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Friends of the Uffizi Gallery, Inc.

Is a United States tax-exempt organization
under Section 501(c) (3) of the IRC.

Mission Statement

The **Friends of the Uffizi Gallery** was established in 2006 as the United States "sister" organization to the Amici degli Uffizi, in Florence, Italy. In response to the May, 1993 terrorist bombing that damaged several art works and portions of the Uffizi Gallery, Amici was founded in Florence by a group of concerned citizens, including Contessa Maria Vittoria Colonna Rimbotti, the current President of both organizations. A U.S. based tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, the Friends of the Uffizi Gallery, was created to support the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy, by raising awareness of the Uffizi and its cultural treasures and by providing resources for acquisition, preservation, restoration and education.

History

The Amici degli Uffizi, established in 1993 after the Uffizi bombing, has ever since supported the Uffizi Gallery in Florence by facilitating acquisitions, supporting restorations and organizing special exhibitions. In tandem with the Amici degli Uffizi, the Friends of the Uffizi Gallery, founded in 2006 raises funds to support these activities through the efforts of its dedicated members and patrons. Over 40 restoration projects, designated priorities by Antonio Natali, Director of the Uffizi Gallery, have been completed through 2015.

The Uffizi Gallery, originally showcasing the Medici family collection of ancient sculptures, is considered one of the world's first public museums. It receives over 1.8 million visitors per year. Attracting art lovers worldwide, the famous Uffizi collections include Botticelli's "Primavera," and "Birth of Venus," and Titian's "Venus of Urbino." The building was designed for the Medici Family by Giorgio Vasari, the Renaissance architect, artist and writer, best known for his "Lives of the Most Excellent Painters, Sculptors and Architects," first published in 1550. The last direct descendent of the Medici family, Anna Maria Luisa de Medici donated the extensive family collection at the Uffizi to the state in 1743.

The Friends of the Uffizi Gallery in the United States and the Amici degli Uffizi in Italy work together to safeguard the treasures of the Uffizi Gallery. Working closely with the museum's curatorial staff, both groups play a vital role in preserving and restoring one of the world's most important museums and the cultural heritage of Western civilization.

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