

**ART MUSEUM  
FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET TESTIMONY**

**INTRODUCTION**

Good morning, Council President Johnson, and Members of City Council. I am Mitchell Wein, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer. Joining me today are Chenora Burkett, Senior Director of Finance, and Brandon Pinzini, Budget Manager. I am pleased to provide testimony on the Art Museum’s Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget.

**DEPARTMENT MISSION & PLANS**

**Mission:** The Art Museum – in partnership with the city, the region, and art museums around the globe – preserves, enhances, interprets, and extends the reach of its great collections, and the visual arts in general, to a growing and increasingly diverse audience as a source of delight, illumination, and lifelong learning.

**Plans for Fiscal Year 2027:**

During Fiscal Year 2027, the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA) remains deeply committed to serving as an educational and cultural hub for school groups, families, civic engagement, and our broader community. The City of Philadelphia is abuzz with the nation’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, and we are seeing renewed momentum in student engagement. We are targeting an ambitious goal of welcoming 30,000 students through our doors this year, plus 5,000 engagements through our newly launched, virtual school program.

In spring of 2026, we held a career awareness program with Council Member (“CM”) Anthony Phillips for District 9 students. CM Phillips approached the museum to partner with his office on this initiative. We opened our workspaces to sixteen students who had the opportunity to shadow our staff. The goal was to uncover what we do at the museum and expose students to the vast number of career opportunities at the museum. Based on the success and demand for career development programs, in fall of 2027, we will launch a career awareness program for grade 10 students in the School District of Philadelphia. This will be in person and online options to serve hundreds of students across the city.

In efforts to make the museum more accessible to families, we are planning two big summer family festivals planned for Fiscal Year 2027, where we anticipate 4,000-7,000 visitors.

For America 250, the PMA is proud to present an expansive lineup of initiatives that honor this historic milestone in American history. Our programming will focus on both tradition and innovation, reflecting Philadelphia’s legacy and the evolving cultural landscape. Highlights include:

- Partnership Programs that celebrate the rich heritage and contributions of Philadelphia's communities.

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- Learning Programs that offer dynamic classes, guided tours, workshops, and tailored resources for students, youth, and educators.
- Engagement moments to broaden participation and foster a vibrant cultural community in Philadelphia.
- Teaching Exhibitions and guided tours for all audiences that serve as gateway experiences to deepen understanding, build confidence, and strengthen social connections.
- Research & Development Hubs that welcome public input and experimentation, helping shape the museum’s future direction.
- Expanded Virtual Programming targets school groups and community members locally, statewide, and globally.

These efforts reflect our dedication to making the museum a welcoming, inclusive, and forward-thinking space for all.

To ensure we are able to continue doing this, the PMA offers free admission to the following groups:

- Young people 18 and under
- All Philadelphia public and charter school classes
- As part of the *Blue Star Program*, the PMA is free for active-duty members of the military
- ACCESS/EBT card holders and family members
- The first Sunday of every month, the PMA offers a full day of family programming with a Pay What You Wish (PWYW) admission
- Every Friday, admission is PWYW until September 10, 2026, which includes late night opening (until 8:45 pm) and special programming, including musical guests, artist take-overs and collaborations with local providers and vendors. We regularly welcome crowds of between 1,500 – 2,500 on Friday evenings
- Admission to the PMA is PWYW for our five Cultural and Heritage Month celebrations (Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, Women’s History Month, etc.) with special program on the second Friday of the month
- A new initiative to attract college and university students is one-year free membership when you show your student ID. Sign up is at the admission desk. General admission for College/University Students is \$14
- Educators receive a special rate of \$30 off their chosen tier of membership and member options are available for as low as \$6.95 a month

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**PROPOSED BUDGET OVERVIEW & OTHER BUDGET DRIVERS**

<b>General Fund Financial Summary by Class</b>						
	FY25 Original Appropriations	FY25 Actual Obligations	FY26 Original Appropriations	FY26 Estimated Obligations	FY26 Proposed Appropriations	Difference: FY27 Proposed-FY26 Estimated
Class 500 - Contributions	\$2,642,000	\$2,642,000	\$2,342,000	\$2,342,000	\$2,142,000	(\$200,000)
	<b>\$2,642,000</b>	<b>\$2,642,000</b>	<b>\$2,342,000</b>	<b>\$2,342,000</b>	<b>\$2,142,000</b>	<b>(\$200,000)</b>

*The Art Museum does not have City-funded contracts.*

**Proposed Funding Request:**

The proposed Fiscal Year 2027 General Fund budget totals \$2,142,000, a decrease of \$200,000 from Fiscal Year 2026 estimated obligation levels. This decrease is primarily due to one-time funding for programs support in FY26.

The proposed budget includes:

- \$2,142,000 in Class 500, a decrease of \$200,000 from FY26. This funding will support PMA operations.

**STAFFING LEVELS**

*The Art Museum does not have any City employees.*

**NEW HIRES**

*The Art Museum does not have any City employees.*

**VACANCY RATE AND ALLOWANCE**

*The Art Museum does not have any City employees.*

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**OTHER BUDGETARY IMPACTS**

**Federal and State (Where Applicable)**

N/A

**CONTRACTING EXPERIENCE**

*The Art Museum does not have City-funded contracts.*

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**PROGRAM BASED BUDGETING:**

**Program Name:** Art Museum

**Program Number:** 01

**FY27 Proposed General Fund:** \$2,142,000

**Program Description:** The Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA) – in partnership with the city, the region, and art museums around the globe – preserves, enhances, interprets, and extends the reach of its great collections, and the visual arts in general, to a growing and increasingly diverse audience as a source of delight, illumination, and lifelong learning.

**FY27 Strategic Goals:**

- The Art Museum will expand programming that engages audiences and creates enriched viewing opportunities.
- The Art Museum will increase school group attendance, specifically School District of Philadelphia (SDP) attendance. The target goal for FY26 is 25,000 students, with 55 percent of students representing SDP/Title 1 Schools. The target for FY27 is 30,000 students.

**FY27 Performance Measures:**

Measure	FY25 Actual	FY26 Target	FY27 Target
Student engagement: Number of students reached from Philadelphia District-operated and charter schools through onsite visits and virtual programs	15,762	25,000	30,000
Security costs per square foot	\$6.63	\$6.83	\$7.00
Maintenance and operating costs per square foot	\$8.31	\$8.56	\$8.72