

# NEWS



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### Mayor Street Announces New Parkway Home for the Barnes Collection

**PHILADELPHIA** — At a City Hall press conference today, Mayor John F. Street announced the new site for the Barnes Foundation will be at 20<sup>th</sup> Street and the Ben Franklin Parkway, the current home of the Youth Study Center (YSC). Present at the announcement were Dr. Bernard Watson, president of the Board of Trustees for the Barnes Foundation, Kimberly Camp, executive director and CEO of the Barnes Foundation, and an array of local and state government officials, including US Congressman Chaka Fattah (D-PA), State Senator Vincent Fumo, Councilman Darrell Clarke, State Representative Babette Josephs, Commerce Director Stephanie Naidoff, Managing Director Phil Goldsmith and Planning Commissioner Maxine Griffith. Also present were prominent players from the business and arts and culture community, who welcomed the Barnes move with great applause.

“I cannot recall in recent history a time when a legal decision has so profoundly impacted the enrichment of Philadelphia arts, culture and education as does this ruling from Montgomery County Orphans’ Court Judge Stanley Ott,” said Mayor John F. Street. “We are delighted the billion dollar Barnes Foundation, a breathtaking collection with more than 9,000 pieces of original art, will soon find a new home in Philadelphia. As a result of the sage and thoughtful intervention of Judge Ott, the Barnes Foundation will now join our city’s other great treasures: The Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Rodin Museum, The Franklin Institute, The Academy of Natural Sciences, the Free Library of Philadelphia, the Moore College of Art and Design and a sculpture garden that will soon pave the way for the Calder Museum.”

In 2002, the Orphans’ Court began consideration of a possible relocation of the Barnes collection. The court evaluated the relocation’s impact on both the Foundation and Lincoln University. Since 1950, the historically black university had been responsible for appointing the majority of trustees in accordance with Dr. Barnes’ will. Today, Lincoln University and the Barnes Foundation support this move.

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## **Barnes Site Location**

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“I couldn’t be more excited,” said Dr. Bernard Watson, President of the Board of Trustees for the Barnes Foundation. “The Barnes has always been a part of the cultural life of Philadelphia and in many ways this move has everything to do with Dr. Barnes’ ideas for education and exposing ‘plain people’ to this magnificent collection. With this move we will also continue his commitment to our existing educational programs and to their expansion. We appreciate Mayor’s Street’s work in helping us to secure a site that will allow for maximum benefits to both the collection and its visitors.”

United States Congressman Chaka Fattah was thrilled with today’s announcement. “This is a remarkable occasion that will create a footprint for Philadelphia’s future. I want to thank Mayor Street for facilitating this move so quickly and the Foundation and all their partners for their great support,” said the Congressman.

The Barnes Foundation collection includes approximately 9,000 unrivaled objects of art: 181 Renoirs, 69 Cézannes, 59 Matisses, 46 Picassos, works by Van Gogh, Degas, Gauguin, Manet, Monet and Seurat. It also includes rare African, Asian and Native American art, unique sculpture, antique furniture, ironwork and delicate Greek and Roman antiquities. The collection was established to “promote the advancement of education and the appreciation of fine arts,” Dr. Albert Barnes once said. The new location will afford visitors and students more time and easier access to the collection, while providing ample space to achieve the educational goals central to Dr. Barnes’ work and his wishes for this institution.

With the addition of the Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia will be home to one of the most important art collections in the world and will appeal to art lovers everywhere.

“Having the Barnes Foundation in the heart of Center City will provide easier access for scores of children and adults who may have been otherwise unable to travel to its current suburban location,” said Stephanie Naidoff, city representative and commerce director for the city of Philadelphia. “Very soon, these truly magnificent works of original art will be enjoyed by all of Philadelphia’s many diverse citizens and the thousands who visit here each year.”

The relocation of the Barnes Foundation also brings special artistic distinction with the addition of one of only three oversized paintings ever created by French Post-Impressionist painter, Paul Cézanne. Today, one is on exhibit in The National Gallery of London; another is in the Philadelphia Museum of Art; the third is included in the Barnes Foundation collection. Now, two of the three oversized Cézannes will be here, in Philadelphia, making this city home to one of the most unique art collections -- second only to that in the Musée d’Orsay in Paris, France.

Citing the importance of the Barnes collection to the city’s economy, Pennsylvania State Senator Vincent Fumo added, “This priceless collection is part of our human civilization and now it will help enormously with our economic development. We have found that more people spend money in Philadelphia because of the arts than any other venue.”

The move has drawn the support of the Lenfest and Annenberg Foundations and the Pew Charitable Trusts. To date, more than \$150 million has been earmarked to help the Foundation move.

With a new home for the Barnes now planned, the YSC is poised to temporarily move to the Cambria Community facility located at 17<sup>th</sup> and Cambria Street.