CENTENNIAL PARK HISTORY

Centennial Park is a vibrant urban green space that is a significant part of Nashville's cultural and recreational history. Though there were no known permanent Native American villages in the area, there were probably small Shawnee, Cherokee, and Chickasaw settlements until several years after the arrival of the first European settlers in the 1780s. In 1783, Centennial Park land was part of a 640-acre farm purchased for $0.50 an acre by pioneers John and Ann Robertson Cockrill. Eventually the land became first fairgrounds and then a racecourse before serving as the site of the 1897 Centennial Exposition celebrating Tennessee’s first 100 years of statehood. At the close of the six-month Exposition all the buildings were dismantled except the Parthenon. In 1901 the newly formed Park Board acquired the property and opened it as Centennial Park in 1903. Centennial Park has been Nashville’s iconic setting for concerts, art exhibits, festivals, and the beauty of nature for over 100 years.

SUPPORT THE PARTHENON

You can support the Nashville Parthenon by making a donation to the Parthenon Preservation Fund to help us care for the historic building or by becoming a member of Centennial Park Conservancy, the Parthenon’s nonprofit support organization that funds 100% of the museum’s exhibitions and educational programming. Members receive free Parthenon admission, Museum Store discounts, and other benefits. Learn more at www.nashvilleparthenon.com/support

MUSEUM RULES

- Food, drink, water, and gum are not permitted in the museum.
- Please enjoy the art with your eyes only; touching will cause damage.
- No pets.

MUSEUM & MUSEUM STORE HOURS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

- Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 7:00pm
- Friday – Saturday 9:00am – 4:30pm
- Sunday 12:30pm - 4:30pm

MUSEUM ADMISSION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

- Centennial Park Conservancy Members: Free
- Adults: $10.00
- Children/Students (4-17) & Seniors (62+): $8.00
- Children Under 4: Free

SHARE YOUR VISIT

Photography is encouraged! #NashvilleParthenon

WELCOME

Welcome to the Nashville Parthenon, the only full-scale replica of the ancient Greek temple in the world. The museum has two levels: Level 1 features four galleries; Level 2 is a replica of the Parthenon interior complete with the tallest indoor statue in the Western Hemisphere. Feel free to explore the museum however you wish, but our suggested route ensures you see all the Nashville Parthenon has to offer.
In 1883 Homer shifted his focus to maritime subjects painted at his new home in Maine. Experimenting with oil paint to render scenes from everyday life; one of the greatest American artists of the nineteenth century, Winslow Homer (1836-1910) of King George III, and later President of the Royal Academy of Art. Inspired by Roman mythology, Venus and Cupid is an example of the neoclassical style and was painted just two years after West's arrival in England. Benjamin West (1738-1820) was a historical painter in the United States. Pushman continued to be influenced by the subjects and themes of his homeland and his mentor, Adolph Deikhauz, encouraged him to incorporate the images and decorative arts of his childhood into his mature work. James Cowan acquired the painting in 1936, Aurora, Illinois, art exhibition where he met Pushman, and it was subsequently displayed in Mr. Cowan’s dining room.

The East and West Galleries offer a series of temporary exhibitions ranging in content from visual art to history and the classical world.

The naos or cella was the ancient temple’s primary space. It housed the enormous statue of Athena, goddess of wisdom, prudent warfare, and the arts, whom the people of Athens regarded as their patron deity. The statue, double rows of Doric columns, and large doors offer a recreation of the 5th century BCE Parthenon.

The Pediment Maquettes are casts of the Parthenon’s pediment figures. Casts such as these, taken before the worst damage from pollution occurred, carry important evidence of the original sculptor’s intent and skill. This set was purchased to enable sculptors Belle Kinney and Leopold Scholz to recreate the pediments as accurately as possible.

The Pediment Maquettes
Above the casts are the maquettes, or models, that sculptors Kinney and Scholz created to work out the placement and spacing of all the figures in the pediments. Each full-size cast is resting on a color that corresponds to the same figure in the maquette.

MUSEUM STORE
Find the perfect items to remember your visit to Nashville’s most iconic museum. From local products and art prints to mythological toys and unique clothing, the Museum Store has something for all ages.

EXTERIOR & CENTENNIAL PARK
- Climb the center steps to explore the colonnade.
- Look up! Architectural details in the columns, ceiling, pediments, and roof will amaze you.
- Enjoy the walking trails around Lake Watauga, the only other surviving feature from the 1897 Centennial Exposition in the park.
- Breathe in the beauty of the Sunken Garden.
- See what’s on view or take an art class at the Centennial Art Center.
- Play on the Centennial Park playground.
- Sign up for music, theater, and dance classes at Centennial Performing Arts Studios.
- Visit conservancyonline.com to learn about upcoming festivals and programs taking place in the park.
- View a map of Centennial Park at: nashvilleparthenon.com/centennial-park