

2023

# Annual Report

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Cheekwood  
ESTATE & GARDENS



# Message *from the* President & Board Chair

As the year commenced, Cheekwood Estate & Gardens captured national attention with the airing of three *Antiques Roadshow* episodes, filmed the previous year. This brought significant recognition to the estate as a featured destination for one of PBS's longest-running, top-rated shows reaching five million viewers.

Spring heralded the stunning *Cheekwood in Bloom*, showcasing 250,000 spring bulbs in full splendor, followed with exhibitions featuring internationally acclaimed artists – Bruce Munro, celebrating his 10th anniversary at Cheekwood and, Carmen Herrera, whose bold and brilliant contemporary sculptures adorned the central gardens and great lawn of the Mansion.

A notable highlight of the year was the spring opening of the Garden Gift Shop, which expanded Cheekwood's retail offerings. The shop, renovated from a meeting room in Botanic Hall, is now visible to all guests entering and exiting the property, promising increased revenue for the institution. Capital restoration projects continued with updates to most administrative spaces, the rebuilding of the Howe Garden's shed, and much-needed paving of driveways and parking areas, with plans in progress to address the devastating loss of Cheekwood's boxwoods resulting from the 2022 winter freeze.

Harvest at Cheekwood featured the iconic Pumpkin Houses and introduced a Chrysanthemum-constructed pumpkin topiary, in addition to the annual Harvest Scarecrow Trail and Halloween Pooch Party. *Holiday LIGHTS*, one of Nashville's most cherished family traditions, achieved its second-highest attendance. This annual favorite showcased a candy cane and gingerbread theme in the Historic Mansion and featured an Enchanted Esplanade outdoors, complementing the 100 miles of lights across the garden, including 120 wrapped trees. Military Mondays offered discounted admission for active and retired military personnel and included the debut of a gift drive for military families.

Multicultural festivals spanned the year including Holi in the spring, Black Arts Bash in the summer, and autumn's Japanese Moon Viewing and El Día de los Muertos, Middle Tennessee's largest Hispanic festival, as Cheekwood continues to celebrate and welcome all cultures and traditions in its programming. In 2023, more than 100 musical performances in all genres set the ambiance throughout the gardens during seasonal festivals and events.

Throughout the year, from January to December, Cheekwood extended its warm hospitality to nearly 400,000 guests, maintaining its position as the third most-attended destination in Nashville, an oasis for our community and a beacon for those seeking the inspiration of beauty and art that captivates the mind and nurtures the soul.



**Jane MacLeod**  
President/CEO

**Barry Stowe**  
Board Chair

2023

## Board of Trustees



**Barry Stowe**  
Chairman



**Ronald Roberts**  
Vice Chairman



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Treasurer



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### ADVISORY BOARD

Terry Cook  
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### REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD

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Chris Simonsen (ECON)  
Carla K. Nelson (Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee)  
Peggy Kinnard (Swan Ball)

### TRUSTEES EMERITI

William F. Andrews, Jr.	Gigi Lazenby
Grace Awh	Ellen H. Martin
Barbara T. Bovender	Robert A. McCabe, Jr.
Lillian R. Bradford	Anne L. Russell
Joan Cheek	George B. Stadler
Barbara T. Freeman	Paul Sternberg, Jr.
James V. Hunt*	Dudley White
Cathy Jackson	*Deceased



## Mission

Celebrate and preserve Cheekwood as an historical landmark where beauty and excellence in art and horticulture nurture the spirit and serve as inspiration for a diverse and broad audience.



## Vision

Cheekwood will be a locally celebrated and nationally recognized destination renowned for its distinctive beauty, historical significance, and excellence in art and horticulture.



## Guiding Principles

- Beauty* that nurtures the spirit
- Preservation* for future generations
- Education* that enriches and inspires
- Collaboration* that embraces a broad community
- Financial responsibility* in stewarding our resources

## Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility Statement

Cheekwood is committed to embracing, pursuing and celebrating inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility among our board, staff, leadership, partners, vendors, volunteers, members, supporters and visitors. We will be steadfast in our efforts to welcome people of all races, nationalities, genders, sexual orientations, gender identities, religions, political affiliations, ages and abilities. We recognize we have much work to do and pledge to pursue new and previously underrepresented ideas, artists, advisors, partners, instructors, innovators and audiences so that all voices can be heard, respected and supported.

2023

# Visitors

Cheekwood welcomed over **392,000 visitors** in 2023, coming from:

**482**

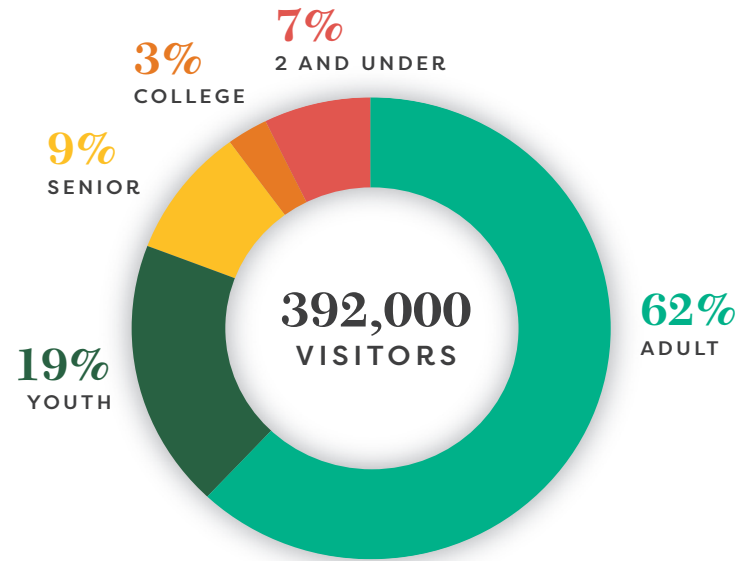
TENNESSEE  
ZIP CODES

**50**

STATES PLUS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

**26**

COUNTRIES



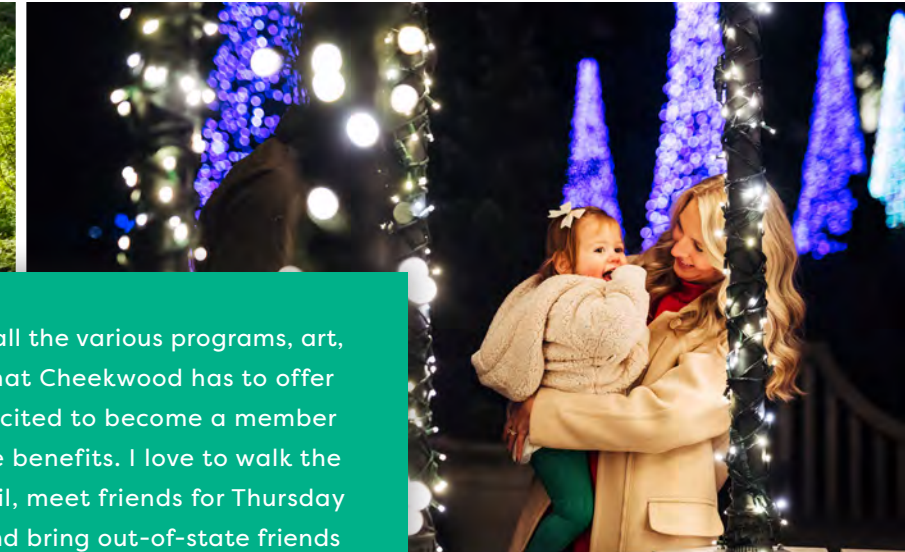
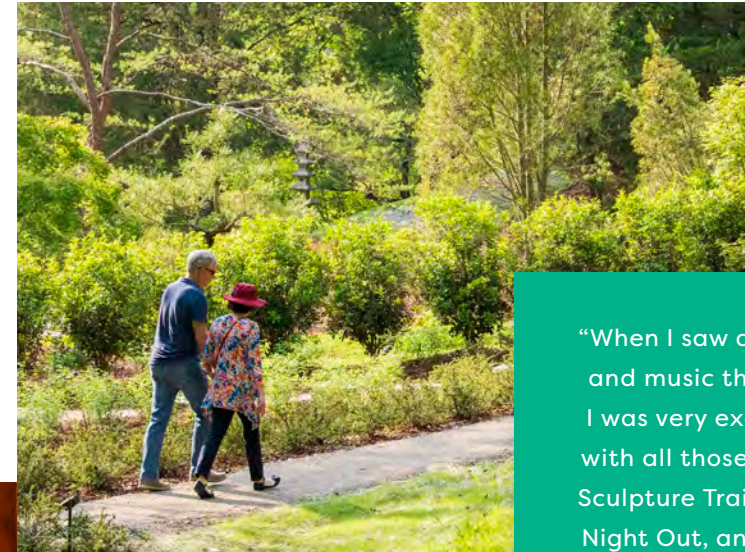
2023

# Members

Cheekwood's membership remained strong in 2023 as members enjoyed programs, exhibitions and stunning seasonal displays throughout the year. Members are celebrated with member-appreciation events, special discounts, exhibition previews, and other opportunities.

**18,600**

CHEEKWOOD MEMBER  
HOUSEHOLDS



"When I saw all the various programs, art, and music that Cheekwood has to offer I was very excited to become a member with all those benefits. I love to walk the Sculpture Trail, meet friends for Thursday Night Out, and bring out-of-state friends to share the beauty of Cheekwood."

**Eileen Tomson, Member**



2023

# Team Cheekwood

Cheekwood's dedicated staff worked diligently throughout the year to serve visitors from our community and beyond, welcoming a diverse audience to experience the beauty of the gardens, be inspired by art indoors and out, and engage in a wide range of programs.



**Leadership Team**

- Jane MacLeod**  
*President/CEO*
- Daniel Miller**  
*Chief Financial Officer*
- Beth Murdock**  
*Chief Operating Officer*
- Penny Bruckse**  
*Vice President, Human Resources*
- Peter Grimaldi**  
*Vice President, Gardens & Facilities*
- Nathalie Lavine**  
*Vice President, Education & Outreach*
- Sarah Sperling**  
*Vice President, Museum Affairs*



From left to right: Jane MacLeod, Dan Miller, Beth Murdock, Sarah Sperling, Penny Bruckse, Nathalie Lavine, Peter Grimaldi

**188**  
EMPLOYEES  
IN 2023

**79**  
FULL-TIME  
EMPLOYEES

**109**  
PART-TIME / SEASONAL  
EMPLOYEES

2023

# Volunteers

Cheekwood relies on help from dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers to fulfill its mission to nurture the spirit and serve as inspiration for a diverse and broad audience.



**11,758**  
VOLUNTEER  
HOURS

**1,764**  
VOLUNTEERS  
IN 2023



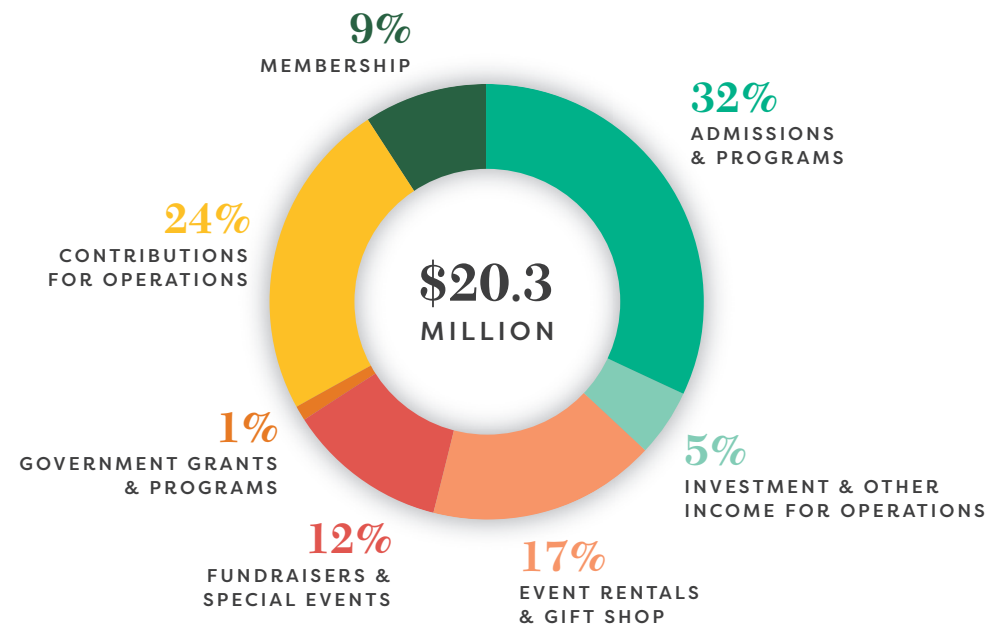
"My wife and I both enjoy the gardens and were looking for fun activities where we could meet new people and provide a service to the community. Cheekwood gave us an opportunity to do both."  
**John Chosay, Volunteer**



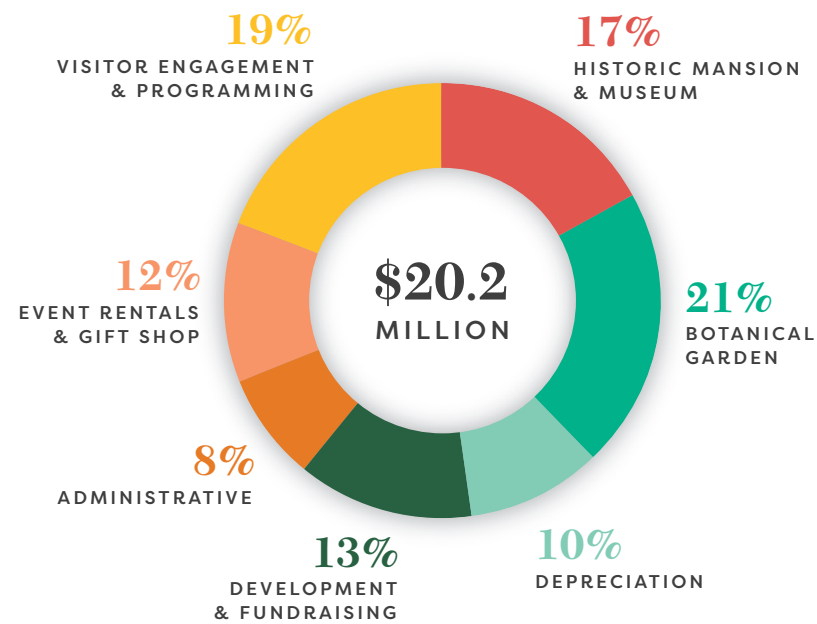
2023

# Operations

## SUPPORT & REVENUES



## EXPENSES



2023

# Financial Position

## SUMMARY | December 31, 2023

<b>ASSETS</b>		(In Millions)
Current Assets		\$ 10.5
Restricted Assets		2.0
Endowment Investments		19.6
Property & Equipment		26.7
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>\$ 58.8</b>
<hr/>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses		\$ 2.0
Deferred Revenues		2.5
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>\$ 4.5</b>
<hr/>		
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Without Donor Restrictions		\$ 34.3
With Donor Restrictions		20.0
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>\$ 54.3</b>
<hr/>		
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>		<b>\$ 58.8</b>

2023

## Cheekwood Capital Plan

Caring for an historic estate takes considerable research and investment. Cheekwood has developed a rolling 10-year Capital Plan to ensure proper and timely maintenance of the estate's 90,000 square feet of facilities and 55-acre property. The Plan was formulated using a third-party study of buildings, including the Historic Mansion and Museum, as well as internal review of property and equipment records. The Capital Plan calls for Cheekwood to spend \$20 million over the next 10 years, an average of \$2 million per year, on buildings and facilities, garden and support infrastructure, and equipment replacement. The Plan will be funded through positive annual operating results, government grants and programs, and community fundraising.

Significant Capital Plan accomplishments in 2023 included the renovation of the administrative, catering and workroom facilities of Botanic Hall. This phase completed the entire renovation of Botanic Hall, many areas of which had not been updated since its construction in 1970. Other staff and work areas across the Estate were also updated in 2023. The walls of the beloved Howe Garden tool shed were deconstructed and rebuilt to ensure the strength of the structure for years to come. With donor support, Cheekwood's main drive and parking lots were resurfaced. Several projects in the Historic Mansion and Museum were in progress at the end of 2023, including security camera and lighting upgrades as well as updates to the Loggia and Mansion Gift Shop. Future restoration is being planned for the historic Gate Lodge, the Mansion's 91 windows, and the historic water features and ironwork across the property.



2023

## Replant, Restore, Renew

The December 2022 freeze in Nashville resulted in significant loss of trees and horticulture. In the spring of 2023, Cheekwood launched a Replant | Restore | Renew initiative to raise funds to address the horticulture damaged and lost during this time. The most notable loss was to the historic boxwood gardens surrounding the Mansion, as hundreds of boxwoods were catastrophically damaged. Boxwoods have always been a character-defining feature of the landscape at Cheekwood. They were an important and enduring component of designer Bryant Fleming's original vision, as well as a favorite pastime for the Cheek family, especially Leslie Cheek, Sr., who had been acquiring specimen boxwood throughout the South for years before building Cheekwood. He continued to do so until his death in 1935. As such, boxwoods were established as Cheekwood's first horticultural plant collection.

The Cheek family's passion for collecting and displaying boxwoods is evident in a series of letters exchanged between family members from 1933 to 1952. The letters describe maintaining the boxwoods through storm damage, and separate resources describe daughter Huldah's later efforts to maintain the boxwood plantings by replacing many specimens after the winter of 1951. Boxwoods have helped mark the timeline in the garden throughout Cheekwood's history, and the iconic plants are firmly in the center of Cheekwood's ongoing efforts to replant, restore and renew.

## 2023 SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

# Winter *at* Cheekwood

To engage visitors in the Historic Mansion & Museum and other indoor spaces during winter, Cheekwood presented *Orchids in the Mansion*, *Winter Concert Series*, *American Arts & Crafts Exhibition*, and *Graphic Arts Show - The Agrarian Spirit*. Additionally, the 32nd annual Middle Tennessee Scholastic Art Awards exhibition was on view in the Frist Learning Center.



On March 4, 2023, in conjunction with the **Tennessee Triennial for Contemporary Art**, Cheekwood celebrated the acquisition of Elizabeth Turk's *Red-cockaded Woodpecker*, the *Golden-winged Warbler* and the *King Rail*. Drawing inspiration from the songs of these endangered Tennessee birds, the sculptural grouping located on the Ann & Monroe Carell Jr. Family Sculpture Trail represents the birds through elegant totemic sound columns. Turk frequently commemorates the calls of endangered and extinct birds in her work by using printed sound waves generated during song.

Once again, Cheekwood designed the entry garden for the long-running **Antiques & Garden Show**, which serves as a fundraiser for Cheekwood and ECON Charities.



In May 2022, the **Antiques Roadshow** filmed appraisals at Cheekwood Estate & Gardens, with footage split into three episodes that aired in February and March 2023 as part of the beloved show's 27th season.

Attendees received free verbal valuations of their antiques and collectibles from experts working at the country's leading auction houses and as independent dealers. About 70 appraisers came to Cheekwood to examine items in 23 specialty categories, including books, collectibles, jewelry, folk art, musical instruments and more. Highlights from the appraisals at Cheekwood included a Marilyn Monroe signed autograph, 1986-1987 Michael Jordan basketball cards, and a Tiffany & Co. diamond and sapphire bracelet, circa 1960.





## 2023 SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

# Cheekwood *in Bloom*

In 2023, **66,000 visitors** enjoyed the 250,000 blooming bulbs that created colorful displays in the Bradford Robertson Color Garden and throughout the estate for the 11th installment of *Cheekwood in Bloom*. The tulips, daffodils and hyacinths combined for a spectacular welcoming of the spring season.



The **Garden Shop** opened in April 2023 at Botanic Hall, right inside the entrance to Cheekwood. Expanding on the offerings found in the long-established Museum Shop, the Garden Shop features children's items, home decor, garden tools, gifts, stationery and an extensive array of Cheekwood merchandise.



Every spring, visitors at Cheekwood's **Great Spring Art Hop** hunt for eggs as well as oversized bunny murals painted by local artists. In April 2023, Cheekwood hosted 48 egg hunts with 36,000 eggs in one weekend for children in every age group.



Cheekwood welcomed 3,800 attendees to its 2nd annual **Holi Celebration**. The Festival of Colors is a Hindu celebration symbolizing a fresh start, much like spring itself. This educational event introduced visitors to the vibrant sights, sounds and colors of Indian culture.



Cheekwood has been designated a Center of Excellence by the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council and a Level III Accredited Arboretum by ArbNet, which makes it the perfect setting for Arbor Day. Cheekwood's **Arbor Day** celebration included guided tours of the arboretum, education programs by Root Nashville, and tree-related art workshops and resource stations. Within the over 2,100 trees on the property, Cheekwood has documented 1,267 deciduous trees, 576 evergreens, 16 deciduous conifers, and 238 dogwoods.



## 2023 SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

# Summertime *at* Cheekwood

Throughout the summer, Cheekwood's gardens serve as a lush and living backdrop for programs that engage the community and encourage enjoyment of its 55 acres. *LIGHT*: Bruce Munro illuminated the estate and gardens in the evenings, providing an extra special ambiance. The breathtaking exhibition marked the 10th anniversary of Munro's first exhibition at Cheekwood and utilized The Ann & Monroe Carell Jr. Family Sculpture Trail, which was not accessible for Munro's first exhibition in 2013. At the center of the 10 light installations was the enchanting *Forest of Light*, which submerged visitors with 80 miles of fiber optic cable and 12,750 lighted glass spheres.

The outdoor sculpture exhibition, *Carmen Herrera: Estructuras*, included five of the Cuban-born artist's colorful, geometric, three-dimensional works throughout the gardens. Attendees of Thursday Night Out experienced a dazzling trifecta of music, contemporary sculpture, and illuminated installations.



Music initiatives flourished with the popular **Under the Stars Concert Series** and **Thursday Night Out**, featuring more than 25 concerts from May to October. In August, visitors attended **Dogs Nights of Summer** with their four-legged friends.



More than 5,000 guests visited on Father's Day weekend to enjoy **Exposition of Elegance: Classic Cars at Cheekwood**, featuring over 50 impeccably maintained cars. For 2023, the Classic Cars show added vintage motorcycles to the lineup.



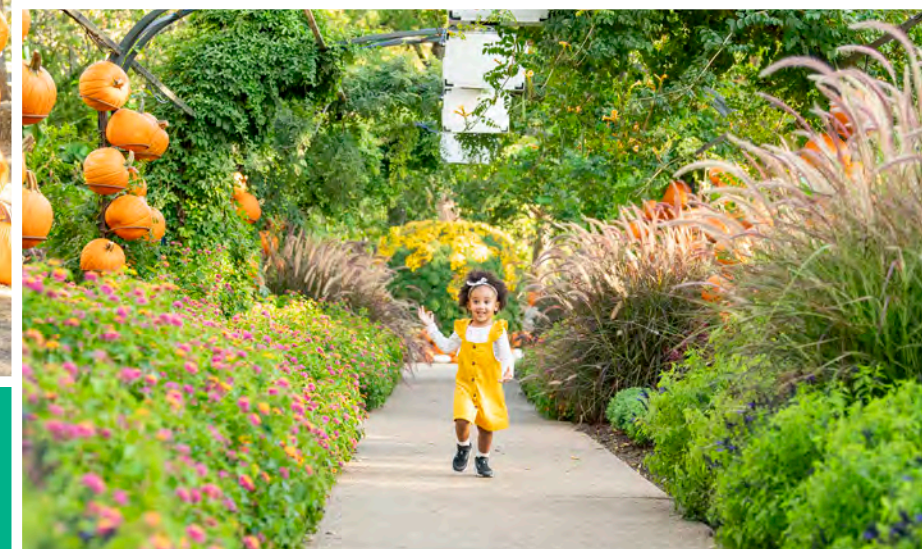
At **Cheekwood Summer Camp**, children explored the gardens, made their own masterpieces, engaged with the Cheekwood GROWS Garden, and more.



## 2023 SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

# Cheekwood Harvest

The more than **98,000 visitors** to *Cheekwood Harvest* delighted in Pumpkin Village, featuring the debut of the P'Mumkin and three pumpkin houses, as well as the Scarecrow Trail and Beer Garden. About 70,000 total pumpkins were incorporated into the installations for *Cheekwood Harvest* 2023.



The **Fall for Cheekwood** fundraiser raised \$110,000 to help fund Destination Cheekwood, free student and family field trips to engage K-12 students and their families with educational programs and unique curriculum.



Cheekwood's annual **Japanese Moon Viewing** festival, or *Otsukimi*, takes place near the date of the Harvest Moon and is an afternoon and moonlit evening celebrating Japanese art, gardens and culture.

Every year, Cheekwood hosts the largest annual Hispanic celebration in Middle Tennessee, **El Día de los Muertos**. In October 2023, Cheekwood was honored at the Nashville Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's (NAHCC) 19th annual Business & Community Excellence Awards ceremony, where Cheekwood was recognized for its contributions to the Hispanic community and civic leadership with the "Bridges" in Art, Culture & Community Service Award.



## 2023 SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

# Holiday LIGHTS

Nashville's annual holiday celebration offered **89,000 visitors** the experience of Cheekwood's historic estate coming alive with a mesmerizing winter wonderland during *Holiday LIGHTS*. The Enchanted Esplanade was a new feature on the Carell Dogwood Trail, with trees bedazzled in colorful patterns of motion and the ground shimmering with waves of rainbow colors. The Historic Mansion & Museum was decorated with candy cane and gingerbread themes, and nearly 2,000 poinsettias brightened the Cheekwood interiors this year, including the iconic 20-foot-tall Poinsettia Tree, a tradition of the season. Familiar favorites like daytime visits with Santa, s'mores and hot cocoa, and festive workshops all season long make *Holiday LIGHTS* a beloved annual tradition.



Cheekwood offered **half-price admission** to members of the military and their families on Monday evenings during *Holiday LIGHTS*. In collaboration with Truist, Cheekwood also offered a **Holiday Gift Drive** for military families. Guests could purchase any number of gifts to donate to a military family. At the conclusion of the event, Truist had volunteers come to Cheekwood to wrap all the presents for families, children and adults. Truist then delivered the presents to local military families. In total, nearly **\$3,000 worth of gifts** were donated.

Cheekwood's 2023 **Martin Shallenberger Artist-in-Residence**, Sarah Nguyen, carves both recognizable and abstract forms out of paper fiber panels. Her exhibition, ***Sarah Nguyen: Tranquility*** was a highlight for visitors to Cheekwood during the holiday season. Her technique is reminiscent of traditional Jewish paper cutting, with intricate designs incorporating flora and fauna.



**Holiday Tea** at Café 29 debuted in 2023, marking the beginning of our Afternoon Tea service that continues each subsequent season with new tea and menu selections. Holiday Tea featured tableside tea service with holiday-themed teas and traditional sweet and savory bites.

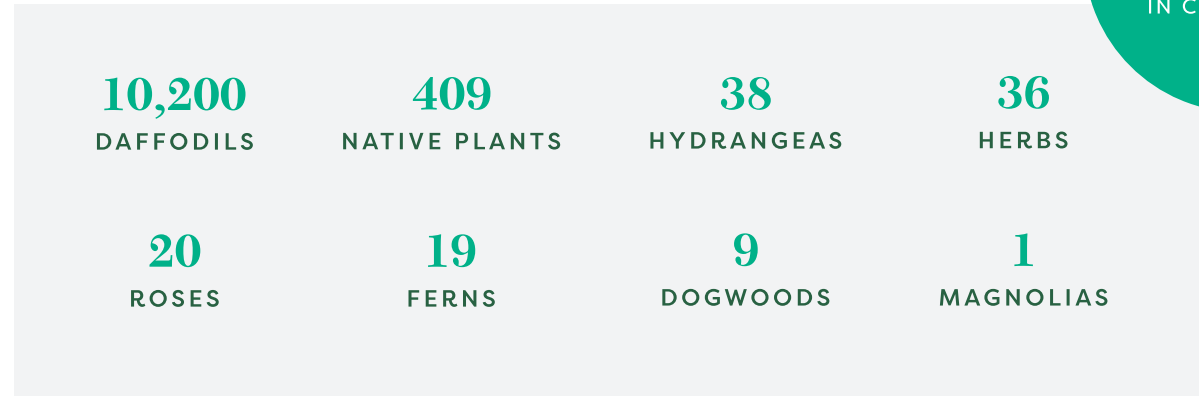


2023

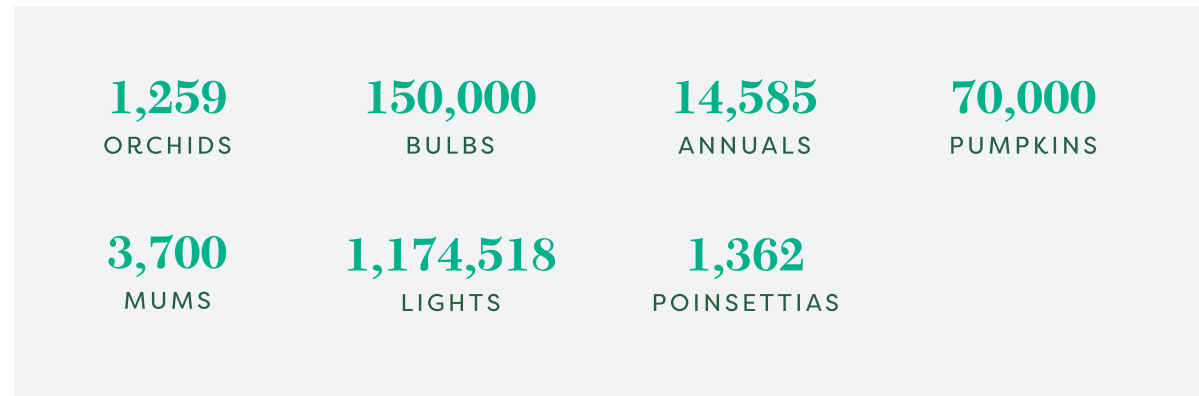
# Garden Highlights

In 2023, Cheekwood acquired:

## Plant Acquisitions



## Seasonal Festivals



## Garden Explorer

The interactive Garden Explorer tool was introduced in 2022 to engage Cheekwood visitors online and onsite. With 13 awe-inspiring gardens and expansive vistas, there are endless things to research and discover. With this tool, visitors can search plant collections by name, explore a map of the property, and follow curated tours featuring the arboretum and plant collections. A satellite view of the gardens aides in locating specific specimens, and images of searched plants in varying seasons further enhances the identification process.

2023

# Museum Exhibitions

## *Spanning the Atlantic: The Arts & Crafts Movement in America*

January 28 – April 2

## *The Agrarian Spirit: Cultivating Ruralism and Regionalism in American Art, selections from Cheekwood's permanent art collection*

January 28 – May 14

## *Orchids in the Mansion*

January 30 – February 28

## *Carmen Herrera: Estructuras*

May 4 – August 27

## *LIGHT: Bruce Munro at Cheekwood*

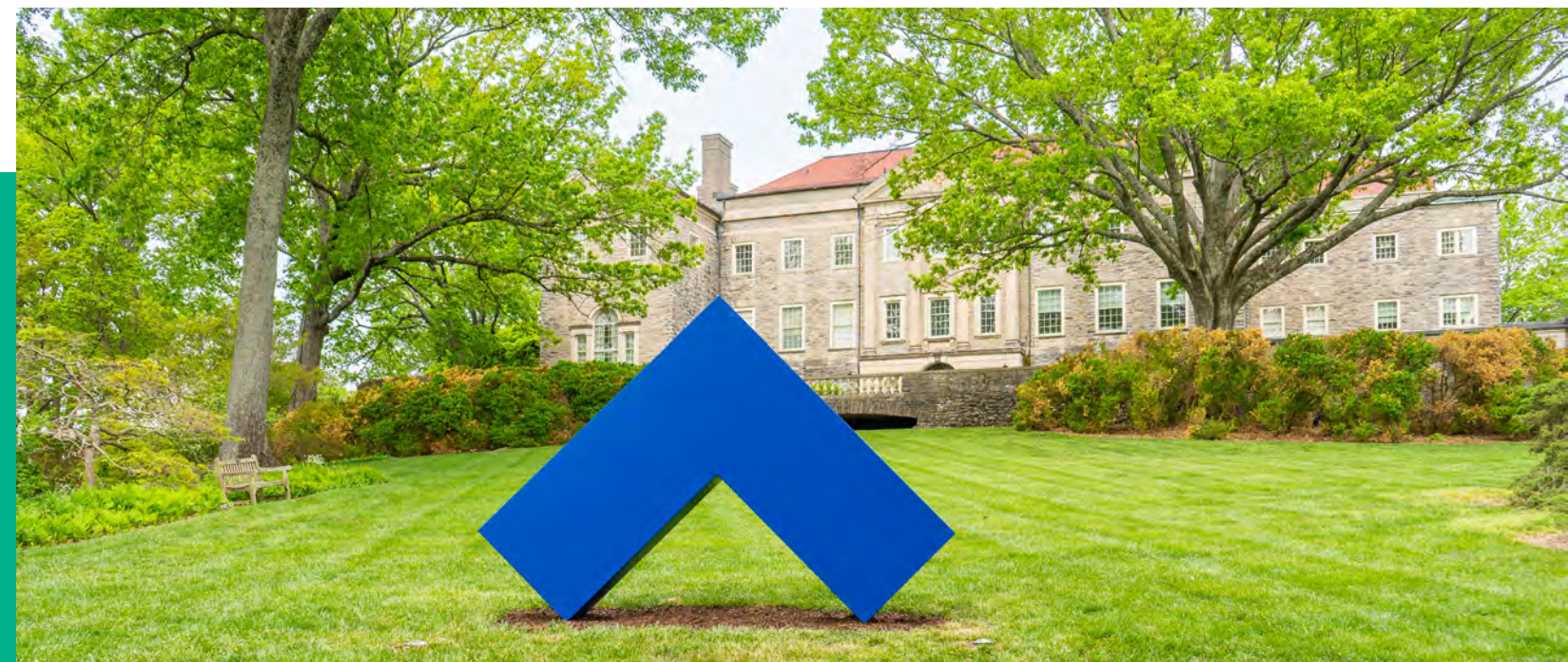
May 4 – October 27

## *Positioning the Body: Explorations in American Figural Studies, selections from Cheekwood's permanent art collection*

May 27 – September 10

## *2023 Martin Schallenger Artist-in-Residence: Sarah Nguyen*

November 18, 2023 – January 7, 2024



2023

# Art Highlights

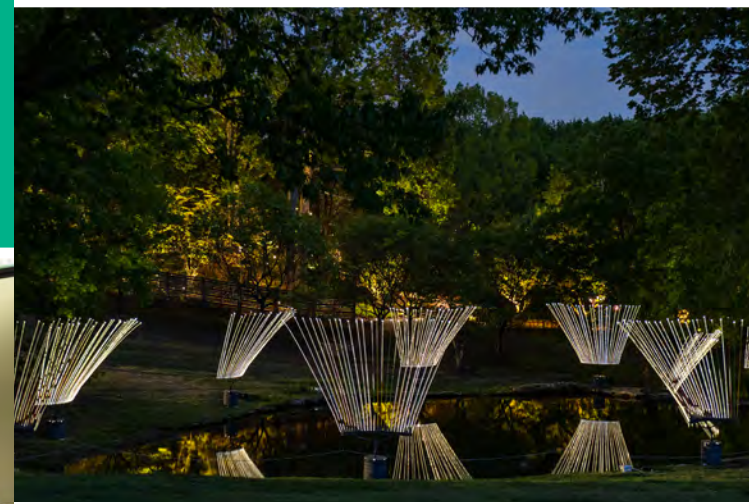


**Martin Shallenberger Artist-in-Residence, Sarah Nguyen,** inspired visitors with her elegantly cut paper panels. Her intricate designs of flora and fauna created new stories inspired by her Residency as well as those reminiscent of the past.

The second part of a two-part exhibition, ***Spanning the Atlantic: The Arts & Crafts Movement in America***, opened on January 28 and featured over 100 objects from the collection of Crab Tree Farm.



Summer visitors enjoyed five contemporary outdoor sculptures by renowned Cuban American artist, Carmen Herrera. ***Carmen Herrera: Estructuras*** celebrated the artist's lifelong passion for creating art.



**LIGHT: Bruce Munro at Cheekwood** opened on May 4 in celebration of the 10th anniversary of his 2013 Cheekwood exhibition. Munro's immersive, grand-scale installations graced the grounds as well as the walls of the Museum's galleries.



2023

# Music *at* Cheekwood

Each year, Cheekwood presents over **100 special musical performances and concerts** featuring the region's finest players, writers, and singers shining against the backdrop of our signature lush gardens. The musical experience at Cheekwood not only piques curiosity but also draws in fresh attendees, captivates our valued members, amplifies foot traffic, and generates significant revenue. Music isn't just a backdrop; it's the heartbeat that establishes the ambiance and keeps guests delighted and enthralled.

In 2023, more than 20,000 visitors attended Cheekwood's **Thursday Night Out**, which has evolved into a quintessential weekly event that offers an adventure through food, drink and song. The event welcomes visitors from May through October to sample seasonal drinks and fare from the city's favorite food trucks, while the always diverse music lineup provides the soundtrack.



The **Cheekwood Beer Garden** has become a beloved attraction during *Cheekwood in Bloom* and *Cheekwood Harvest*. The exceptional musical performances at Saturday Sounds and Sunday Jazz consistently attract a lively crowd eager to experience top-tier musicians delivering vibrant full-band sets.



Summer nights invite lingering and lounging under the stars at Cheekwood, where over five spectacular evenings, music fills the air. Our **Under the Stars Concert Series** has a diverse musical lineup each year, with jazz, blues, and songwriter nights. It was voted Best Concert Series in the 2023 Nashville Scene's Best of Nashville Awards, with over 4,500 music lovers attending and 96 percent of available tickets sold.



The inaugural Cheekwood **Winter Concert Series** in 2023 was a testament to the power of music to transform chilly nights into unforgettable evenings. Grammy-winning virtuosos graced Cheekwood's Massey Hall stage, weaving a tapestry of musical genres that ranged from the sultry rhythms of big band jazz to the intoxicating allure of Brazilian grooves, all harmonizing seamlessly with the grace of classical melodies.



2023

## Destination Cheekwood

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### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

In 2023, Cheekwood welcomed 11,915 students free-of-charge from 153 schools and 25 Metro Council Districts through educational field trips. Cheekwood's annual investment in community outreach for 2023 was \$1.5 million, which went toward salaries, programming, materials and supplies, scholarships and translation services. This also includes complimentary admissions, transportation and memberships. The staff has worked vigorously to impact the Middle Tennessee region through culture, education, environmental initiatives and community outreach.

### STUDENT FIELD TRIPS

*Destination Cheekwood* offers free field trips to all school groups from Tennessee, Southern Kentucky, and Northern Alabama. This outreach program gives children in grades pre-K through 12 the chance to spend the day at Cheekwood in the best outdoor classroom, learning about art, history and botanical gardens. Students learn about pollinators and garden ecosystems, understand how trees communicate, explore multiculturalism in the Blevins Japanese Garden, and more. Every field trip curriculum is up to state standards and led by trained educators.

### FAMILY FIELD TRIPS

Families from Title I schools are invited to visit Cheekwood on weekends during peak festivals to enjoy a multi-generational experience at Cheekwood. In addition to complimentary admission, families receive an orientation with translation if needed, a complimentary meal or snack and a one-year family membership, encouraging return visits throughout the year.

### AGENCY FIELD TRIPS

As *Destination Cheekwood* expands, organizations serving audiences with a diverse set of needs have been welcomed to experience Cheekwood and enjoy the beauty, solace and joy of the estate, museum and gardens. In 2023, families from Nashville Freedom Schools enjoyed *Holiday LIGHTS* and *Moves and Grooves* families experienced the fall festivities of *Cheekwood Harvest*.



2023

## Cheekwood GROWS

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In 2023, Cheekwood expanded its newest community program, Cheekwood GROWS, a free, immersive and multi-faceted experience for third-grade students designed to teach gardening, healthy eating and cooking skills. The garden is home to vegetable and fruit plants for tasting, flowers to attract pollinators, and herbs to give additional flavor. Students from four MNPS schools traveled to Cheekwood throughout 2023 for hands-on learning in an outdoor garden classroom, planting their own seeds and later returning with their families to prepare dishes with the ingredients they grew, including white bean and collard greens soup, radish dip and herb dip. Summer campers and participants in the TOTS! program also engaged in the Cheekwood GROWS Garden.



## Cheekwood On the Road

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This outbound program takes the Cheekwood experience beyond the estate to students in Title I schools as well as to pre-kindergarten students in area Head Start programs. Elementary students explore Cheekwood's history, art collections and seasonal garden displays through educator and artist-led stations. Head Start toddlers enjoy storytime and arts and garden crafts inspired by the PNC Grow Up Great curriculum, and all books and materials remain in the classroom following the program.





2023

## Multicultural Celebrations

Cheekwood is committed to embracing cultures from around the world, hosting four major celebrations annually. Each festival highlights the traditions, music, dance, art and cuisine of a culture and welcomes thousands to participate amid the beauty of the estate and gardens. Around **13,600 visitors** attended our four multicultural festivals in 2023, generating some of our highest attended days of the year.

### HOLI | March 25

Cheekwood hosted the 2nd annual Holi Celebration in 2023 after debuting in 2022. The Indian Festival of Colors is a Hindu tradition that symbolizes a fresh start, much like spring itself. Holi aligns perfectly with *Cheekwood in Bloom*, with its traditional color-throwing activities and dance performances adding even more vibrant colors to the spring roster and inspiring visitors of all ages.



### Black Arts Bash | August 19

Cheekwood's 3rd annual Black Arts Bash paid tribute to Black history's deep roots in Nashville and established it as one of the most anticipated events of the summer. The event spotlights both emerging and established artists across all mediums, including visual art, music, spoken word and poetry, dance, textiles, cuisine and more. The guidance and support of Cheekwood's African American Cultural Advisory Committee ensures the experience is authentic, educational and inspiring. The YMCA of Middle Tennessee distributed passes throughout the region to create awareness and expand the reach of the event.



### Japanese Moon Viewing | September 24

Cheekwood hosted its 9th annual Japanese Moon Viewing festival, or *Otsukimi*, which takes place near the date of the Harvest Moon, in partnership with the Consulate General of Japan and Japan American Society of Tennessee. The event highlights artists, entertainers and vendors from the surrounding Japanese community. *Otsukimi* features tea ceremonies, mochi pounding, a Haiku competition, Japanese calligraphy and bilingual lantern-lit tours of the Blevins Japanese Garden. The Nashville Bonsai Society contributes stunning bonsai, adding a layer of horticultural depth to the event.



### El Día de los Muertos | October 29 & 30

Cheekwood's popular Day of the Dead festival is its most longstanding cultural celebration, a two-day event in which family and friends honor those who have passed. El Día de los Muertos features vibrant altars created by local Latino partners, music, dance, cuisine, art, activities, and vendors. For almost 25 years, Cheekwood has delivered a truly authentic experience for visitors from Middle Tennessee and beyond.



2023

# Institutional Support

## CORPORATE SUPPORT

Truist

Amazon

First Horizon

Gullett, Sanford, Robinson & Martin PLLC  
Tractor Supply Company

HCA Healthcare

Lipman Brothers, Inc.

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

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Barby & Govan White  
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Jerry & Ernie Williams  
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Mr. & Mrs. Darryl Yochem

*\*Deceased*



Lisa and David Manning with Barbara and Rick Turner at The 1929 Club Dinner in 2023.

2023

# Fall for Cheekwood Donors

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Take 5 Oil Change  
Tennessee Valley Authority

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Nancy and John Cheadle enjoy Fall for Cheekwood with their grandchildren.

2023

# Homer Gibbs Legacy Society

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*If you have made a planned gift to Cheekwood and would like to be recognized as part of the Homer Gibbs Legacy Society, please reach out to let us know.*

Susan A. Basham  
Ann R. Bernard  
Mrs. James C. Bradford, Jr.  
Mary & William Campbell  
Linda Etheredge & Paul Catt  
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Jayne Menkemeller  
Robert O. Rolfe  
Molly & Richard Schneider  
Lisa & Stephen Small  
Alan D. Sweitzer  
Mrs. John Warner White

2023

# Awards & Accolades

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***Nashville Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (NAHCC) “Bridges” in Art, Culture & Community Service Award (2023)***

***The Tennessean’s Best of Music City (2023)***

- Best Family Amusement
- Best Tourist/Seasonal Attraction – Local
- Best Wedding Venue
- Holiday Lights at Cheekwood won for Best Festival/Fair

***Nashville Scene Best of Nashville (2023)***

- Best Place to Take Out of Towners
- Best Concert Series for Under the Stars
- Best Wedding Venue
- Best Outdoor Fun
- #2 in Best Summer Camp
- #2 in Best Cultural Center
- #2 in Best Art Happening for Cheekwood Events
- #2 in Best Event/Festival (Local) for Cheekwood Holiday LIGHTS

***Nashville Parent’s Best of Parenting (2023)***

- Best Local Day Camp in Nashville

***Kid’s Out and About (2023)***

- Ranked 3rd in Top 20 Places to Take Kids in the Nashville Area

***Donors are recognized for their cumulative contributions for the 2023 calendar year, including pledges.***





1200 FORREST PARK DRIVE, NASHVILLE, TN 37205