



the  
Gibbes  
women's  
council

## HISTORY OF THE GIBBES WOMEN'S COUNCIL

The Gibbes Art Gallery Auxiliary, forerunner of the Women's Council, was formed in 1950 at the request of the Carolina Art Association. It was the first auxiliary group at the Gibbes Museum, and it became the Women's Council of the Carolina Art Association in 1968. As of the fall of 2019, the group now has nearly 200 members who support the Gibbes through their time and talents and the financial support they provide the Museum through fundraising activities and other means.

In 1970, the Council founded and staffed a museum store, the Turtle Shop. It was named after Anna Heyward Taylor's woodblock print, *Sea Turtle*. The original mission for the store was the potential it offered for earned income due to the city's increased tourism. During the Gibbes' Capital Campaign, the Women's Council raised over \$250,000 to secure the naming rights of the store. It is now called the Gibbes Women's Council Museum Store. The shop presently employs a manager and assistants; however, the Women's Council continues to help staff the shop.

In 1971, just after the opening of the Turtle Shop, the Hibernian Hall gala was the first fundraiser held by the Council for the Gibbes. Five galas were held at the Museum in the 1980s. Over the years, there have been other various fundraising activities developed by the members, such as catering on a contract basis, Christmas museum shop previews, lecture and film programs, antique and floral shows, and the Holiday House Tour which began in 1991.

The *Art of Design* (AOD) has now become the auxiliary group's primary fundraising activity. It represents a generous commitment for the members in terms of planning, resources, and time. The event was originally named *Fine Art and Flowers*, and the first luncheon in 2010 featured Chris Giftos, the former Director of Special Events for The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Giftos created floral designs while he spoke which were then auctioned to attendees. The net proceeds in 2010 were \$7,500, and today, AOD has grown to raise approximately \$70,000 annually. Speakers have included tastemakers Carolyn Roehm and Charlotte Moss; Hamish Bowles, European editor-at-large for the *American Vogue*; jewelry designer Andrew Prince; interior designer Vern Yip; and Instagram's Director of Fashion Partnerships, Eva Chen. Since the completion of the Gibbes' renovation in 2016, AOD has been held in the Lenhardt Garden and has been a sell-out for the past four years. In 2020, we are thrilled to present Clea Shearer and Joanna Teplin of *The Home Edit*.

The year 2020 marks the 70th anniversary of the Women's Council and the 10th anniversary of *Art of Design*.