



VANDERBILT
Alumni Association



Kansas City & Crystal Bridges Arts in America's Heartland

with Kevin D. Murphy, Andrew W. Mellon Chair
in the Humanities & Chair of the History of Art

May 2 – 7, 2026

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

DISCOVER why the art world is talking about **Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art**, co-founded by Alice Walton in Bentonville, Arkansas, gorgeously designed as a series of glass pavilions surrounded by serene ponds.

REVEL in a privately guided inside look at Crystal Bridges's **extraordinary American art collection**, including masterworks by Mark Rothko, Andy Warhol, Georgia O'Keeffe, Asher B. Durand, and Norman Rockwell.

EXPERIENCE an outdoor art tour of **Crystal Bridges's 120-acre Ozark campus**, featuring a look at Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian-style **Bachman-Wilson House** led by **Kevin Murphy**, Chair of the History of Art.

DELIGHT in lunch and a private tour at Kansas City's **Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art**, exploring works by Louise Bourgeois, Helen Frankenthaler, Hans Hofmann, Rashid Johnson, Joan Mitchell, Jackson Pollock, and Willem de Kooning.

ENJOY a curatorial visit to Kansas City's **Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art**, experiencing a selection of its vast holdings, from ancient Greek sculptures to modern and contemporary pieces by Paul Klee, Pablo Picasso, Donald Judd, and others.

TAKE a private look at the **Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum** in Independence, Missouri, which underwent a recent \$29 million renovation, followed by a visit to **Truman's birthplace** in nearby Lamar.

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Kevin D. Murphy is Andrew W. Mellon Chair in the Humanities, as well as Professor & Chair in the Department of History of Art and Architecture at Vanderbilt, where he has been on the faculty since 2013. He has spoken and published widely on the subjects of French and American art and architecture of the modern period. His most recent book, co-authored with Dr. Mary Anne Hunting (Vanderbilt '80) is *Women Architects at Work: Making American Modernism*, published by Princeton University Press in 2025.



VANDERBILT Alumni Association

From **May 2 to 7, 2026**, join fellow Vanderbilt alumni and **Kevin D. Murphy**, Andrew W. Mellon Chair in the Humanities and Chair of the History of Art, for a behind-the-scenes look at art treasures in America's heartland.

Meet curators and experts to explore museum collections in two ambitious cities that have emerged as internationally acclaimed art destinations: **Kansas City, Missouri**, and **Bentonville, Arkansas**, where you will experience an exclusive VIP tour of **Alice Walton's** sublimely beautiful **Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art**.

To reserve your place on this exclusive art journey, contact the Vanderbilt Travel Office at 615-322-3673 or alumni.travel@vanderbilt.edu.



Asher B. Durand, *Kindred Spirits (detail)*, 1849, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas

Activity Level:



Pace Level:



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.

ABOUT CRYSTAL BRIDGES

- When **Alice Walton** paid \$35 million for **Asher B. Durand's** *Kindred Spirits* and brought it to her hometown, Bentonville, Arkansas, with plans for a museum, the art world scoffed.
- But she silenced any naysayers when **Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art** opened in 2011, upending expectations.
- Designed by famed architect **Moshe Safdie**, Crystal Bridges crosses a forested ravine on linked glass pavilions, surrounded by ponds and acres of woodland trails dotted with outdoor sculptures.
- Inside, you'll have up-close viewings of American artworks by masters including **Georgia O'Keeffe**, **Thomas Eakins**, **Henry Ossawa Tanner**, **Andy Warhol**, and **Norman Rockwell**.
- Discover outdoor artworks such as **James Turrell's** *The Way of Color* installation, part of the artist's *Skyspace* series, and **Celeste Roberge's** *Chaise Gabion*, a stone-and-stainless-steel piece that blends sculpture and furniture, set on the East Terrace.
- Join **Kevin Murphy** for a special look at **Frank Lloyd Wright's** *Bachman-Wilson House*, which was relocated to Crystal Bridges in 2013 to save it from floods at its original location along New Jersey's Millstone River.
- The entire 1956 house was disassembled and shipped to Bentonville, where it was meticulously reconstructed on the Crystal Bridges grounds.

Click or scan the QR code below to watch a CBS News Sunday Morning interview with Alice Walton to hear how she developed Crystal Bridges:





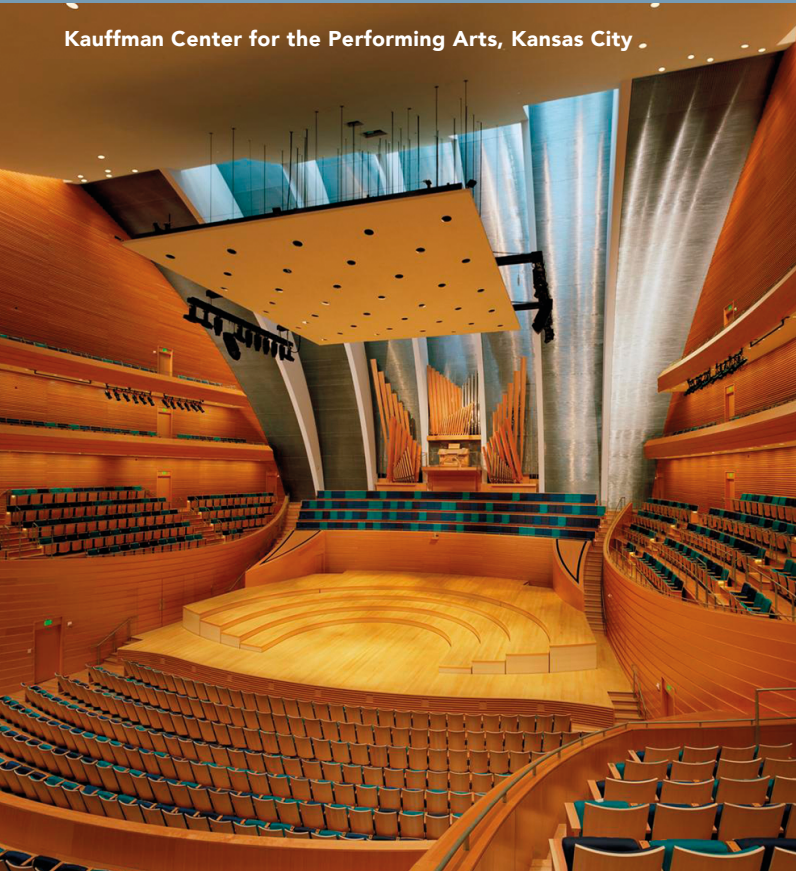
Photos clockwise from top right: Map of the region; Frank Lloyd Wright's Bachman-Wilson House, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville; ; The Momentary, Bentonville, photo courtesy of the Momentary; Sol Lewitt, *Loopy Doopy*, 1998, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville; and Louise Bourgeois, *Spider*, 1996, cast 1997, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City.

Kansas City & Crystal Bridges

Arts in America's Heartland

May 2 – 7, 2026

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Kansas City



- **Guided tour of the Kemper Museum:** Engage with a collection that bridges modern and contemporary works during a special access visit. Stroll through a series of magnificent Dale Chihuly sculptures, including *Campiello de Remer*, gaze up at Louise Bourgeois' 11-foot-tall *Spider*, and admire works from artists such as Helen Frankenthaler, Georgia O'Keeffe, Hung Liu, Matthew Ritchie, and Joseph Stella.

EVENING

- **Enjoy dinner and an evening at leisure.** The hotel is minutes away from Kansas City's celebrated and historic **Country Club Plaza**. Inspired by the grand plazas of Seville, Spain, the beloved downtown landmark offers an assortment of shopping and dining options.

MONDAY, MAY 4: KANSAS CITY

B,D

MORNING

- **Curator-led tour of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art:** Navigate 5,000 years of humanity, from ancient Chinese tombs to whimsical sculptures of badminton birdies. Meander through its collections of Asian art, Spanish altarpieces, and Native American face masks. Gaze upon works from masters such as Caravaggio, Van Gogh, Monet, Picasso, Warhol, and John Singer Sargent.

SATURDAY, MAY 2: KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

R,D

- Arrive independently at the **Raphael Hotel** and check in by late afternoon.
- Gather this evening for a celebratory welcome reception and dinner.

SUNDAY, MAY 3: KANSAS CITY

B,L

MORNING

- **Guided tour of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts:** As you explore this performance complex, designed by Crystal Bridges architect Moshe Safdie, see how the Kauffman Center's curvilinear roofs and steel cable-supported glass façade contribute to a sense of unimpeded movement and fluidity.

AFTERNOON

- **Lunch at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art's restaurant:** Dine at **Oil on Linen**, owned and operated by **Ted Habiger**, a three-time James Beard Foundation Outstanding Chef Award Nominee. Its distinct menu offerings are inspired by featured artists and have been created specifically to align with the museum's exhibition calendar.



Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City



Thomas Hart Benton, *Independence and the Opening of the West* (detail), 1961, Harry S. Truman Presidential Library, Independence

AFTERNOON / EVENING

- **Enjoy an afternoon and lunch at leisure.**
- **Optional afternoon tour of the Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio State Historic Site:** Get an up-close and personal glimpse into the home, studio, and creative process of the renowned Missouri-born muralist and painter who was also known as one of the founders of American Regionalism.
- **Gather for dinner this evening.**

TUESDAY, MAY 5: KANSAS CITY / INDEPENDENCE / LAMAR / BELLA VISTA, ARKANSAS / BENTONVILLE B,L

MORNING

- **Special visit to the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum:** After checking out of the hotel and departing for Bentonville, travel to **Independence** for a special visit to the Truman Library, which underwent a multi-million-dollar renovation. Trace Harry Truman's rise from Missouri farm boy to 33rd President, and see how he led the nation through the final days of World War II and into the Cold War era.

Stop to see a colorful mural from Thomas Hart Benton, 1961's *Independence and the Opening of the West*, specially commissioned for the library.

AFTERNOON

- **Enjoy a boxed lunch aboard the motor coach.**
- **Guided look at the Harry S. Truman Birthplace State Historic Site:** View the small frame house where the only president from Missouri was born.

- **Stop at the Mildred Cooper Memorial Chapel:** On the way to Bentonville, pause in Bella Vista to explore the work of AIA Gold Medalist E. Fay Jones, who crafted a distinctive form of organic architecture rooted in Ozark materials. Visit one of his Arkansas chapels, where 50-foot towers rise into the treetops.

EVENING

- **Check into the 21c Museum Hotel Bentonville.**
- **Optional evening visit: Venture to the Momentary:** Once a Kraft cheese plant—and long before that, Osage hunting grounds—the Momentary now presents contemporary art across indoor and outdoor spaces. View Addie Roanhorse's *Sway*, Tavares Strachan's luminous *You Belong Here*, Yinka Shonibare's *Wind Sculpture* (SG) VIII in fiberglass and steel, and Leo Villareal's *Buckyball*, a shifting sphere of light and color.
- **Enjoy dinner at leisure.**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6: BENTONVILLE

B,L,D

MORNING

- **Exclusive VIP tour of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art:** Designed by architect Moshe Safdie and set in a natural ravine, the museum's linked pavilions are surrounded by two sparkling ponds fed by natural springs.
- Stroll through an expansive collection of American artworks spanning five centuries by artists such as Warhol, O'Keeffe, Norman Rockwell, Edward Hopper, Kehinde Wiley, Asher B. Durand, John Baldessari, and Jordan Casteel.

AFTERNOON

- **Gather for lunch at the museum.**
- **Guided tour of the Crystal Bridges Art Trail:** Amid Ozark forest, view great outdoor sculptures and installations as you wander through the museum's 134-acre campus.
- Join **Kevin Murphy** for an exclusive inside look at Frank Lloyd Wright's **Bachman-Wilson House**, a classic example of Usonian architecture. The house was moved here from New Jersey in 2013.

EVENING

- **Celebrate this journey at a festive farewell dinner.**

THURSDAY, MAY 7: BENTONVILLE / RETURN

B

- **Transfer to the airport for flights home.** Alternatively, time permitting, you may enjoy more of Bentonville's sites on your own.

DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Vanderbilt Alumni Association and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

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ACCOMMODATIONS

RAPHAEL HOTEL, KANSAS CITY

A boutique hotel in Kansas City's Country Club Plaza district, Raphael Hotel pairs European-style architecture with modern comforts. Just steps from shops, galleries, and restaurants, it offers quiet elegance and attentive service in a refined setting.

21C MUSEUM HOTEL BENTONVILLE

In downtown Bentonville, this hideaway pairs Southern hospitality with contemporary art and sleek design. Rotating exhibitions and site-specific installations fill the public spaces.

21c Museum Hotel Bentonville



PROGRAM RATE

\$5,699 per person, double rate
\$6,699 single rate

RATE INCLUDES

- Five nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine and beer at all included lunches and dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE: Airfare; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Country Club Plaza, Kansas City



VANDERBILT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION KANSAS CITY & CRYSTAL BRIDGES MAY 2 – 7, 2026 RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please contact The Vanderbilt Travel Office at 615-322-3673 or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$2,000 per person (of which \$1,000 is non-refundable for administrative fees), payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

Fax

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Room Preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds ☐ Single

I wish to share a room with

FORM OF PAYMENT

- ☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*)
☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date

Cover photo: Crystal Bridges Museum of Art, Bentonville, Arkansas, photo courtesy of Visit Bentonville. Highlights Page: Mildred B. Cooper Memorial Chapel, Bella Vista.