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## Xavier University Art Collection Awarded an Emergency Planning Grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities

**New Orleans** – The Xavier University Art Collection and Gallery recently celebrated a significant milestone as it secured a prestigious 2024 Emergency Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness Grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH). As the university prepares to celebrate its first century of service in 2025, the grant represents a pivotal step in fortifying Xavier’s ability to safeguard its invaluable collection against potential threats such as natural disasters.

“I am delighted to have received this grant from the LEH,” stated Daniele Gair, the manager and registrar of the Xavier University of Louisiana Art Collection. “It will help us ensure that the collection is healthy and available, both to Xavier and the wider community, for years to come.”

The grant is poised to empower the university in several critical areas. Firstly, it will facilitate comprehensive inventorying and appraisal of the collection, laying a solid foundation for future management and preservation efforts. Funds will also be allocated towards forming a robust collections management policy and an emergency preparedness plan, ensuring the institution is well-equipped to mitigate future emergencies. Furthermore, the grant will enable the collection staff to facilitate collection care sessions with the Xavier community, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and knowledge stewardship for the campus. This collaborative approach underscores the university’s commitment to ensuring the longevity and accessibility of its treasures.

The Xavier University Collection serves as a testament to the rich history and cultural heritage of the nation’s only historically Black and Catholic university, the city of New Orleans, the Gulf South, and beyond. Comprising of works by many esteemed alumni, including Frank Hayden (’57), Louise Mouton Johnson (’76), Martin Payton (’73), Steve Prince (’93), and John T. Scott (’62), as well as other luminary artists like Richmond Barthé, Aaron Douglass, Sam Gilliam, Inge Hardison and more, the collection embodies a legacy of artistic excellence and visionary leadership.

The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities is also home to the Helis Foundation John Scott Center, which houses a selection of works from the Xavier University Collection. These works, including pieces such as “Middle Passage,” “Reliquaries #3,” and “Snake Charmer’s Wisp,” offer profound insights into the artistic vision and cultural significance of the late Xavier alumnus and president emeritus John T. Scott, enriching the dialogue surrounding heritage and symbolism.

At its core, the Xavier University Art Collection and Gallery is dedicated to promoting the knowledge and understanding of a diverse global contemporary culture. Through exhibitions, public programs, and scholarship through the study, preservation, and promotion of art, the Xavier Collection and Gallery harnesses the transformative power of art to foster social change and advance the university’s mission of

promoting a more just and human society while ensuring the pieces it holds can be enjoyed for generations to come.



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### **About Xavier University of Louisiana**

*On the cusp of celebrating its first 100 years of service, Xavier University of Louisiana remains America's only historically Black and Catholic University and is ranked among the top HBCUs (historically Black colleges and universities) in the nation. Recognized as a national leader in STEM and health sciences, Xavier has historically produced more African American students who graduate from medical schools each year than any other university in the United States. Additionally, Xavier's College of Pharmacy is among the country's top producers of African American pharmacists.*

*Established almost a century ago in 1925 by Saint Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament as a place for African Americans and Native Americans to receive a quality education, Xavier has since expanded its programs in nearly every industry, including the arts, sciences, business, education, pharmacy, and political science. More recent additions in STEM-based master's programs and undergraduate options in robotics, bioinformatics, engineering, data science, neuroscience, and genetics, have provided Xavier students (3,181 students) an unbeatable experience of traditional classroom study, hands-on research, service-learning opportunities, and life experiences. Xavier students collaborate with world-renowned faculty and experts in their fields to produce award-winning research and notable work. The winning Xavier formula provides students with a well-balanced curriculum and an environment that nurtures their intellect and feeds their souls, developing all who choose to learn at the institution into the next generation of leaders and agents of positive change. Blessed with a mission to promote a more just and humane society, Xavier is leading the way to a brighter future for all. For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana, visit [www.XULA.edu](http://www.XULA.edu) or contact the Marketing and Communications Department at (504) 520-5425 or [XULANews@XULA.edu](mailto:XULANews@XULA.edu).*