An expansion on the north side of the Kemper Art Museum will create a striking new facade composed of 30-foot-tall pleated stainless steel panels that will reflect the surrounding landscape, sky, and buildings. This iconic surface will serve as a beacon, drawing visitors from both the Danforth Campus and beyond.

The rest of the expansion will be built of limestone and glass, echoing the materials of the existing structure and integrating it into the surrounding environment. The new entrance—at ground level and oriented toward the University’s front lawn—will enhance accessibility with a more prominent and expanded entry lobby. This welcoming, light-filled room will provide additional space for an array of the Museum’s renowned programs, including lectures, panel discussions, and performances.

The new James M. Kemper Gallery will be a state-of-the-art 2,700-square-foot exhibition space that will allow the Museum to showcase a larger portion of its world-class collection. Currently, only a very small percentage of the Kemper Art Museum’s holdings—particularly strong in 19th-, 20th-, and 21st-century European and American paintings, sculptures, prints, installations, and photographs—can be displayed. The addition of the James M. Kemper Gallery will not only give visitors the chance to experience a greater number of the Museum’s artworks, it will expand curatorial opportunities, enhance the Museum’s stimulating temporary exhibition program, and support the Museum’s ability to provide excellence in art historical scholarship, education, and exhibition.

The Kemper Art Museum’s Florence Steinberg Weil Sculpture Garden will be relocated to a beautiful setting north of the Sam Fox School’s new Anabeth and John Weil Hall. Carefully planned along a route from the new Gary M. Sumers Welcome Center to the Museum’s entrance, the collection of outdoor sculpture by such prominent artists as Alexander Calder and Auguste Rodin will welcome visitors to the east end of campus.
THE KEMPER FAMILY
The Kemper family has been among Washington University’s most dedicated and generous supporters for decades, providing gifts for scholarships, the Pre-College Program for underserved youth, and neurological research. The Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum was named to recognize the generosity of the William T. Kemper Foundation and members of the Kemper family. Their extraordinary ongoing support includes the upcoming Museum expansion, the lead gift for the current building, an endowed position for the Museum director, and funds for acquisitions, exhibitions, and publications.

The late Mildred Lane Kemper had a devoted interest in both higher education and fine art. Her late husband, James M. Kemper Jr., was a longtime patron of the arts who founded Commerce Bank’s renowned art collection in 1963 with his uncle, William T. Kemper, a well-known art collector. James M. Kemper helped to support numerous exhibitions at the Kemper Art Museum and in 2010 made one of the largest single donations in the Museum’s history—for the acquisition of contemporary German art. James and Mildred’s children—David W. Kemper, Jonathan Kemper, Julie Kemper Foyer, and the late Laura Kemper Fields—have continued their family’s long tradition of support for education and the arts. David is a Washington University Life Trustee and vice chair of the Board of Trustees. Julie serves on the Sam Fox School National Council and Art Collection Committee. Jonathan Kemper is a member of the Skandalaris Center for Entrepreneurship National Council. The new James M. Kemper Gallery will be named in memory of their father.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM
Named for Mildred Lane Kemper in 2004, the Kemper Art Museum is internationally known for acquiring leading contemporary art, presenting cutting-edge exhibitions, and disseminating art historical scholarship. One of the oldest teaching museums in the country, the institution was founded in 1881 as the St. Louis School and Museum of Fine Arts. A department of Washington University, it was located in a neo-Renaissance building downtown. In 1906 the collection moved to the Palace of Fine Arts in Forest Park (now the Saint Louis Art Museum), and the University collection remained on loan there for decades.

When German exile H. W. Janson joined the faculty of Washington University in 1941, the Museum was revitalized and its collecting began to focus on European and American art of the time. The creation of Washington University’s Steinberg Hall in 1960 gave the Museum, then named the Washington University Gallery of Art, a permanent home on campus. Janson’s successors—along with prominent St. Louis collectors Joseph Pulitzer Jr., Morton D. May, Etta Steinberg, Sydney M. Shoenberg, Florence and Richard K. Weil, and others—contributed significant works of art by European and American modernists such as Alberto Burri, Willem de Kooning, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, and Pierre Soulages.

The Museum has continued this legacy of acquiring significant contemporary art representing major international aesthetic positions. Holdings obtained in the 1980s and 1990s include works by John Baldessari, Jenny Holzer, Barbara Kruger, Tim Rollins, Lorna Simpson, and Kiki Smith. More recent acquisitions include works by such leading international artists as Franz Ackermann, Nicole Eisenman, Olafur Eliasson, Isa Genzken, Louise Lawler, Edward Ruscha, Wolfgang Tillmans, Kara Walker, Carrie Mae Weems, and Pae White.

In 2006 the Museum opened in its current building, designed by Pritzker Prize–winning architect Fumihiko Maki. The 65,000-square-foot facility provides dedicated space for display of the permanent collection and facilities for developing the Museum’s robust and ambitious exhibition program.

EAST END TRANSFORMATION
Washington University is transforming the east end of the Danforth Campus, resulting in a welcoming new entrance and strong links to the rest of the campus. This undertaking will create Weil Hall, Jubel Hall (Engineering), McKelvey Hall (Engineering), an expansion of the Kemper Art Museum, the Sumers Welcome Center, the Schnuck Pavilion, an underground parking garage, and Tisch Park, a beautiful new central landscape. The expansion will enhance the University’s core academic mission of groundbreaking discovery, research, and teaching, and it will inspire opportunities for cross-disciplinary, collaborative study.

Distinctive philanthropic opportunities are available to endow positions and programs or contribute in other ways to the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum’s expansion and educational mission.

TO DISCUSS GIVING OPTIONS
Michael Adrio, Director of Development
314.935.5887
michael_adrio@wustl.edu