

The New York Times

March 20, 2019

Met Fees to Benefit Scores of Groups

By Colin Moynihan

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2019

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Arts, Briefly

NEWS FROM THE CULTURAL WORLD

For Second Time, Corden to Host Tonys

James Corden, a musical theater enthusiast who won a Tony in 2012 for starring in the comedy "One Man, Two Guvnors," will preside over this year's Tony Awards ceremony on June 9 at Radio City Music Hall. The ceremony will be broadcast on CBS, starting at 8 p.m. Eastern.

This will be the second time that Corden (below), who is the host of CBS's "The Late Late Show," will host the awards — he previously did so in 2016.

In addition to "One Man, Two Guvnors," he also appeared on Broadway in a 2006 production of "The History Boys."

The Tony Awards, formally called the Antoinette Perry Awards, are presented by the Broadway League and the American Theater Wing, and honor work done on Broadway during the previous season. This year's ceremony will honor shows that open by April 25; the nominees will be announced on April 30.

The host announcement was first reported by Variety.

MICHAEL PAULSON



EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION, VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gallery Turns Down Gift of \$1.3 Million

Britain's National Portrait Gallery said Tuesday that it was not accepting a long-discussed \$1.3 million donation from a charitable arm of the Sackler family.

The decision, reached by mutual agreement between the gallery and the Britain-based Sackler Trust, is the latest sign of the changing climate in the art world toward the family, which has links to the opioid crisis.



NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

Members of the family own Purdue Pharma, which makes OxyContin.

"The allegations against family members are vigorously denied, but to avoid being a distraction for the National Portrait Gallery, we have decided not to proceed at this time with the donation," the Sackler Trust said in a statement.

David Ross, the National Portrait Gallery's chairman, said in a statement, "We understand and support their decision not to proceed at this time with the donation."

The gallery (above) had been considering the gift for over a year, as the controversy around the Sackler family has grown. Nan Goldin, the photographer and anti-opioid activist, drew attention to it last month when she revealed she was in discussions with the gallery over a retrospective. "I have told them I would not do it if they take the Sackler money," she told The Observer.

The gallery has an ethics advisory committee that provides advice on whether to accept donations. It met shortly after Goldin's comments, according to The Art Newspaper. Its advice was confidential and

will not be released, a spokeswoman for the National Portrait Gallery said in an email.

"I'm thrilled about the news, and I congratulate them on their courage," Goldin said in a telephone interview. "I don't take credit for it. Maybe I put the last nail in the coffin," she added, "but they've been in discussions for a long time."

Much of the focus on the Sacklers' donations to art institutions has been in the United States, where deaths and addiction associated with prescription opioids have become an unrelenting crisis. In February, Goldin, who was addicted to painkillers, and members of a protest group she founded threw scraps of paper meant to look like OxyContin prescriptions from an upper walkway of the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

Awareness is growing in Britain, too, despite there not being a crisis there. This month, several Scottish politicians called on the Victoria and Albert Museum to return a \$660,000 grant given by the Sackler Trust to its museum in Dundee, according to The Scotsman newspaper.

There is no immediate sign that other galleries intend to

return donations or stop future ones.

ALEX MARSHALL

Met Fees to Benefit Scores of Groups

The City of New York announced on Monday that \$2.8 million it had received as a result of allowing the Metropolitan Museum of Art to change its admissions policy would be allocated to more than 175 other cultural organizations.

Among the institutions that will benefit are El Museo del Barrio, the Studio Museum in Harlem and the Bronx Museum of the Arts.

"This agreement with the Met has paid dividends for NYC's cultural community," said the city's cultural affairs commissioner, Tom Finkelpearl, adding that the arrangement was "stabilizing one of our city's major institutions with increased admissions revenue, while providing a much-needed boost to organizations that anchor communities across the city."

In 2018, the Met was allowed to change its pay-what-you-wish policy of 48 years to require that visitors from outside New York

State pay \$25. The change came at the behest of museum officials who were concerned about revenue. Over the previous 13 years, museum officials said, the Met had seen a steep decline in the proportion of visitors who paid the full suggested amount of \$25, from 63 percent to 17 percent, even as visits to the museum rose.

Met admission fees provided 14 percent of its \$305 million operating budget, museum officials said last year.

The policy change was approved by the city, which owns the museum's building. In return the museum agreed to turn over to the city 30 percent of its increased admission revenue, with a ceiling of \$3 million and allowing adjustments for variations in attendance.

The museum took in \$48.2 million in admissions in the 2018 fiscal year, up from \$42.8 million in the 2017 fiscal year, the officials said, adding that the increase was the result of four months of the new policy and of growing attendance.

Eventually the city and the museum will determine a fixed amount to deduct each year from an operating subsidy that the Department of Cultural Affairs provides to the museum to, among other things, offset costs for security and building staff.

For the 2019 fiscal year, that operating subsidy is \$11.9 million.

The Department of Cultural Affairs said that \$1.4 million of the admissions money from the Met was earmarked for over 160 cultural development fund recipients that are in or serving what the city has identified as "high-need neighborhoods." Those include Harlem Stage in Manhattan, Louis Armstrong House Museum in Queens and St. George Theater in Staten Island.

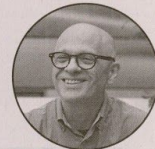
The other half of the Met revenue will go to institutions in city-owned property that are in what the Department of Cultural Affairs has said are "underserved communities."

Those funding increases, ranging from \$25,000 to \$175,000, will go to 16 organizations, including El Museo, the Studio Museum, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, the Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning, and children's museums in Brooklyn and Staten Island.

COLIN MOYNIHAN

Ready, Set, Go

YOUR DAILY ARTS FIX



THEATER OF VOICES This vocal ensemble performs the world premiere of the complete cycle of David Lang's "The Writings." 7:30 p.m. at Zankel Hall. carnegiehall.org



'ANYTHING THAT GIVES OFF LIGHT' An American woman meets two Scotsmen in a London pub. 7 p.m. at Joe's Pub. 212-967-7555. joespub.com



'FAT GIRL' This film by Catherine Breillat explores sibling rivalry. 7:45 p.m. at Metrograph. metrograph.com

