

Timeline

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Nelson-Atkins Events

- 1911** - Mary Atkins dies, leaving funds to build an art museum in Kansas City
- 1915** - William Rockhill Nelson dies, leaving the majority of his estate for the purchase of art for Kansas City
- 1921** - Ida Nelson dies, having made provisions in her will to build a museum
- 1926** - Laura Nelson Kirkwood dies, leaving \$1.2 million to establish an art gallery
- 1926** - Nelson-Kirkwood Trustees are formed
- 1930** - Ground is broken for building the museum
- 1930** - First French painting purchases
- 1931** - During the Depression, the Nelson-Atkins purchases ten French paintings at a low cost
- 1932** - First modern French painting purchased
- 1933** - Opening of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
- 1935** - First exhibition of French art at The Nelson-Atkins
- 1938** - James Roth becomes first conservator
- 1938** - Acquisition of two Post-Impressionist paintings

1940 - The Nelson-Atkins is a safe haven during World War II

1942 - Women run the museum while their male colleagues fight in World War II

1944 - Laura Nelson Kirkwood Residuary Trust dispersal of goods, including painting by Camille Pissarro

1954 - First curator of European Art is hired

1957 - Acquisition by petition of Claude Monet's *Water Lilies*

1959 - Ralph T. Coe hired as Curator of Paintings and Sculpture

1960 - Acquisition of Camille Pissarro's *Garden of Les Mathurins*

1970 - Monetary support from "Aunt" Helen Foresman-Spencer throughout the 1970s

1976 - Henry and Marion Bloch purchase their first Impressionist painting

1979 - Purchase of first artwork by a French female artist

1979 - Acquisition of Jean Siméon Chardin's *Still Life with Cat and Fish*, 1728

1984 - Acquisition of a pendant pair by Claude Joseph Vernet

1985 - Gift of painting attributed to Sébastien Bourdon from Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Bloch

1986 - Purchase of important painting by Élisabeth Louise Vigée Le Brun and other works

1989 - Gustave Caillebotte painting enters collection

1994 - Painting by Adélaïde Labille-Guiard enters the collection

2007 - The Bloch Building opens with the inaugural exhibition *Manet to Matisse*

2008 - Research begins for the catalogue *French Paintings and Pastels*

2014 - Gift of pastel by Léon-Augustin Lhermitte

2015 - Major gift of art from Marion and Henry Bloch

2017 - The Bloch Galleries open at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

2017 - Purchase of Emile Bernard's painting of his grandmother

2021 - First installment of *The Collections of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art: French Paintings and Pastels, 1600-1945*

Kansas City Events

1911 - Infamous "Boss Tom" inherits power from his brother

1924 - Kansas City Monarchs win the inaugural Colored World Series

1929 - Count Basie develops "Kansas City stomp" style of jazz

1933 - The University of Missouri-Kansas City opens

1934 - Jackson County courthouse is finished

1935 - Kansas City Municipal Auditorium opens

1936 - Kansas City native Charlie Parker develops Bebop style of jazz

1939 - Tom Pendergast imprisoned for fifteen months for tax evasion; end of the "Pendergast Machine" years

1940 - Lucile H. Bluford wins her anti-segregation case, and Kansas City quintuples in size

1945 - Jackie Robinson joins the Kansas City Monarchs, and Harry S. Truman becomes President of the United States

1951 - Desegregation of Swope Park Pool

1953 - Abilene, Kansas, native Dwight D. Eisenhower becomes President of the United States

1955 - The Philadelphia Athletics franchise is moved to Kansas City

1967 - Kansas City Chiefs in the Super Bowl

1968 - Student protestors commemorate the April 4 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

1969 - Founding of the Kansas City Royals Major League Baseball team

1972 - Arrowhead Stadium and Kansas City International Airport completed

1973 - Completion of Kauffman Stadium, home of the Kansas City Royals

1977 - The Kansas City Mafia sets off explosions in the River Quay entertainment district

1980 - The Kansas City Royals play in World Series against the Philadelphia Phillies

1982 - Pulitzer Prize awarded to the staff of *The Kansas City Star*

1990 - The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is founded in the Historic 18th and Vine neighborhood

1991 - Emanuel Cleaver II becomes Kansas City's first Black mayor

1999 - Election of first female mayor, Kay Barnes, and reopening of Union Station

2005 - Construction begins on the Power and Light District

2007 - The Sprint Center opens in the Power and Light District

2010 - The Kansas City Wizards become Sporting Kansas City, the town's Major League Soccer franchise

2011 - Opening of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, home of the Kansas City Orchestra and Ballet

2015 - Kansas City Royals win the World Series over the New York Mets

2017 - Voters approve transportation improvements

2018 - *Queer Eye* begins filming in Kansas City

2020 - Kansas City Chiefs win the Super Bowl over the San Francisco 49ers