



PRESS RELEASE

Brandywine Has a New Executive Director

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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Michele A. Parchment

The Brandywine Workshop and Archives (BWA) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of **Michele A. Parchment** as the next Executive Director. Ms. Parchment succeeds the founding Executive Director Allan L. Edmunds, who retired in 2022 and has served as Board Advisor during a national search process. Jean Woodley, Chairperson of the BWA said, “We are proud of Brandywine’s past accomplishments under Allan’s strong direction and now we are very excited that BWA’s future will be shaped by Michele’s dynamic leadership; Brandywine shines bright!”

BWA will introduce Ms. Parchment to the local art community at a Welcome Reception being planned for early fall at the BWA campus on South Broad Street’s Avenue of the Arts location.

Ms. Parchment is a highly accomplished professional who has served in various administrative roles in the various stages of the development of several cultural institutions, including The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, MI; Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture in Charlotte, NC; and the Sarasota Art Museum, Sarasota, FL, among others. Parchment earned her Master of Arts Degree in History at American Public University, Charlestown, West Virginia and a Bachelor of Arts at Excelsior College of Liberal Arts, Albany, New York. In addition to positions of leadership in management and program development, especially art education, Ms. Parchment has a vast network of art professionals developed over a 30-year career. Ms. Parchment arrives in Philadelphia from her most recent position as Consultant/Registrar for Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator (DVCAI) in Miami, FL.

Michele Parchment's professional philosophy is to provide an innovative approach to developing collaborative, engaging thought leadership regarding trends that utilizes current strengths as a springboard to build strategic planning, team development, and alliance building to cultivate sustainable growth and mission-driven outcomes.

Her education and training, varied professional experiences, and personal networks, along with her passion for diverse contemporary art extends globally. BWA's Board of Directors and staff are excited to collaborate with her in this next phase of BWA's institutional development, *Brandywine 2.0*.

In its 50+ year history, the new Executive Director starts her tenure at a time when BWA is at its strongest position financially and programmatically. A five-year grant of \$2.5 million from the Mellon Foundation will provide significant operational support and stability for BWA's core programs.

In addition, recent programming highlights major milestones achieved, including the establishment of new *Satellite Collections* at the National Gallery of Art (DC), The Detroit Institute of Art (MI), Fairfield University (CT), and Northern Illinois University (IL). Also, several of the now 21 *Satellite Collections* of BWA Visiting Artist prints joined in the celebration of the 50th Anniversary in 2022-23 with exhibitions of BWA prints in their permanent collections, including Harvard University Art Museums, (MA), The Philadelphia Museum of Art (PA), and the Rhode Island School of Design Museum in Providence.

BWA is also proud to launch another milestone this fall when BWA hosts the first El Anatsui Africa-Based Artists-in-Residence Program in October. The endowed fellowships were created through the auction sale proceeds of \$1.2 million for a sculpture donated by internationally renowned Ghanaian-born sculptor, El Anatsui. BWA is excited to be able to solidify its commitment to global support of contemporary diverse artists through this new endowment. See below for further details.

If desiring photographs, interviews, or scheduling a visit to explore this press announcement in more detail, please contact:

Prior to August 21st- Allan L. Edmunds 267.258.3558

After August 21st- Michele A. Parchment 267.831.2928

By Email- prints@brandywineworkshop.com

Allan L. Edmunds- MFA, Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Founder-President Emeritus, Brandywine Workshop and Archives, is an award-winning educator, administrator, and visual artist. A life-long Philadelphian, Edmunds has created a legacy that is recognized internationally in all three areas. Edmunds graduated from Overbrook High School, he taught art for 25 years in local high schools, taught and lectured at universities across the country, and along with his wife Anne Edmunds, has served as an arts consultant locally and nationally for more than four decades.

El Anatsui- Born in Ghana, Anatsui spent more than 40 years as a professor of Art at Nsukka University in Nigeria. Now retired, this global icon is committed to using his celebrity and success to help other, less fortunate, artists living and conducting their studio practice on the African continent. The El Anatsui Fellowships for Residencies at Brandywine will operate annually during the month of October. An international Selection Committee selects the Fellows through an open application process. Since 2018, Anatsui has been engaged with BWA producing prints, which will sell to add further support to artists from the African Diaspora.

Brandywine Workshop and Archives- Founded in 1972 by African American artists and art educators, its mission is to serve as a diversity -driven, non -profit institution that produces and shares art to connect, inspire, and build bridges among global communities. Its core programs are the Visiting Artist in Residences, gallery and traveling exhibitions, and documentation of artists and their legacies shared through the Satellite Collections network and the free online database, Artura.org. For more information visit brandywineworkshopandarchives.org

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is the nation's largest supporter of the arts and humanities. Since 1969, the Foundation has been guided by its core belief that the humanities and arts are essential to human understanding. The Foundation believes that the arts and humanities are where we express our complex humanity, and that everyone deserves the beauty, transcendence, and freedom that can be found there. Through our grants, we seek to build just communities enriched by meaning and empowered by critical thinking, where ideas and imagination can thrive. Learn more at mellon.org.

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Hours: Monday – Friday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and by appointment