

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

111 South Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60603  
t 312.443.3626 f 312.443.0193 www.artinstituteofchicago.org



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 18, 2016**

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Amanda Hicks  
(312) 443-7297  
ahicks@artic.edu

Claire Weibel  
(312) 443-3363  
cweibe@artic.edu

**OPEN SOMETHING GREATER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AT THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO**

**“Gifts to the City” Highlights Spectacular New Works in the Museum’s Collection**

**Festivities Begin with the Neapolitan Crèche and Decorated Thorne Miniature Rooms**

**25th Annual Wreathing of the Lions on the Friday After Thanksgiving**



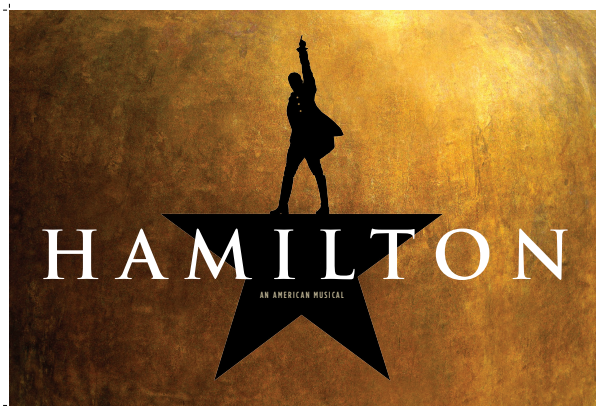
The Art Institute of Chicago heralds the start of the holiday season by offering visitors from Chicago and around the world extraordinary new acquisitions to the museum’s collection, art-filled events and programs, music, miniatures, fun photo opportunities, and more.

**Sponsored by Bank of America and Papyrus,** the festivities launch into full swing with the museum’s **25<sup>th</sup> annual Wreathing of the Lions** on **Friday, November 25, 2016**, with **cast members from the Chicago production of HAMILTON**, and continue through **Sunday, January 8, 2016**. This season, the Art Institute offers joy, inspiration, creativity, and contemplation—one-of-a-kind experiences for all ages.

“Bank of America is pleased to kick off the holidays at the Art Institute of Chicago by sponsoring the 25th Anniversary of the ‘Wreathing of the Lions’ as well as the museum’s ‘Gifts to the City,’” said **Paul Lambert, Chicago market president, Bank of America**. “Our partnership with the Art Institute of Chicago is an exciting way for us to bring individuals and families together and across cultures at one of our city’s greatest inspirational institutions in celebration of the season’s festivities and traditions.”

"The Papyrus brand was inspired by a love for fine art, textures, letters and a vision for products of uncompromising quality that spark genuine personal connections," said **Christy Kaprosy, President, Papyrus-Recycled Greetings, Inc.** "Our exciting new partnership with the Art Institute of Chicago integrates our brand ethos by curating events that bring people together and celebrate the arts. We look forward to sharing in the holiday festivities and providing special touches at Art Institute events that will be part of family memories for years to come."

Our beloved lions don their traditional evergreen wreaths at the Michigan Avenue entrance on **November 25, 2016**, for the **25th Annual Wreathing of the Lions**. A Chicago family favorite, wreathing festivities commence at **10:00am**, with **HAMILTON cast members** serving as masters of ceremony, and will include free hot chocolate and giveaways, and a musical performance by **Soul Children of Chicago**.



Following the outdoor ceremony on the Michigan Avenue steps, families are invited to stop by the **Ryan Learning Center**, where they can create wreaths of their own inspired by art in the galleries.

For the fifth year, the Art Institute will be showcasing its "**Gifts to the City**"—a selection of the year's acquisitions and loans that continue to build the museum's collection for the inspiration of residents of and visitors to Chicago. Of particular note is an exquisite **Altar Set** from China, in near-perfect preservation since being intricately crafted during the **Qing dynasty (1644-1911)**, and photographer **Rashid Johnson's** print **Our House (2011)**, exploring themes related to the African American experience of slavery and race relations.



Continuing the Art Institute's annual tradition, the spectacular mid-18th-century **Neapolitan crèche** will return to **Gallery 209**. The crèche, one of very few outside of Naples, is an intricate Nativity scene that reflects the vitality and artisanship that the city is still known for. The Art Institute's crèche features over 200 figures—including no less than 50 animals and 41 items of food and drink—all staged in a spectacular Baroque cabinet with a painted backdrop. Also returning this year is a **performance by members of the Lyric Opera of Chicago's Ryan Opera Center**, playing music inspired by the Neapolitan

crèche. This year, a **new catalogue exploring the vitality and artisanship of the crèche and its history** is available in the museum's gift shops.

Another decorating tradition returns with the **Thorne Miniature Rooms** dressed in holiday finery, and an even more extravagant display in the English Drawing Room of the Victorian period! Members will have a chance to go **Behind-the-Scenes** this year with Lindsay Mican Morgan, keeper of the Thorne Rooms, as she decorates them for the holidays.

With a full roster of joyous performances, enlightening gallery tours, and engaging activities for young visitors, the Art Institute is the place to spend the holidays with friends and family. **Children under 14 always receive free admission to the Art Institute.**

Visit the Art Institute's website at [www.artic.edu](http://www.artic.edu) for the latest information.

Exhibitions and programs are free with museum admission unless otherwise noted. **The Art Institute will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day, and will close at 5:00pm on Christmas Eve Day and New Year's Eve Day.**

Holidays 2016 are sponsored by:



#### **ABOUT BANK OF AMERICA'S SUPPORT OF THE ARTS**

Bank of America's program of arts support reflects our belief that the ARTS MATTER: They help economies thrive, help individuals connect with each other and across cultures, and educate and enrich societies. We support nonprofit arts institutions that deliver both the visual and performing arts, provide inspirational and educational sustenance, anchor communities, create jobs, complement school curricula and generate substantial revenue for local businesses. On a global scale, the arts speak to us in a universal language that provides pathways to greater cultural understanding. We believe the neighborhood playhouse can be as important as the world-class museum or orchestra in its value to the community, in the lives of its citizens and in the education of its young people. Combined with our charitable foundation employee Matching Gifts program, we support more than 2000 arts organizations worldwide.

## **ABOUT PAPYRUS**

Papyrus believes that life is a celebration. Inspired by a love of fine art, Papyrus strives to elevate all of life's ordinary and extraordinary moments to become joyful events, visual statements and objects of beauty that punctuate the way we experience life. As the premium, preeminent social expressions brand in the industry, Papyrus stands by a vision for products of uncompromising quality that provide the starting point from which genuine personal connections are made. Meticulously handcrafted, impeccably packaged, flawlessly finished. Consumers can find Papyrus products in retailers across the country. To learn more, visit [www.papyrusonline.com](http://www.papyrusonline.com) or join the conversation on social with @papyrus.

## **ABOUT HAMILTON**



With book, music and lyrics by **Lin-Manuel Miranda**, direction by **Thomas Kail**, choreography by **Andy Blankenbuehler** and music supervision and orchestrations by **Alex Lacamoire**, **HAMILTON** is based on Ron Chernow's biography of Founding Father Alexander Hamilton. **HAMILTON** is the story of America's Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, an immigrant from the West Indies who became George Washington's right-hand man during the Revolutionary War and was the new nation's first Treasury Secretary. Featuring a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, blues, rap, R&B, and Broadway, **HAMILTON** is the story of America then, as told by America now.

For information on **HAMILTON**, visit:

[www.HamiltonOnBroadway.com](http://www.HamiltonOnBroadway.com), [www.Facebook.com/HamiltonMusical](http://www.Facebook.com/HamiltonMusical), [www.Instagram.com/HamiltonMusical](http://www.Instagram.com/HamiltonMusical) and [www.Twitter.com/HamiltonMusical](http://www.Twitter.com/HamiltonMusical).

**# # #**

[www.artic.edu](http://www.artic.edu)  
[Twitter](#)  
[Facebook](#)

**MUSEUM HOURS**  
Daily: 10:30–5:00  
Thursdays until 8:00

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days  
Children under 14 always free  
Members always free

The Art Institute of Chicago gratefully acknowledges the support of the Chicago Park District on behalf of the citizens.