

the
Gibbes
women's
council

Dear Gibbes Women's Council Members:

Welcome to our 70th anniversary year! A group of smart women, dedicated to the Museum, formed the first affiliate group here at the Gibbes in 1950. Our work as members of the Gibbes Women's Council builds on theirs—we stand on their shoulders as we move forward into the third decade of the twenty-first century. It is YOU who provide the time, talents, and resources to help the GWC achieve so much for our Museum and its Mission: "... to enhance lives through art by engaging people of every background and experience with art and artists of enduring quality...."

Even though our 2018 fall meeting was delayed by Mother Nature's hurricane for the second straight year, we pursued a very active calendar of events. After the Fall General Membership Meeting, we enjoyed our annual "Out of Charleston" bus trip to Hampton and Hopsewee plantations. Our winter was highlighted by our Membership meeting which featured the Chief Curator from the Charleston Museum, and then we hosted the Gibbes Board and the Society 1858 Board at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at The College of Charleston. As a companion to that event, we also hosted a second event for both GWC and Society 1858 membership at a reception and tour at City Gallery. Our third winter event was a partnership with the College of Charleston School of the Arts, to cross promote the arts with other institutions. Spring arrived with our ninth-annual Art of Design featuring Instagram guru, Eva Chen, who encouraged the sold-out crowd to become unicorns. On a beautiful April day, under the tent in the Lenhardt Garden, she made us laugh at ourselves, look and think about how we project who are out into the world of social media. The event raised over \$69,000 through the participation of more individual and corporate sponsors than ever before! Finally, our end-of-the-year annual picnic was held in the garden of a historic home South of Broad on another perfect spring day. Through our dues and the profits raised from Art of Design, the membership voted to allocate our funds for four Museum programs: to serve as a major sponsor for two exhibits "A Return to the Grand Tour" and "Central to Their Lives;" and to support the musicians for the CSO Chamber Music Series, education programs for K-12 students, and the Visiting Artist program.

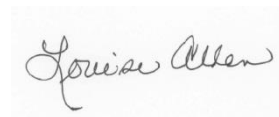
Your Board of Directors met in July for our first-ever Board Retreat. We discussed our initiatives to engage the community, to support education through scholarships for the Gibbes' summer camp, to better define and publicize the volunteer opportunities at the Gibbes, and finally to revise the GWC's bylaws to reflect the structure and process of the Museum's Board of Trustees.

Our Programs Committee has organized a great schedule of events ranging from our kick-off Fall Meeting at the Gibbes (we fooled Mother Nature and successfully avoided Hurricane Dorian with our smart scheduling) to a visit to our newly restored neighbor, the Fireproof Building and home of the South Carolina Historical Society. Next up is our "Out of Charleston" bus trip to the Van Gogh exhibit at the Columbia Museum of Art. Our Holiday Party will be in the home of a member and our host committee has planned the last three parties—so expect a good time and great food! The winter starts with another partner event with the School of the Arts at the College of Charleston, followed by our Winter Membership meeting, featuring the Elizabeth Locke exhibition and a lecture by curator Sara Arnold.

Our membership has now reached the milestone of 225 members who live across the Tri-County area and represent all ages. Our appeal as a place to laugh, learn and make new friends has encouraged new members to join our group. We depend on our members and we hope you will volunteer to make all of this happen, so please consider becoming more involved! I invite you to join one of our committees, which are described at the link "How to Volunteer." If you have any Gibbes Women's Council questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 843.870.0186 or at loua373@gmail.com . I will connect you with other GWC members who will put your talents to work on behalf of the Gibbes.

Thank you again for your support of our Gibbes Women's Council. This will be another fabulous year because of you and your support of Art at the Gibbes and your contributions to the continued fun and success for the GWC!

My best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise Allen". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Louise Allen
GWC President