



Fact Sheet

A TIMELINE OF THE BARNES FOUNDATION

January 2, 1872 – Albert C. Barnes is born at 1466 Cook Street (now Wilt Street) in Kensington, Philadelphia.

1880 – Captain Joseph Lapsley Wilson purchases several parcels of land in Merion, Pennsylvania, and establishes an arboretum that will eventually become the property of the Barnes Foundation. He plants numerous trees that are extant today.

1889 – Barnes receives a B.S. degree from Central High School in Philadelphia, a pre-eminent public secondary school. Schoolmates included artists William Glackens and John Sloan.

1892 – Barnes graduates from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School.

c. 1892–97 – Barnes studies in Germany at the University of Berlin.

c. 1897–1902 – Barnes works as a consulting chemist for the H. K. Mulford Company in Philadelphia.

1900 – Barnes studies pharmacology at Ruprecht-Karls-Universität in Heidelberg, Germany.

June 4, 1901 – Barnes and Laura Leggett of Brooklyn, New York, marry in Saint James Church in Brooklyn. After a honeymoon in Europe, they settle on Drexel Road in the Overbrook section of Philadelphia.

1902 – Barnes and Hermann Hille establish the company Barnes and Hille, which manufactures pharmaceuticals, including Argyrol, a silver-based compound used to fight infections.

c. 1905 – Albert and Laura Barnes build a new house, called “Lauraston,” on North Latch’s Lane (then Union Avenue) in Merion.

1907 – Barnes buys out Hille’s portion of Barnes and Hille, and the two dissolve their partnership.

1908 – A. C. Barnes Company is established, and the Argyrol trademark is registered in June.

1912 – William Glackens travels to Paris and purchases Modern paintings for Barnes at his request, including van Gogh’s *Postman* and Picasso’s *Woman with a Cigarette*. In June, Barnes visits Paris himself and purchases several paintings, including Paul Gauguin’s *Haere Pape*. In December, Barnes meets Leo Stein, brother of writer Gertrude Stein, in Paris. The two men will maintain an intensive correspondence until Stein’s death in 1947.

1917 – Barnes attends noted educator John Dewey’s seminar at Columbia University to study his theories of education. The two become lifelong friends, correspondents and collaborators.

1922 – Barnes purchases the Merion property of Joseph Lapsley Wilson, promising to maintain and expand the arboretum. Wilson becomes the first Director of the Arboretum.

December 4, 1922 – The Barnes Foundation is chartered by the State of Pennsylvania to “promote the advancement of education and the appreciation of the fine arts” and the “encouragement of arboriculture and forestry.” Barnes transfers the majority of his personal art collection, the planned new buildings, and a sizeable endowment to the Foundation.

1923 – Barnes exhibits newly acquired works at the *Exhibition of Contemporary European Paintings and Sculpture* at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. These works, as well as a number of African sculptures, had been exhibited immediately before at the Paris gallery of Paul Guillaume.

1923-1924 – The Merion Gallery, the residence (now the administration building) and service buildings are designed in the Beaux-Arts style by Paul Philippe Cret, architect of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge and the Rodin Museum, and constructed on North Latch's Lane.

March 19, 1925 – The Foundation holds the dedication ceremony for the Gallery, with speeches by John Dewey and Leopold Stokowski, legendary conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

1925 – *The Art in Painting* by Albert C. Barnes, still used today as the basis for the Foundation's art education courses, is published.

1929 – Barnes sells the A.C. Barnes Company.

1931 – Barnes commissions Henri Matisse to paint a mural for three lunettes in the Gallery.

1933 – *The Dance* by Henry Matisse is installed in the Gallery.

1940 – Laura Barnes establishes the Foundation's Arboretum School. The first classes, which begin on October 1, are taught by Laura Barnes, John M. Fogg of the University of Pennsylvania and Frederick W. G. Peck of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

1940 – Barnes purchases Ker-Feal, an 18th-century farmhouse in Chester County. Ker-Feal is Breton for "House of Fidèle," named after Barnes's favorite dog. Barnes adds two wings to the house, designed by the firm Kneedler, Mirick, and Zantzinger, to display his collection of decorative arts and furniture. The gardens are developed by Laura Barnes and used in Arboretum School classes.

1950 – The Barnes Foundation bylaws are amended to enable the Board of Trustees of Lincoln University, one of America's first historically African American universities, to nominate four of the five trustees of the Foundation upon the demise of all original trustees.

June 5, 1951 – Barnes receives an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from Lincoln University.

July 24, 1951 – Albert C. Barnes dies in an automobile accident.

1952 – *Philadelphia Inquirer* editor Harold J. Wiegand brings suit in state court, arguing that the Barnes Foundation should be open to the public without prior appointment. The case is dismissed. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court affirms the decision in 1953.

1958 – Pennsylvania Attorney General Anne X. Alpern, along with Deputy Attorney General Lois G. Forer, petition the Montgomery County Orphans' Court to compel the opening of the Barnes Foundation's Gallery to the public. The case is dismissed, but the ruling is overturned by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. The Foundation signs a consent decree on December 19, 1960, agreeing to open the Gallery to the public on Fridays and Saturdays.

March 18, 1961 – The Gallery is first opened to public visitation, on a first-come, first-served basis.

April 29, 1966 – Death of Laura L. Barnes, second Director of the Arboretum of the Barnes Foundation (1928), founder of the Arboretum School (1940) and second President of the Board of Trustees (1951). John M. Fogg, longtime Arboretum School instructor (as well as professor of botany and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, and Director of the Morris Arboretum) becomes third Director of the Arboretum.

1966 – Election of Nelle E. Mullen as President of the Board of Trustees.

1967 – Election of Sidney W. Frick as President of the Board of Trustees.

September 20 1988 – Death of Violette de Mazia, longtime teacher, Director of Art Education, co-author with Dr. Barnes of four books, Trustee (1951), Vice President of the Board of Trustees (1966) and artist represented in the Gallery collection.

1989 – Election of Franklin H. Williams as President of the Board of Trustees.

1990 – Election of Richard Glanton as President of the Board of Trustees.

1992 – Orphans' Court approves a tour of selected paintings from the Gallery to raise money for renovations.

1993–1995 – Tour of selected paintings from the Barnes Foundation Gallery: National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., May 2-Aug. 15, 1993; Musée d'Orsay, Paris, Nov. 6, 1993-Jan. 2, 1994; National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo, Jan. 21-Apr. 3, 1994; Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas, April 24-August 16, 1994; Art Gallery of Ontario, September 17-December 31, 1994; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Jan. 29 - April 9, 1995. The paintings return to the Barnes after the PMA exhibition and then leave for exhibition in the Haus der Kunst in Munich.

1994 – Two additional venues for the tour, Texas and Toronto, are approved by the Orphans' Court.

1995 – The Barnes Foundation reopens.

1996 – Merion township applies visitor restrictions to the Barnes Foundation

1998 – Kimberly Camp is appointed Executive Director and CEO. (She resigns in 2005). Kenneth S. Sadler is elected as president of the Board of Trustees.

1999 – Election of Bernard Watson as President of the Board of Trustees.

2000 – A major Collections assessment project begins, initially funded by the Getty Foundation and Pew Charitable Trusts and the Henry Luce Foundation. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation provides major funding through the project's completion in 2010.

September 24, 2002 – Barnes Foundation announces that it will petition the Montgomery County Orphans' Court to expand its Board of Trustees and move its Gallery collection to Philadelphia.

December 15, 2004 – Montgomery County Orphans' Court approves the petition to expand the Board of Trustees and move the Gallery collection to Philadelphia.

2006 – Derek Gillman is appointed Executive Director and President.

September 2007 – The Foundation announces the selection of Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects to design the new building on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

November 13, 2009 – Groundbreaking ceremony for the new building.

May 19, 2012 – The new Barnes Foundation campus opens to the public at 2025 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, in Philadelphia.