

FACT SHEET

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Corcoran School of the Arts and Design at the George Washington University

Corcoran mission

The Corcoran School of the Arts and Design at the George Washington University educates the next generation of creative cultural leaders to be experts in their field of study and to address the critical issues of our time.

Corcoran by the numbers

- 1878, the year the Corcoran School was founded
- 1897, the year the Flagg Building opened
- Over 500 undergraduate and graduate students
- 50 full-time and over 100 part-time faculty

About the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design

- William Wilson Corcoran founded the Corcoran Gallery of Art in 1869. He donated additional funding to establish the Corcoran School of Art in 1878, which became the Corcoran College of Art + Design in 1999.
- The Beaux-Arts style building was designed by Ernest Flagg and is considered to be a premier example of the style. By the start of the 1930s the school saw enough growth to begin its expansion. Commercial art classes and summer opportunities were added at this time.
- William Wilson Corcoran served as the president of the George Washington Board of Trustees from 1869 until 1888 and donated generously to the university. In 1924, Corcoran Hall on GW's Foggy Bottom Campus was dedicated to honor Mr. Corcoran.
- In 1897, the Corcoran School moved to its current location, a Beaux Arts building designed by Ernest Flagg.
- In August 2014, the Corcoran School became part of George Washington University's Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. At that time, the university committed to maintaining the original Corcoran mission to support the arts and assumed responsibility for the necessary renovations to the building.
- When GW acquired the building in 2014, the Corcoran Gallery began redistributing its artwork to many different museums and universities, over 99% of which remains in the District of Columbia.
- In 2015, Sanjit Sethi —a practicing artist and accomplished nonprofit leader— was named the school director.



- The **Luther W. Brady Art Gallery** is located on the first floor of the Corcoran's Flagg Building and administers the university's art collection, numbering over 4,000 objects including paintings, sculptures, graphics, textiles, ceramics, historic furnishings and photographs.
- The **Salon Doré** is the Corcoran's 18th-century French period room. It was originally part of the hôtel de Clermont, an important early 18th-century private residence in the Faubourg Saint-Germain, an old aristocratic quarter of Paris. After purchasing the house in 1768, Pierre-Gaspard-Marie Grimod, Count d'Orsay, commissioned the Salon Doré as the drawing room for his bride, Marie-Louise-Albertine-Amélie, Princess de Croÿ-Molenbais; it was completed just in time for their marriage in December 1770.
- In 1926, the room's gilded wall paneling and ceiling mural came to the Corcoran as part of the bequest of William A. Clark (1839-1925), an industrialist and United States Senator from Montana. Senator Clark purchased the room around 1904 for installation in the mansion he was building on Fifth Avenue at 77th Street in New York City. The Salon Doré as it is today is the product of these two great patrons of the arts, the French Count d-Orsay and the Francophile Senator Clark.
- The *National Gallery of Art* will eventually be a tenant on the Corcoran's second floor.

Notable alumni of the Corcoran

- **Pacita Abad**, an Ivatan and Filipino visual artist who exhibited her work in over 200 museums, galleries and other venues
- **Ernest Bairstow**, architectural sculptor noted for his work on the *Lincoln Memorial*
- **Duff Goldman**, pastry chef and television personality known for the Food Network reality show *Ace of Cakes*
- **Tim Gunn**, fashion consultant and television personality known for being the on-air mentor to designers on *Project Runway* for 16 seasons of the reality competition
- **Dariusz Kashani**, film, stage and television actor known for appearing in series' *Dietland*, *Ghost Whisperer*, and *Madam Secretary*
- **Jared Leto**, actor and singer/songwriter known for his Oscar-winning performance in *Dallas Buyers Club* and as the lead vocalist for alternative rock band *Thirty Seconds to Mars*
- **David Lynch**, filmmaker, painter, musician, actor and photographer known for directing films *Dune*, *Blue Velvet*, *Mullholland Drive* and the television series *Twin Peaks*
- **Kerry Washington**, actress known for her leading role in the television series *Scandal*
- **Daniel H. Weiss**, president and CEO of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City

Degrees Offered at the Corcoran

The school offers 11 undergraduate and 11 graduate degrees in the fields of Art History, Classical Acting, Dance, Decorative Arts and Design History, Exhibition Design, Fine Art, Fine Art Photography, Graphic Design, Interaction Design, Interior Architecture, Museum Studies, Music, New Media Photojournalism, Production Design, Social Practice and Theatre.

