

# Press Release



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## PSEG Foundation Grant Supports Newark Museum Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives

**Newark, NJ:** The PSEG Foundation recently awarded the Newark Museum a major, multi-year grant in support of several key diversity initiatives designed to enhance its ability to meet the cultural and educational needs of the communities it serves.

A major initiative supported by the grant is the reinstallation and renovation of the Modern and Contemporary *Seeing America* galleries, which includes widening the story of American history to include underrepresented artistic and cultural voices. As part of the reinstallation opening on March 9, a new thematic gallery will explore connections between indigenous art and Euro-American modernism; two galleries exploring the Harlem renaissance and civil rights era will be refreshed with new rotations of important works by African American artists; and works by Latin American artists will be integrated into the Abstract Expressionism and contemporary art galleries.

Another initiative will incorporate more diverse artists, scholars and performers into the Museum's education programs and artist-in-residency programs.

In addition, the grant underwrote recently completed accessibility efforts to enable all visitors to fully participate in public programming and events. ADA improvements to the Engelhard Court include the installation of a lift for people with physical disabilities. As the Court is centrally located and serves as the Museum's primary community gathering space, this transformative upgrade in inclusivity allows the Museum to provide cultural and educational experiences for everyone.

"We are most grateful for this transformational grant from the PSEG Foundation and for their commitment to supporting the continued betterment of New Jersey communities," said Linda C. Harrison, the Museum's Director and CEO. "Since its founding in 1909, the Museum has strived to create a progressive institution where all cultures and populations feel welcome and inspired. With renowned global collections of African, Asian, and American art, we have historically presented exhibitions and education programs that reflect the diversity found within our communities, providing a safe space for exploring different cultures and traditions, and offering cross-cultural learning opportunities to enhance understanding."

Over the past year, the Museum has implemented several initiatives designed to attract and serve a more diverse audience. In 2017, the Museum served 48,543 school children in education programs related to American art, including 5,000 who participated in programs tied to the *Native Artists of North America* exhibition, which was supported by the PSEG Foundation. When *Native Artists of North America* opened in the fall of 2016, the Museum brought Native American artists and scholars from New Jersey and around the country to participate in a variety of public programs.

“The Newark Museum is a key New Jersey cultural institution and plays a leading role in fostering greater understanding of our history and greater empathy among us all through the arts,” said Barb Short, President of the PSEG Foundation and PSEG’s Chief Diversity Officer. “The PSEG Foundation is honored to support the museum’s growing diversity and inclusion programs and to help ensure access to the arts for all.”

The Museum has also worked to include diverse voices in the development and presentation of its signature monthly programs *Second Sundays* (themed programs with a mix of activities for all ages, including young families), and *Late Thursdays* (creative, social evenings geared towards adults). Educational program offerings were expanded to include activities for both older adults, ages 55 and up, and pre-school-aged children and their families, particularly those from low-income neighborhoods in Newark’s South Ward.

For further information about the Newark Museum, visit [www.newarkmuseum.org](http://www.newarkmuseum.org).

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