

The Nashville Parthenon Polychromy Project

What is the Nashville Parthenon?

- Art & history museum since 1931.
- Mission to highlight the civilizations that built the Parthenon from the 5th c. BCE in Athens, Greece, to 1897 in Nashville, Tennessee.
- Located in Centennial Park, 132 acre/0.53km² public park.
- Part of Metro Nashville Parks & Recreation.
- Exhibits and educational programming funded by 501(c)3 nonprofit Centennial Park Conservancy.
- Originally built by the city of Nashville as the Fine Art Building for 1897 Tennessee Centennial Exposition celebrating 100 years of statehood.
- Represents Nashville's early achievements in education and aspirational goals as a city of education and culture.
- Exact scale replica of the Parthenon.
- Nashville was known as "Athens of the West" by 1824 and later "Athens of the South"... and now "Music City."



www.NashvilleParthenon.com



The Nashville Parthenon Polychromy Project

Why the Parthenon?

- 1,000 outreach participants
- 2,500 MNPS STEAM Expedition (grade 6)
- 4,000+ Art Cart participants
- 29,500 Architecture Audio Tour listens
- 350,000 museum visitors
- 3,000,000 Centennial Park visitors
- Concrete immersive spaces
- Gold & paint on Athena
- John Early Method Concrete with color
- Casts of Parthenon Marbles

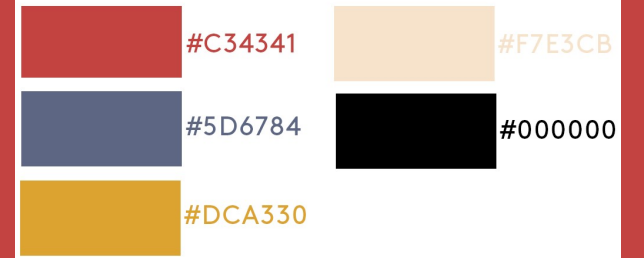


Athena upon completion by artist Alan LeQuire in 1990. Fundraising began to add color.



Athena after paint and 8.5 lbs. gold leaf added in 2002.

POTENTIAL COLOR SCHEME FOR PARTHENON GUIDE INSPIRED BY ORIGINAL PARTHENON COLORS



Inspiration for color choices: Delevante based on Pinterest, Snazzie Designz; ...?

PARTHENON CALENDAR NashvilleParthenon.com/events

STEAM NIGHTS
MNP families = FREE admission!
Plan your visit on a special STEAM Night for activities such as:
Meet the Artist Art Cart
Museum Tours
Archaeology Tours
Research Station
Experimental Archaeology
Time: 4:30-6:30 PM
• June 7
• July 12
• August 8
• September 13

International Archaeology Day
Saturday, October 22 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Free for members, or included with museum admission.

Symposia
Join the Parthenon for free in-person and virtual talks by expert archaeologists!
The Odyssey
• Check Calendar soon!
20 Years of Gold on Athena
• August 23 at 8 PM
Pandora & Polychromy
• September 19 at 6 PM
Register/RSVP: nashvilleparthenon.com/events

NEW! Centennial Park History Tour
See the park as you never have before! Find out what stood next to the Parthenon 125 years ago on this free outdoor tour:
July Tours
• Saturdays at 10 AM
July Tours
• Saturdays at 10 AM
August Tours
• Thursdays at 10 AM
Free.
Subject to cancellation due to weather conditions.

Architecture Tour
First Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:00 PM
Free for members, or included with museum admission.

Free Architecture Audio Tour
nashvilleparthenon.com/audio
Explore the outside 24/7 and listen in English, Spanish, & Arabic!

Museum Tours & Talks
Check Parthenon Calendar
Free for members, or included with museum admission.

Art Cart
Weekdays 1:00-1:30 PM
Free for members, or included with museum admission.

STEAM Night is supported by:
Humanities Tennessee
Become a CPC member today!
Contact Member Manager Shalene France Gray at: shalene@conservancyonline.com
Museum content does not necessarily represent the view of our sponsors.

GALLERY CLOSED
NEW EXHIBIT COMING SOON

NO FOOD, DRINKS, GUM, OR PETS PERMITTED IN THE PARTHENON

PARTHENON MAP

THE PARTHENON

TONIGHT

STEAM Night at the Parthenon

4:30-6:30 PM

Free admission for MNPS families!

Support the Parthenon
Museum Rules
Museum Store Hours
Museum Admission
Share Your Visit
Become a Member
Sally & West Galleries
Museum Store
Exterior & Centennial Park
Naos & Treasury
Permanent Galleries

TONIGHT

STEAM Night at the Parthenon

4:30-6:30 PM

Free admission for MNPS families!

ASK ABOUT \$2 DISCOUNTS:

**COLLEGE STUDENTS
MILITARY
FIRST RESPONDERS**

HAVE ID READY FOR DISCOUNT.

Welcome to STEAM NIGHT

During your visit:

- Browse the Cowan Gallery paintings and figure out which ones are your favorites.
- Picture yourself here in 1897 with large pictures and artifacts from the Tennessee Centennial Exposition.
- Learn about an ancient Greek poem called the Odyssey through art.
- Find sculptures of Greek gods and identify their special symbols.
- Explore ancient architecture and all the secret curved lines.

Share Your Visit:
Photography is encouraged!
#NashvilleParthenon
@NashvilleParthenon
@NashvilleParthenon
@NashvilleParthenon

Looking Back —
125 Years After the Exposition
May 13, 2022 - January 8, 2023

The Odyssey: A Retelling
June 23, 2022 - January 8, 2023

Cowan Collection of American Art
Permanent Gallery

Naos & Treasury
Permanent Galleries

The Nashville Parthenon Polychromy Project

What is the polychromy project?

- A multi-year initiative across exhibitions, education, marketing, and DEAI to introduce, explain, and raise awareness of the ancient color to museum visitors.
- Enduring Idea:
 - Ancient Greece was a vibrant and colorful place.
- Main messages:
 - Understanding ancient color better reflects the diversity of the ancient Mediterranean world.
 - Sometimes color is lost, but technology can help reveal what statues and buildings looked like 2,500 years ago.
- Plan:
 - Establish educational programming and exhibition content that aligns with the enduring idea and main messages to help visitors understand the importance of color in ancient Greece.
 - Reworking the Architecture Model
 - Developing informal Art Cart programs
 - Creating polychromy outreach programs
 - Hosting adult education Symposia
 - Implementing branding and color palette



Exhibition Design Elements

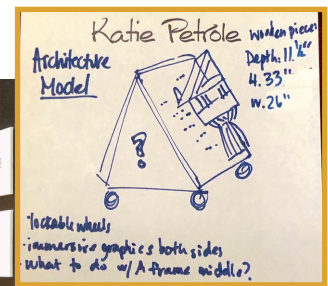
Architecture Model: Rethinking & Reworking

- “In Touch with Art” for visitors with visual impairment: concept strong; impact weak
- Touchable wooden architecture model with vocabulary labels in a large cabinet
- Deconstruct and rebuild on low A-frame cart with wheels for mobility and functionality
- Lose verticality- will now be at an angle; gain accessibility for strollers, wheelchairs, etc.
- Paint with textures to indicate different colors for visual impairment inclusion
- Hands-on icon, invitation to touch, immersive graphic/text background, storage inside
- Themes pair with temporary exhibit but joins permanent education collection

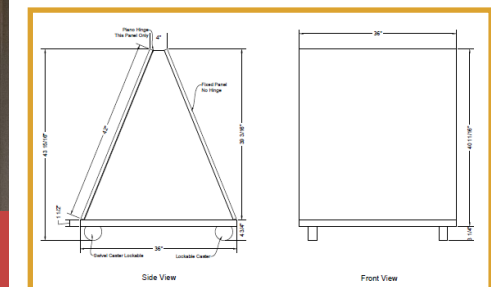
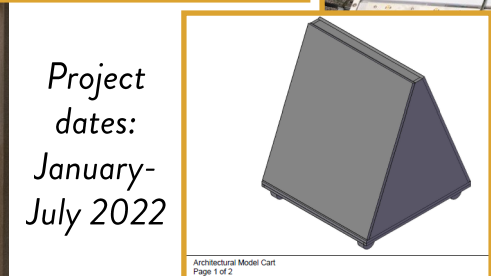
Ida F. Cooney Fund for the Arts, Nashville Plywood, Inc.,
Summers Lumber & Timber Co., Joe & Vicki Amann



How it started...
...thanks to Richard Waters & Alan LeQuire.



Surprise! It was hollow.

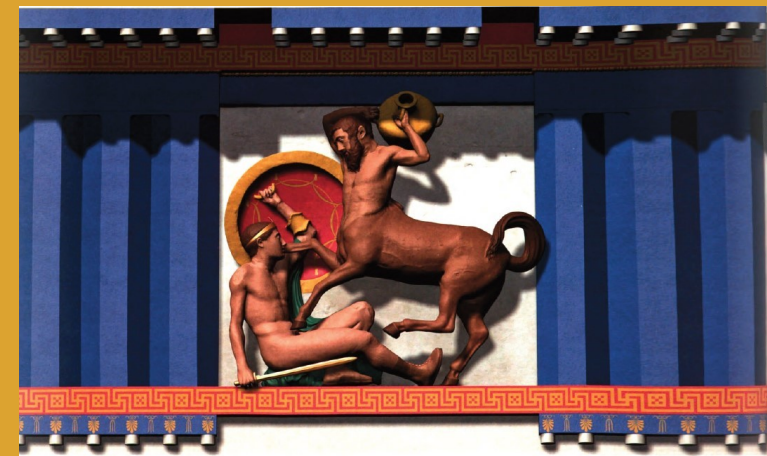


Architectural Model Cart Page 1 of 2
Architectural Model Cart Page 2 of 2
MDO or Poplar Plant Grade



How it's going...
...thanks to Leonid Productions, Cathy Hamaker, Brian Roe, & Matt Niehaus.

The Odyssey: A Retelling
June 23, 2022-January 8, 2023
Temporary art exhibition inspired by Emily Wilson's translation of the *Odyssey*.



Color inspiration: Fig. 196 Computer-generated image of South Metope with a white background to the painted sculptures and set in its architectural frame. Brinkmann, Vinzenz. Gods In Color. Stiftung Archäologie Glyptothek Munich, 2007.



Inspiration for color choices: Using a similar palette to the visible colors and patterns already on the Parthenon to help visitors connect the model what they see outside.

Informal Museum Gallery Learning

Art Cart: AIA-Nashville Society Polychromy

- Collaboration with local AIA-Nashville Society
- Archaeological evidence-focused discussion
- Memorable learning moments busting myth of whiteness
- Inspires dialogue and questions, especially with adults
- Emphasizes immersive experience of Nashville Parthenon
- Conducted in Naos or near Parthenon Marbles cast of Iris
- Pairs well with coloring pages & Color Your Own Athena
- Resources from *Gods In Color* & *Assassin's Creed: Odyssey*
- Provides connections to new technologies & pop culture
- Surprised & astonished visitor reactions from all ages



L-R, top: Azurite, lapis lazuli, yellow ochre, gold leaf skewings from Athena.
L-R, bottom: hematite, carnelian, kaolinite, azurite.

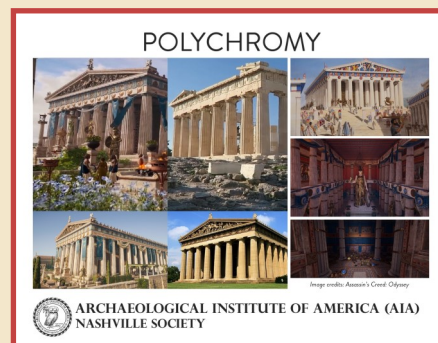
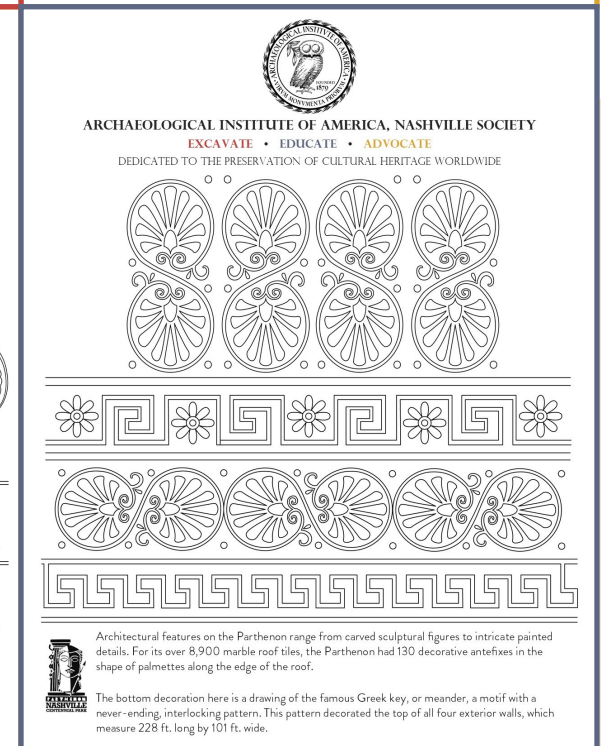
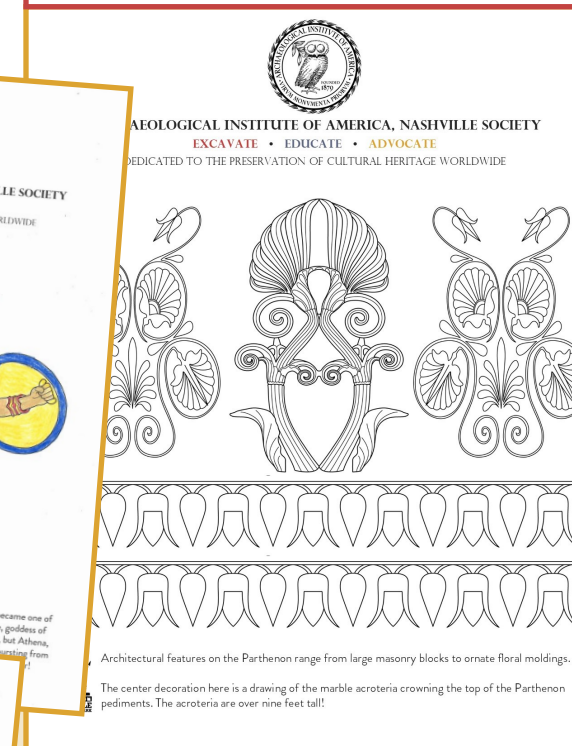
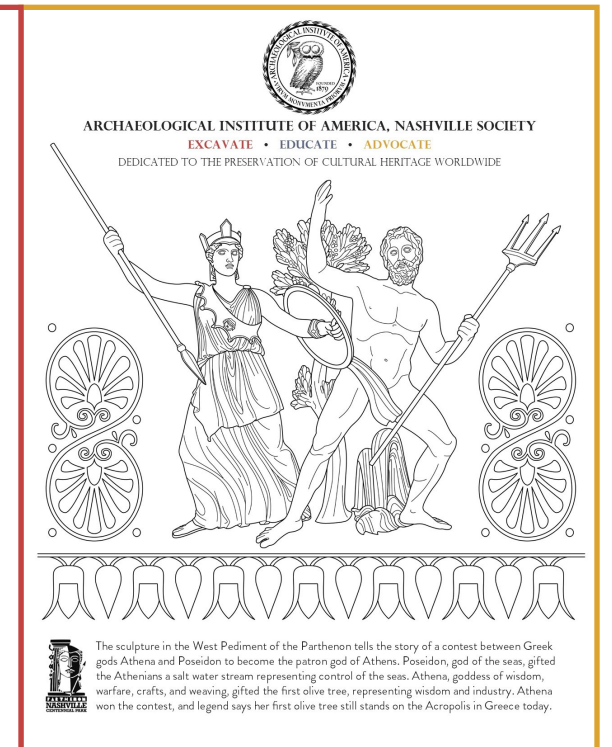
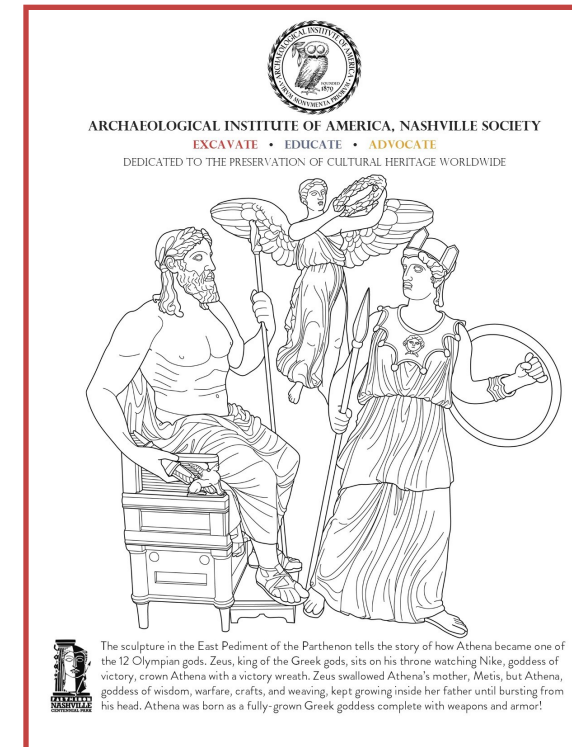


Props: polychrome pants (Etsy!), resource pages, minerals, gems, encaustic sample, Parthenon souvenir book, gold leaf sheet, and gold leaf skewings from Athena.

K-12 Outreach/Gallery Learning

Art Cart: AIA-Nashville Society Coloring Pages

- Collaboration with local society of Archaeological Institute of America
- AIA-Nashville Society created coloring pages for outreach programs
- Begin creating connections to color and ancient Greece for all ages
- Provide direct examples from the Parthenon and traditional motifs
- Present and discuss recent archaeological research and new technologies
- Approachable and understandable activity for relatively unknown concept
- Introduce conversations about diversity in the ancient Mediterranean
- #ColorOurCollections to share on a national platform



Coloring pages by AIA-Nashville Society, funded by AIA Society Outreach Grant. Illustrations by Christina Kolb.

K-12 Outreach

Art Cart: Color Your Own Athena

- Regular coloring pages widely popular on-site and as take-home kit
- Noticed a pattern developing for traditional color scenes
- Polychromy resources and examples didn't result in new decisions
- How to encourage bold colors, patterns, and design choices?
- Add personalized instructions for topics such as hair length, pets, birthday season, favorite colors, and favorite ice cream flavor



As an outreach activity:

- Share PowerPoint for baseline Parthenon knowledge
- Introduction of polychromy with examples of statues & buildings
- Pass out coloring pages & supplies
 - ◊ Include teachers/adults
- Answer questions (Medusa, neckline)
- Encourage & provide feedback
- Positively reinforce creativity
- Collectively share results
 - ◊ "Who has a shield with stars? Hold it up so we all can see!"

Target Audiences:

- More direction for younger ages
- List of instructions for large groups

Athena illustration by Christina Kolb.

Activity by Vanderbilt Immersive Education Intern Emily Caldarelli.

COLOR YOUR OWN ATHENA

People in ancient Greece used art to express themselves, so color this picture of Athena in a way that represents you! Next to Athena are some suggestions for coloring. You don't have to follow all of these, they are just fun ideas to help you personalize her. Make Athena your own!

CROWN: If you...

- ◊ Have been to the Parthenon before: color Athena's crown **PURPLE**
- ◊ Have not been to the Parthenon before: color Athena's crown **PINK**

HAIR: If you have...

- ◊ Short hair: color Athena's hair **BROWN**
- ◊ Medium hair: color Athena's hair **BLACK**
- ◊ Long hair: color Athena's hair **YELLOW** or **RED**

MEDUSA (CHEST): If you have...

- ◊ 2+ pets: color Medusa **PURPLE**
- ◊ 1 pet: color Medusa **RED**
- ◊ No pets: color Medusa **GREEN**

NECKLINE: If your birthday is in...

- ◊ Spring: color her neckline **PINK**
- ◊ Summer: color her neckline **YELLOW**
- ◊ Fall: color her neckline **ORANGE**
- ◊ Winter: color her neckline **BLUE**

DRESS: Color Athena's dress in a pattern of your top three favorite colors!

SHIELD (OUTLINE): If you...

- ◊ Are from **Nashville**: color the outline of the shield **BLUE**
- ◊ Are from somewhere else in **Tennessee**: color the outline of the shield **ORANGE**
- ◊ Are from **anywhere else**: color the outline of the shield **RED**

SHIELD (CENTER): If you like...

- ◊ **Chocolate** ice cream the most: put **STRIPES** on the shield
- ◊ **Vanilla** ice cream the most: put **POLKA DOTS** on the shield
- ◊ **Strawberry** ice cream the most: put **STARS** on the shield

SPEAR: If you have...

- ◊ 2+ siblings: color the spear **GOLD**
- ◊ 1 sibling: color the spear **SILVER**
- ◊ No siblings: color the spear **BRONZE**

EXTRAS: Remember to add color to Athena's eyes, lips, and skin however you'd like! As a bonus, design a shoe for her!

Share your drawing with us! #NashvilleParthenon

K-12 Education

Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) STEAM Expedition to the Parthenon

- All 2,300 6th graders in all 13 STEAM schools go on a free Parthenon field trip (Virtual, Spring 2022)
- Grade 6 Social Studies Standards + STEAM letter + 1/4 Cs (Creativity, Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking)
- Introduce polychromy and pair with free AIA-Nashville Society coloring books and coloring supplies
- Polychromy reactions: “WHOA!” “Did all statues look like that?”

MNPS STEAM EXPEDITION TO THE PARTHENON

ARCHAEOLOGY COLORING BOOK
by the
Archaeological Institute of America-Nashville Society

MNPS STEAM Expedition to the Parthenon

Did you know that ancient Greek sculptures and buildings were brightly painted and colorful? Athena Parthenos at the Parthenon is an example of polychromy, meaning many colors! Scientific and evidence-based reconstructions with polychromy have been ignored for centuries. Scholars have been trying to correct this misconception since the Renaissance. **Ancient Greece was a colorful, vibrant place...**

Peplos Kore
about 530 BCE
Acropolis Museum (Akr. 679)

100 years older than the Parthenon!

Archer
about 500-490 BCE
Glyptothek Museum

60-70 years older than the Parthenon!

Reconstructions: Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung, Gods in Color

Same statues— but with scientific color reconstruction!

- Bronze hair locks swayed in wind
- Vest had lions & griffins
- Diamond pattern on pants & sleeves

Why is this important?

New technology gives experts more tools to learn about ancient cultures. Paints, gems, stones, wood, ivory, bronze, silver, and gold decorated sculptures and architecture. Sometimes the materials from 2,500 years ago are poorly preserved, so special tools like x-ray fluorescent light reveal the patterns, color, and decorations invisible to the human eye!

Athena Parthenos

Learning about color on statues and structures better reflects the diversity of the ancient Mediterranean world.

Tweets from Virtual STEAM Expeditions

Parthenon in Athens, Greece: 447-432 BCE
Reconstruction, what it looked like

Parthenon in Nashville, 2015
Reconstruction with projected lights

Polychromy
POL • ee • chrome • ee

The art of having many colors, especially when referring to buildings and sculptures

POLYCHROMY

MNPS STEAM
@MNPS_STEAM

@ITcreswellmnp
@HeadMagnetMS @LittonMNPS
@McKissackMiddle @roseparktsa
6th graders explored Athenian culture, Greek architecture and polychromy during today's STEAM Expedition w/ @NashParthenon!
The students' questions & observations were excellent! Thank you teachers!

MNPS STEAM
@MNPS_STEAM

@JFKennedyMNPS and @JTM_IB
6th grade students asked impressive PERCEPTIVE & DETAILED questions about polychromy, architecture and Athenian mythology and culture during their STEAM Expedition with @NashParthenon! Thank you teachers for preparing the students so well!

Welcome! Ancient Greece

Nashville Parthenon

Architecture

Polychromy

Greek Mythology

Brighton Central School District
@BrightonBelieve

Thank you @NashParthenon for Zooming with Mrs. Katsos' sixth grade social studies students. They've been learning about ancient Greece and were able to learn about the Parthenon replica in Nashville.