



For Immediate Release

**THE BARNES FOUNDATION CELEBRATES ITS NEW CAMPUS IN PHILADELPHIA WITH 56 HOURS OF NON-STOP PROGRAMMING OVER MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

**Festivities begin Saturday, May 26 at 10 am and conclude Monday, May 28 at 6 pm.  
Reservations strongly encouraged as tickets are timed and the supply is limited.**

*May 10, 2012, Philadelphia, PA* — Memorial Day Weekend in Philadelphia will come alive as the Barnes Foundation presents 56 hours of non-stop activity to mark the opening of its new campus on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia. This celebration, planned in conjunction with the Barnes Foundation's opening activities, presents an opportunity for the organization to say "Welcome" to the Philadelphia region as well as kick off a variety of engaging public programs that will be a staple at the Barnes year round. Admission to the Barnes is free the entire 56 hours but tickets must be reserved in advance at [barnesfoundation.org](http://barnesfoundation.org) or by calling 866-849-7056. People of all ages are invited to come out for an unforgettable experience of world art, world music and world food. In addition to tickets reserved online there will also be a limited number of tickets available every day at the door.

"A key goal of the newly established programming department is to celebrate the diversity of the Barnes Foundation's world class collection," said Kathleen Greene, Public Programs Manager. "In addition to offering free access to the facility, this weekend affords us the opportunity to educate and entertain the community and give them a taste of the rich cultural programming they can look forward to throughout the year at the Barnes in Philadelphia."

The mission of the Barnes Foundation, which dates back to its founding in 1922, is "the promotion of the advancement of education and the appreciation of the fine arts," which it fulfills through the preservation, presentation, and interpretation of the collections of Albert C. and Laura L. Barnes. The Foundation engages diverse audiences through its exceptional collections and related high-quality programs that reflect a broad range of periods and cultures and build on the founders' innovative educational vision of transforming lives through the arts and horticulture.

Activities kick-off on Saturday morning, May 26 at 10 am and run continuously through Monday evening May 27 at 6 pm. Highlights of the weekend include: Sak Tzevel – an Indigenous Rock Band from Chiapas, Mexico currently on their very first American tour; Black Pearl Orchestra – Philadelphia's World Class Professional Orchestra that reflects the cultural diversity of the region and Peter Tang Chinese Musical Ensemble. In addition to live entertainment, facility tours, demonstrations and panel discussions, attendees will have the opportunity to experience a tasty sampling of international cuisines.

For more information about the Barnes Foundation and the Memorial Weekend Celebration on the Parkway weekend, visit [barnesfoundation.org](http://barnesfoundation.org).

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## **About the Barnes Foundation**

The Barnes Foundation ([barnesfoundation.org](http://barnesfoundation.org)) was established by Albert C. Barnes in 1922 to “promote the advancement of education and the appreciation of the fine arts and horticulture.” The Barnes holds one of the finest collections of post-impressionist and early modern paintings, with extensive holdings by Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Paul Cézanne, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Henri Rousseau, Amedeo Modigliani, Chaim Soutine and Giorgio de Chirico, as well as American masters Charles Demuth, William Glackens, Horace Pippin, and Maurice Prendergast, old master paintings, important examples of African sculpture and Native American ceramics, jewelry and textiles, American paintings and decorative arts, and antiquities from the Mediterranean region and Asia. The Barnes Foundation’s Art and Aesthetics programs engage a diverse array of audiences. These programs, occurring at the Philadelphia campus, online, and in Philadelphia communities, advance the mission through progressive, experimental, and interdisciplinary teaching and learning.

The Barnes Arboretum, located at the Merion campus, contains more than 2000 species/varieties of trees and woody plants, many of them rare. Founded in the 1880s by Joseph Lapsley Wilson and subsequently added to under the direction of Mrs. Barnes, the collection includes a fern-leaf beech (*Fagus sylvatica* ‘Laciniata’), a dove tree (*Davidia involucrata*), a monkey-puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*), and a redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*). Other important plant collections include Lilacs, Peonies, Stewartias and Magnolias. The Horticulture school at the Barnes Foundation in Merion offers a comprehensive, three year certificate course of study in the botanical sciences, horticultural practices, garden aesthetics, and design through a well-grounded, scientific learning experience since its inception in 1940 by Laura L. Barnes.

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For more information, contact:

The Barnes Foundation  
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