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Cheekwood Unveils Plans for State-of-the-Art Parking Pavilion & Welcome Plaza to Enhance Visitor Experience

New HASTINGS-designed facility will blend into surrounding landscape while accommodating visitors for beloved community programs and seasonal events

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Cheekwood Estate & Gardens has unveiled plans for a transformative new Parking Pavilion & Welcome Plaza, an innovative project designed to meet visitors' needs while preserving the beauty and legacy of the historic estate. Designed by the nationally recognized architecture firm HASTINGS, the new facility will blend cutting-edge functionality with artistic and environmental excellence.

The \$25 million project is slated for completion in 2027, in alignment with construction milestones outlined in Cheekwood's agreement with Metro Parks, which currently permits Cheekwood overflow parking on adjacent park property. Once completed, the pavilion will offer 750 parking spaces, electric vehicle charging stations, a convenient rideshare drop-off and pick-up area, a new ticketing center, and an expansive 28,000-square-foot green roof. The project also features new gardens and a sustainable rainwater harvesting system, furthering Cheekwood's commitment to environmental stewardship.

"This Parking Pavilion & Welcome Plaza is more than just a solution to an important need—it's an investment in the future of Cheekwood and our community," said Jane MacLeod, Cheekwood President and CEO. "We are committed to creating a space that matches the beauty and creativity that visitors have come to expect from Cheekwood and are thrilled to get this project underway."

For over 40 years, Metro Parks has generously provided adjacent parkland outside Cheekwood's entrance for overflow parking. As that agreement concludes in 2027, Cheekwood must now establish a permanent parking solution within its own footprint to continue welcoming all visitors who wish to experience the estate's robust year-round programming.

From beloved seasonal events such as Harvest at Cheekwood, Holiday LIGHTS, El Día de los Muertos, and Enchanted Castles, to major exhibitions like Chihuly at Cheekwood, the new Parking Pavilion is essential to sustaining Cheekwood's cultural offerings and accessibility for generations to come.

Cheekwood assembled an experienced team of top firms to develop the project, including R.C. Mathews and HDLA in addition to HASTINGS.

Cheekwood invites community members, supporters, and partners to join in bringing this vital project to life. To learn more about the Parking Pavilion & Welcome Plaza, and ways to support this vision, please visit cheekwood.org/parking-pavilion.

“Thanks to the unwavering support of our community, Cheekwood continues to flourish nearly 100 years after Mabel and Leslie Cheek envisioned a place of beauty, art, and nature,” MacLeod continued. “We invite everyone to be a part of this next chapter.”

About Cheekwood Estate & Gardens

With its intact and picturesque vistas, Cheekwood is distinguished as one of the leading Country Place Era estates in the nation. Formerly the family home of Mabel and Leslie Cheek, the 1930s estate, with its 30,000-square-foot Mansion and 55-acres of gardens, today serves the public as a botanical garden, arboretum, and art museum with furnished period rooms and galleries devoted to American art from the 18th to mid-20th centuries. The property includes 13 distinct gardens including the Blevins Japanese Garden and the Bracken Foundation Children’s Garden, as well as a 1.5-mile woodland trail featuring outdoor monumental sculpture. Each year, Cheekwood hosts seasonal festivals including Cheekwood in Bloom, Summertime at Cheekwood, Cheekwood Harvest and Holiday LIGHTS. Cheekwood is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and nationally as a Level II Arboretum. It is a three-time voted USA Today Top 10 Botanical Garden, in 2024 received a Tripadvisor Travelers’ Choice Award, and in 2021 was named by Fodors as one of the 12 Most Beautiful Gardens in the American South. Cheekwood is located eight miles southwest of downtown Nashville at 1200 Forrest Park Drive. It is open Tuesday through Sunday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., with extended days and hours of operation depending on the season. Visit cheekwood.org for current hours and to purchase advance tickets required for admission.

About HASTINGS

HASTINGS is a nationally recognized design studio offering architecture, interior design, and urban planning. HASTINGS, based in Nashville, works throughout the United States across a diverse range of typologies—including cultural, music and entertainment, academic, commercial, multifamily, and hospitality.

HASTINGS is currently ranked the #3 architecture firm in the United States by ARCHITECT magazine and has been featured in publications including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Wallpaper, Architectural Record, and Interior Design. Their accolades include over 100 design awards and 150 LEED certifications.

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Media Contact:

Emily Luxen
Cheekwood Director of External Relations
eluxen@cheekwood.org
(629) 666-9986