

NEW FACES OF CORINTHIAN HALL

A Growing Team Works Together

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRUCE MATHEWS



Face carved from wood in the Charles and Anna Milbank Library.



Face carved from Bedford limestone on exterior of Corinthian Hall, depiction of Pan, the Greek god of the wilderness.



Face carved from wood in the Billiard Room, possible depiction of Dionysus, the Greek god of wine and the vine.

By Anna Marie Tutera

In 2010, the Kansas City Museum published *Faces of Corinthian Hall*, researched and written by Rosin Preservation LLC with photography by Bruce Mathews. This work examines the location and significance of the human faces that appear as ornamentation throughout the interior and exterior Beaux-Arts architecture of Corinthian Hall. Whether carved from limestone or wood, or molded into plaster, the faces of Corinthian Hall have watched and witnessed nearly 110 years of activity. They embody the humanity of the building and the stories imprinted within — including those of the skilled craftsmen who designed and built Corinthian Hall in 1910, and the nearly 80 years of staff, volunteers, stakeholders, students, and visitors who have participated in its offerings.

Today, with the architectural construction of Corinthian Hall's interior complete, the faces of Corinthian Hall take on a different meaning as new faces appear on a growing team of staff, consultants, and partners. There are historians, scholars, educators, curators, artists, and nonprofit professionals who are coming together to finish exhibition design and begin developing education and public programs. The team represents diverse perspectives, talents, and experiences, and the innovative individuals and organizations involved believe in the power of history and the humanities to achieve a deeper level of understanding and awareness, to restore and strengthen relationships and collaborations, to create equity and civic unity, and to affect positive, systemic social change.

As the next year of intensive work unfolds to create new exhibitions and programs, the Kansas City Museum will continue to share its progress and highlight the expanding team that is breathing life into this significant project and creating a formidable collective legacy. The goal is to reopen Corinthian Hall in late 2020.



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Kansas City Museum Staff. In the R.A. Long Foundation Grand Hall, from left to right, first row: Collections Specialist Katherine Warfield; Executive Director Anna Marie Tutera; Programs Director Paul Gutiérrez; and Educator and Lead Docent Janet McGuire. Left to right, second row: Director of Operations Chiluba Musonda and Director of Collections and Curatorial Services Denise Morrison.



Architectural Design Team. In the Sunderland Foundation Living Room, seated: Elizabeth Amirahmadi, Principal at International Architects Atelier. Standing left to right: Majid Amirahmadi, Principal at International Architects Atelier; Andy Short, Senior Associate and Project Manager at International Architects Atelier; and Eric Bosch, City Architect for the City of Kansas City, Missouri.



Construction Team. In the Sunderland Foundation Living Room, all from JE Dunn Construction, from left to right: Superintendent Darcy Ahrens; Project Manager Eric Herman; Vice President Jeff Blaesing; and Senior Project Manager Jim Schneider.



Exhibit Design Team. In the Betty Milbank Waldrop Salon, from left to right: Artist and Curator Sonié Joi Thompson-Ruffin; Historian and Archivist Geri Sanders; and Historian and Curator Dr. Gene T. Chávez. They are working together and with historians Dr. Bill Worley (Metropolitan Community College), Dr. Timothy Westcott (Park University), and Dr. Jason Roe (Kansas City Public Library) on exhibition content. More historians and scholars will join the team this summer, working with museum design firm Gallagher & Associates.



Educators. In the Betty Milbank Waldrop Salon, from left to right: Oralee M. McKinzy of Life 360 and Blanca Anchondo-Polite of Engage and Connect, working together on education programs for children, youth, and families. Also on this team are Kristy Peterson and Lisa Middlebrook.



Organizational Partners. In the Betty Milbank Waldrop Salon, seated: Wes King, Vice President of the Board of Directors of One Kansas City Radio. Standing left to right: Deb Campbell, Executive Director of Arts & AGEing KC; Damron Armstrong, Founder and Producing Artistic Director of The Black Repertory Theatre of Kansas City; and Glenn North, Programs Director of the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center & Museum. Also on this team is Anita Dixon, Coordinator for UNESCO Creative Cities Network, Kansas City.



Academic Partners. In the Breakfast Room, both from University of Missouri-Kansas City, from left to right: Dr. Jacob Wagner, Associate Professor and Director of Urban Studies, and Co-founder of the Center for Neighborhoods; and Dina Newman, Director of the Center for Neighborhoods. Resident leaders and UMKC students will work with the Museum on producing content for the third floor Neighborhood gallery space and on creating a cultural and social equity framework for programs and operations.