

**BLANTON  
MUSEUM 卐 ART**

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## **Kelsey Evans Named Inaugural Deputy Director of Advancement at the Blanton Museum of Art**



**AUSTIN, TX — January 9, 2026** — The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin is pleased to announce the appointment of Kelsey Evans as inaugural Deputy Director of Advancement, effective Monday, February 2, 2026. In this new senior leadership role, Ms. Evans will report to Simone J. Wicha, Director of the Blanton Museum of Art, and provide strategic leadership for the museum’s comprehensive development and membership programs.

As Deputy Director of Advancement, Ms. Evans will oversee all facets of fundraising, including major and planned gifts, donor relations and stewardship, corporate and foundation support, government funding, sponsorships, special events, endowment and capital campaigns, grant writing, and membership. She will be an essential part of the leadership team and help expand the museum's donor and member base.

"We're thrilled to have Kelsey step into the position of Deputy Director of Advancement," said Simone J. Wicha. "She is a recognized leader in the field, and her strategic leadership and deep knowledge of the university and funding community will be invaluable as we build on the museum's momentum. The Blanton Leadership Board and I are excited to continue advancing our ambitious vision and impact in the community."

Ms. Evans brings more than 25 years of experience in building relationships and driving philanthropic success across UT. She most recently served as Executive Director of Industry Engagement and has previously held roles including Assistant Dean for External Relations at the College of Natural Sciences and Executive Director of Development at the Cockrell School of Engineering. Throughout her career, she has helped individuals, companies, and foundation donors invest nearly \$300 million in UT.

"I have long admired the Blanton Museum of Art and am honored to join its staff at such an exciting moment in the museum's history," said Kelsey Evans. "I look forward to working with the talented museum staff, members of the Blanton Leadership Board and Blanton Museum Council, and other supporters to strengthen the Blanton's impact."

The addition of this crucial role is a key next step in Director Wicha's strategy to continue to build a nationally recognized art museum for The University of Texas at Austin and the Austin community. Over the last fifteen years, the museum's profile has grown through building highly respected curatorial and education teams, realizing *Austin* by Ellsworth Kelly, developing the museum's new grounds, and doubling attendance. With a stellar year of exhibitions coming up in 2026, the opening of the new museum café, robust education programs, and the major exhibition *Shaping the Future: Transformative Gifts to the Blanton Collection*, as well as the Blanton Gala on the horizon in 2027, this is a moment of great opportunity for the Blanton. The Deputy Director of Advancement will continue to drive philanthropic investment to support the museum's mission.

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#### **About the Blanton Museum of Art:**

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art holds the largest public collection in Central Texas with more than 22,000 objects. Recognized as the home of Ellsworth Kelly's *Austin*, its major collecting areas are modern and contemporary U.S. and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and prints and drawings. The Blanton offers thought-provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.