

# Artis—Naples

Home of The Baker Museum  
and the Naples Philharmonic

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Contact: Therese McDevitt, Communications Director

[tmcdevitt@artisnaples.org](mailto:tmcdevitt@artisnaples.org) | 239-254-2794

Website: [artisnaples.org](http://artisnaples.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/artisnaples](https://www.facebook.com/artisnaples)

Twitter: [@artisnaples](https://twitter.com/artisnaples) / Instagram: [artisnaples](https://www.instagram.com/artisnaples)

## ARTIS—NAPLES ANNOUNCES GIFT OF DALE CHIHULY'S *RED REEDS* TO THE BAKER MUSEUM PERMANENT COLLECTION

**NAPLES, FL (February 28, 2021)** – Artis—Naples announced today a significant gift from Patty and Jay Baker and Jeanette Montgomery Evert and Herbert P. Evert to The Baker Museum permanent collection: *Red Reeds*, by Dale Chihuly, an outdoor installation in the Norris Garden that is part of the exhibition *Dreaming Forms: Chihuly Then and Now*, which closes today. The work, which consists of elongated red blown glass reed forms, will now become a part of The Baker Museum's collection and will remain in the Norris Garden.

Kathleen van Bergen, CEO and President, said "As we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the completion of the repair and expansion of The Baker Museum, we are grateful to add this iconic work by Dale Chihuly to our permanent collection. We are indebted to Patty and Jay Baker and Jeanette and Herb Evert for their remarkable generosity, gifting this stunning addition to our Norris Garden. This gift is a perfect way to mark the decades-long relationship between Dale Chihuly and our cultural community." *Dreaming Forms* was the third Chihuly exhibition in the history of The Baker Museum, preceded by *Reflections of Chihuly: A Naples Museum Inaugural Exhibition* in 2000 and *Chihuly: Recent Work* in 2010.

Courtney McNeil, Museum Director and Chief Curator, The Baker Museum, added "Our deepest thanks go to the Bakers and the Everts for this extraordinarily generous gift, and for their commitment to the strength and depth of the museum's permanent collection. This is a gift for the entire Naples community to enjoy, and we are thrilled that visitors to our Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus will be able to experience its beauty at any time."

Dale and Leslie Chihuly said "We are proud of our long-standing relationship with The Baker Museum and so pleased that *Red Reeds* will have a permanent home in this important institution in the Naples community."

### **About Chihuly Reeds** (Sizes vary from 6-10')

Originating during his experimentation in Nuutajärvi, Finland, and later revisited by Chihuly, reeds are among the most dramatic blown glass forms. To create the long, tubular shape, one glassblower is elevated in a mechanical lift while blowing through the pipe to encourage the form to stretch, while another pulls the glass toward the ground.

The reeds are blown and annealed in a glass factory in Nuutajärvi, Finland. Unlike most factories, the Nuutajärvi facility has high ceilings and continuous-belt annealing ovens, which allows Chihuly to make these elongated forms.

Chihuly has made reeds in cobalt, turquoise, neodymium, yellow and a semi-transparent orange (*Autumn Reeds*). He likes that they can be placed in a variety of environments, from gardens to galleries to architectural settings, as shown at Artis—Naples.

“In Finland we started making these long, cylindrical pieces that looked like spears,” Chihuly says. “This was an exciting new form. It was the first time we ever made anything like that. They are very strong pieces, and they are very dramatic.”

There are 145 hand blown/formed reeds in *Red Reeds*. Its overall dimensions are 123”h x 512”w x 21”d.

The museum’s permanent collection also includes three other large-scale Chihuly works: the monumental *Blue Icicle Chandelier*, which provides a dramatic greeting to visitors as they enter The Baker Museum lobby; *Red Chandelier*, ensconced majestically in Hayes Hall, where it reflects the light in various ways, creating a swirl of energy in the surrounding environment; and the magnificent *Persian Seaform Ceiling*, with glass panes spanning the length of an entire corridor on the third floor of The Baker Museum, sending vivid colorful patterns dancing across the walls and floors below as light filters in from above.

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### **ARTIS—NAPLES**

Home of The Baker Museum and the Naples Philharmonic, Artis—Naples is unique among cultural institutions nationwide, equally dedicated to both the visual and performing arts featuring artists of global distinction.

### **KIMBERLY K. QUERREY and LOUIS A. SIMPSON CULTURAL CAMPUS**

Led by CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen and Sharon and Timothy Ubben Music Director Andrey Boreyko, we typically offer audiences more than 800 paid and free events annually within a variety of venues and settings situated throughout the 8.5-acre Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus. Artis—Naples welcomes thousands of visitors each year for a broad array of artistic and educational opportunities perfect for audiences of all backgrounds and interests. The Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus is home to five buildings, including two performance halls (Frances Pew Hayes Hall and Myra J. Daniels Pavilion), The Baker Museum, the Toni Stabile Education Building and the Kohan Administration Building.

In the 2014-15 season, Andrey Boreyko assumed the title of Music Director and serves in this capacity for Artis—Naples. Boreyko is internationally recognized as one of the most exciting and dynamic conductors working today. This appointment, extended through 2022, marks his first American post.

*The Wall Street Journal* says van Bergen and Boreyko have ushered in “an impressive new phase” for classical music in Southwest Florida.

### **NAPLES PHILHARMONIC**

The Naples Philharmonic has long been recognized as one of the cornerstones of Southwest Florida’s arts community. As part of Artis—Naples, the Naples Philharmonic typically performs more than 140 orchestral and chamber music concerts, as well as opera and ballet, education, community and special event concerts annually between September and June in the 1,477-seat Hayes Hall, the 283-seat Daniels Pavilion and around the Southwest Florida region.

Jack Everly is Principal Pops Conductor and in the 2020-21 season celebrates 11 years in this role, bringing pops performances that celebrate music in its many forms. In 2017, Romanian conductor Radu Paponiu was named Assistant Conductor of the Naples Philharmonic and director of the Naples Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and in 2019 was promoted to Associate Conductor.

## **THE BAKER MUSEUM**

The Baker Museum is one of the foremost fine art museums in Southwest Florida. The museum hosts several traveling exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from its permanent collection. Comprising more than 4,000 objects, the museum's broad holdings of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century art reflect the generosity and commitment of area collectors. Of particular strength are The Baker Museum's collections of American and Mexican modern art and significant gifts from the personal collection of Olga Hirshhorn.

With almost two decades of collecting and exhibiting, the museum is dedicated to stewardship and scholarship from both its growing permanent collection and outside sources. At the same time, The Baker Museum seeks out the best traveling exhibitions from the leading arts institutions in the world—including recently the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institutions and École des Beaux-Arts, Paris—to enrich the Southwest Florida community.

The Baker Museum exhibitions reopened to the public on December 1, 2019, after being closed for more than two years in the wake of Hurricane Irma. The repair of the museum was paired with a simultaneous expansion of the building to the south, which created new spaces for multidisciplinary exploration and social interaction.

## **EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY**

In addition to creating and presenting visual and performing arts, Artis—Naples provides robust education and community activities for students of all ages. Typically, thousands of Collier County Public Schools interact with Artis—Naples education programming each year both on its cultural campus and in classrooms. The Lifelong Learning program provides engaging lectures and study opportunities for adults seeking to engage more deeply with the arts.

The Friends of Artis—Naples, with more than 4,000 households who give more than \$75, offers activities, travel experiences and events geared toward creating a deeper relationship between patrons and the arts.

In 2017, Artis—Naples acquired the Naples International Film Festival (NIFF), expanding its film offerings and providing a platform for the festival's continued excellence and growth. In 2018, NIFF celebrated its tenth year in the community, and in 2019, NIFF was named one of *MovieMaker* Magazine's Top 25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World.

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