family photo. It was probably an Easter Sunday. His grandfather was a Creek pastor visible in the background of the painting. He grew up being nurtured by these

incredibly strong women surrounding him, grandmother, mother, aunts. The painting is created in layers making it a collage. Note the Dawes Roll in the lower left and his Tribal ID card that is used as signature on the bottom right. The photograph he painted was the original black and white. The colors chosen for this work represent the emotional embodiment of each family member. Bobby C. Martin explained the process of creating this painting and what he learned from his first large-scale work of art. He answered questions about growing up, schooling, employment, teaching, and retiring to continue his art. He was asked where to find his art. He pointed at me and said, "Gilcrease, Philbrook, and other places including London." I announced our trip to Council Oak, and he talked about his mural and art that we enjoyed there. It was a dream come true for me to learn about this Native Wonder of OKLAHOMA. I propose a Gillies Travel adventure to visit his West Siloam Springs, Martin Mountain Studio. bcmartin@bobbymartin.com



Photos From the Opening of the Indigenous Independence Exhibit





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Executive Committee Meetings / Docent Meetings

EC meets 8:30 AM in Jackson/HCAR in June, August, October, November, January, February & April before Docent Meeting
 Docent Meetings in same months; 9:30 AM Meet and Greet, 10:00 AM Meeting begins
 Executive Committee Meetings at 10 AM by Zoom in September, March, and May; no docent meeting in those months

Board of Directors Meetings

Second Thursday at 3:00 PM by Zoom

Membership Meetings/Forums in September and March; End of Year Luncheon in May

Details TBD

Secretary's Report

By Marsha McElroy, Secretary

Sent sympathy cards to Wilcox family and Quintana family
Thinking of you card sent to Cathy Luccock

Updated Membership Information

Removed the following members:

Janet Hayes – resignation, Faye Finley – resignation, Bob Quintana – death, Beverly Wilcox – death

Change of Address

Nancy Thompson
3800 West 71st Street, Apt 3313
Tulsa, Ok 74132

Robin Crowell
7329 Aberdeen Pkwy E
Tulsa, Ok 74132

Sally Tucker
1225 Lakeshore Drive apt 234
Edmond, Ok 73013

Changes in email

Lynn Cyert change email to lacyertod@gmail.com
Del Schuler change email to delschuler06@gmail.com

*Please send changes in contact information (address, phone and email) as well as news about a Gillie who is ill to Gillies Secretary **Marsha McElroy** at marsha.mcelroy@cox.net.*

Mark Your Calendar

August 7	Executive Committee Meeting	8:30 a.m.	Jackson Classroom
August 7	Docent Meeting	9:30 (refreshments)	PACCAR classroom
		10:00 meeting begins	PACCAR classroom
August 13	Board of Directors Meeting	3:00 p.m.	Via Zoom
Sept. 4	Executive Committee Meeting	10:00 a.m.	Via Zoom
Sept. 10	Board of Directors Meeting	3:00 p.m.	Via Zoom
Sept. 18	General Membership Meeting	9:30 (refreshments)	to be determined
		10:00 meeting begins	
	The Forum	10:30 (approximately)	