

Woodmere**ArtMuseum**

TELLING THE STORIES OF PHILADELPHIA'S ART AND ARTISTS

CAMPAIGN CASE STATEMENT

Save Saint Michael's Hall

Create Woodmere's Multicultural Collection Study Center



Three Objectives

- Preserve four acres of open greenspace in the Wissahickon Watershed
- Protect a great historic mansion and the community's character
- Expand Woodmere's ability to tell the stories of Philadelphia's artists

Goal

Raise \$2.5M to acquire, \$2.5M to renovate, and \$3M to endow Saint Michael's Hall.

The Alternative

By right, a developer could raze the mansion and develop the site with single-family houses.

Bill Valerio, The Patricia Van Burgh Allison Director & CEO

Woodmere Art Museum

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Vision

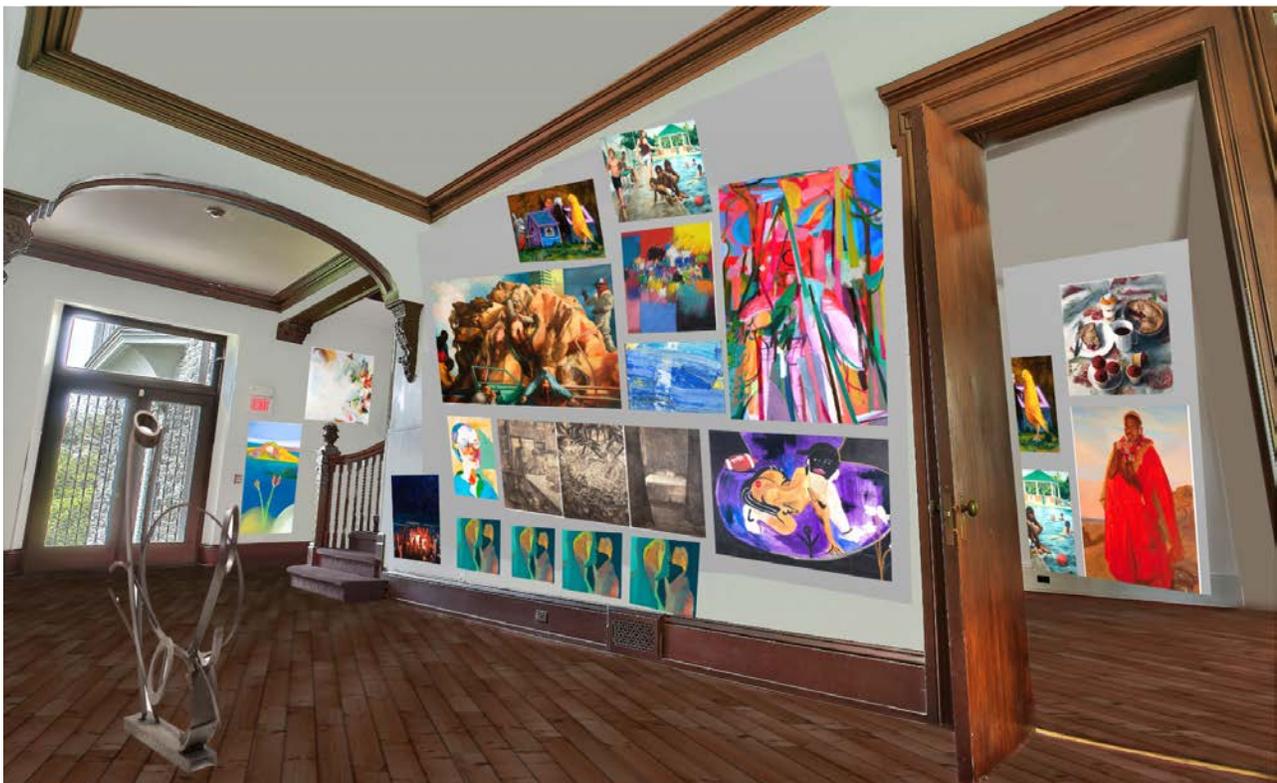
Woodmere's Multicultural Collection Study Center

80% of most museums' collections are stored away from public view.

The elegant spaces of St. Michael's will be installed floor to ceiling with Woodmere's collection of paintings and sculpture, making the work of Philadelphia's artists accessible in new ways. Existing historic spaces will be dedicated to specific collection strengths, including the multicultural range of contemporary art, Arthur B. Carles and Philadelphia modernism, Violet Oakley and the Red Rose Girls, Pennsylvania Impressionism, and more.

80% of Woodmere's collection could be on view, instead of hidden away.

Since 2010, it has been Woodmere's policy to expand the diversity of artists represented in the collection, both in the areas of historical and contemporary art. The result is 40% diversity in Woodmere's audience.

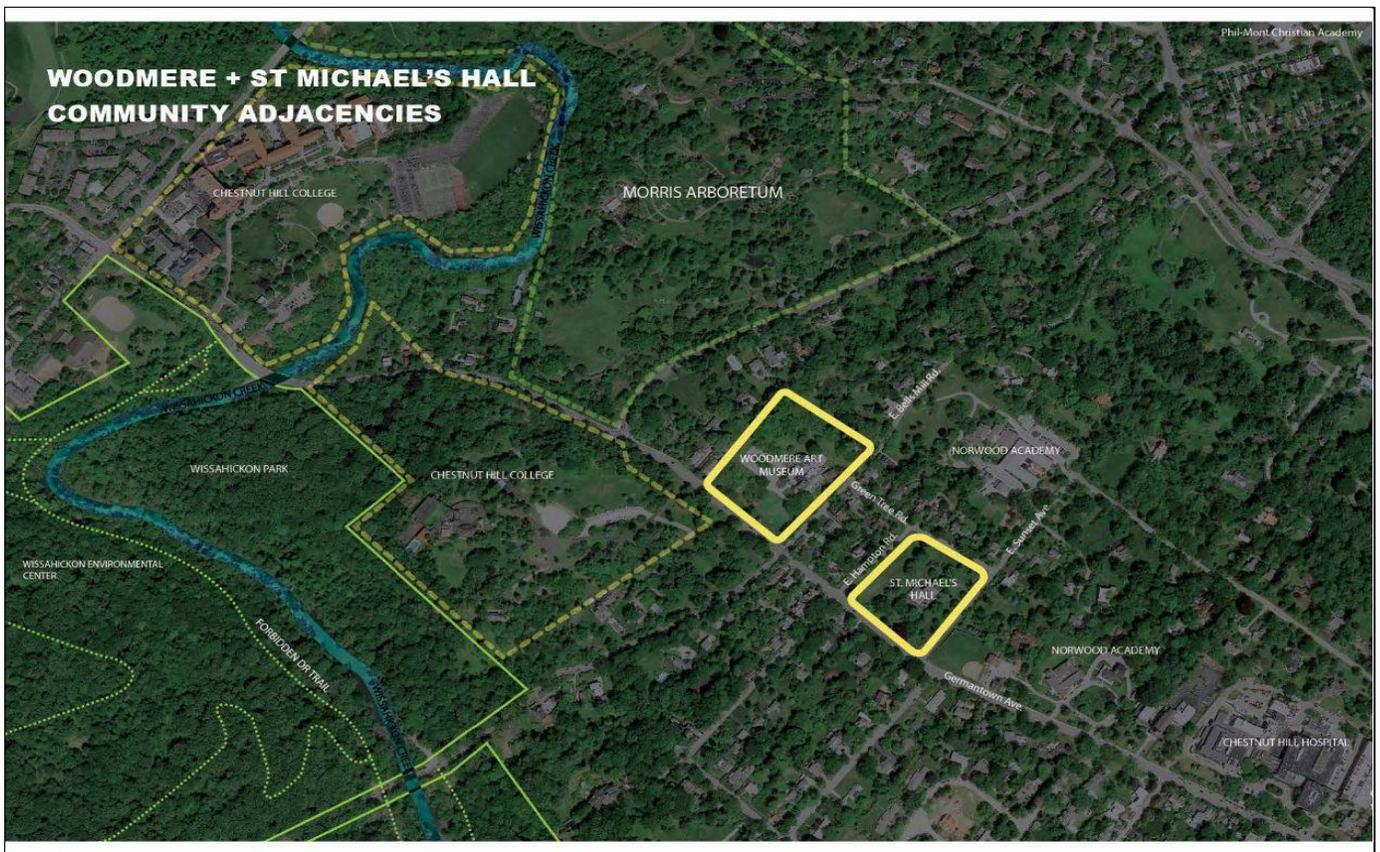


Artist's rendering of Entrance Hall with Contemporary Art

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Preservation of green space and the environment

In preserving this four-acre estate, we honor Chestnut Hill's history of maintaining the green ecosystem of the Wissahickon Watershed.

Woodmere would maintain the grounds as an accessible community asset, with the goal of engaging artists to create a Lenape-inspired landscape experience.

Saint Michael's four acres, together with Woodmere's six acres, are adjacent to the Morris Arboretum, Wissahickon Park, Sugarloaf and Chestnut Hill College.

Historic Preservation

The acquisition would represent a significant act of neighborhood preservation.

A brief history:

- Quaker merchant William Henry Trotter builds the estate in 1859
- Alfred Craven Harrison, Philadelphia's "Sugar Refinery King," acquires and expands the mansion in 1884.
- The Sisters of Saint Joseph acquire the estate in 1927, naming it Saint Michael's Hall. They use it as a nunnery until fall 2020.



Significant Features

Hand-carved woodwork by Edward Maene (1852-1931) is preserved in Saint Michael's Hall. An immigrant from Belgium, Maene became one of the great artists of Philadelphia's Arts and Crafts movement. His work elevates the significance of Saint Michael's Hall.

Condition

The building is in excellent condition with a new roof, new windows, and good utility systems. Cosmetic improvements, new climate control, a security system, upgraded electricity service, and an elevator are required.

Artist's rendering: event space

Community Priority

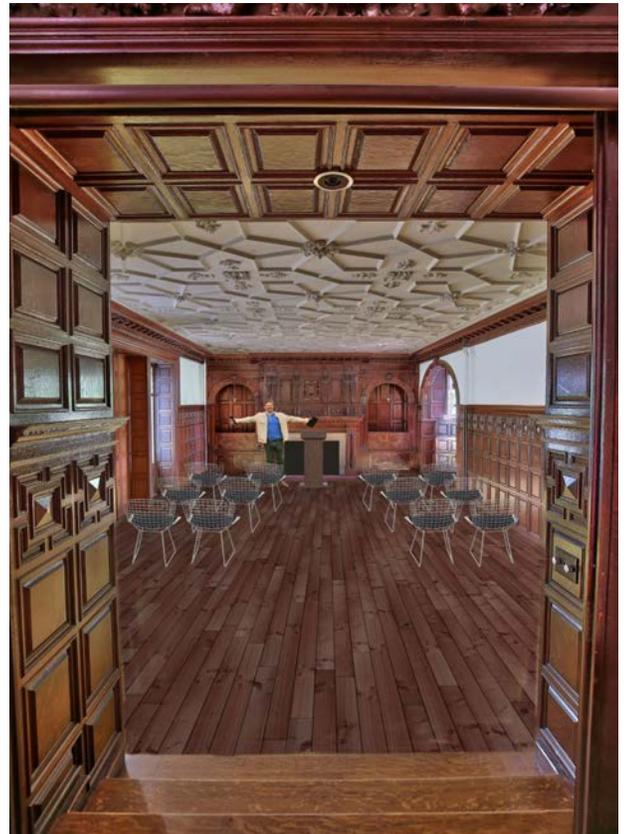
The **Chestnut Hill Conservancy** and **The Friends of the Wissahickon** endorse the preservation of Saint Michael's Hall as a top priority.

Compelling Case

Right now, our community is presented with two options:

As of right, a developer could demolish St. Michael's Hall and build 23 single-family homes on the property.

On the other hand, we can ensure the ongoing institutional health of Woodmere and preserve the ecosystem and the future of Chestnut Hill.





**Just as the spirit of
the arts are alive,
so must be our
philanthropic spirit!**

Budget

- Purchase price: \$2.5M
- Renovations for basic needs: \$2.5M
- Endow the operation \$3M

For more information

Contact Bill Valerio at wvalerio@woodmereartmuseum.org
or Anne Standish at astandish@woodmereartmuseum.org

How to give or pledge:

<https://woodmereartmuseum.org/about/campaign-to-save-st-michaels-hall>

Press:

<https://www.chestnuthilllocal.com/stories/fow-director-makes-the-environmental-case-for-woodmeres-st-michaels-hall-plan,17116>

<https://www.chestnuthilllocal.com/stories/woodmere-mobilizes-to-acquire-save-historic-germantown-ave-home,16850?>

<https://www.chestnuthilllocal.com/stories/saint-michaels-hall-a-house-with-three-stories,16915?>

<https://www.chestnuthilllocal.com/stories/the-benefits-of-preserving-st-michaels-hall,17187?>

<https://www.chestnuthilllocal.com/stories/a-conversation-with-sister-karen-dietrich-as-woodmere-raises-funds-for-st-michaels-hall,17300>