

A. E. BACKUS MUSEUM & GALLERY
500 North Indian River Drive • Fort Pierce, Florida 34950
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Museum Temporarily Closing / COVID-19 Update (March 16, 2020)

Fort Pierce, Florida, March 16, 2020 – FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Museum will be temporarily closed while we continue to assess the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

Your safety, your wellbeing, and our ability to share works of art with you are our enduring priorities. We know that art and beauty are comforting in difficult times, and in these moments of uncertainty and social distancing, **we hope you will be ready for the days that art can bring us together again.**

We are a community-based not-for-profit arts institution that relies on your support. Contributions during this challenging period will lessen the financial impact on the Museum. If you would like to make a donation to assist us, please visit www.BackusMuseum.org/donate to make a secure online gift. You can also consider an ongoing monthly donation as a way to extend your contribution.

As we wait to welcome you back, remember that we all have the capacity to be creative. Now is the time to **Create the Community you want to see** – be kind to others, check in on your neighbors, take time to appreciate the beauty and wonder of our world and one another.

As always, we are grateful for your support.

J. Marshall Adams
Executive Director

For updates, please visit BackusMuseum.org or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.

About the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery

With a recently added, multi-million dollar expansion, the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery houses the nation's largest public presentation of artwork by Florida's preeminent painter, A.E. "Bean" Backus (1906-1990), and is home to the state's only permanent multimedia exhibition on the Florida Highwaymen.

With a career spanning more than 70 years, A.E. “Bean” Backus (1906-1990) was the first Florida-born artist to build his professional renown by painting the landscape and scenes from daily life of his native state. He was fortunate to have known great success during his lifetime, with paintings hanging in the businesses and the private collections of many of Florida’s most prominent citizens. A renowned humanitarian who abhorred the racist attitudes and segregation that engulfed the region, Backus taught and mentored the group of entrepreneurial African American artists who became known as the Florida Highwaymen. Their inspiring story is part of the A.E. Backus legacy.

In addition to preserving and perpetuating the artistic and humanitarian legacy of Backus, the Museum organizes and hosts changing exhibitions from artists of national and international acclaim.

Regular Hours are: Wednesday – Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM; Sunday, 12 Noon to 4 PM (closed Monday-Tuesday); the Museum is closed on Easter Sunday. Admission is \$5 per person; AARP, AAA, and Veterans with appropriate ID receive a \$2 discount. Students with school ID, children under 18, active duty military, and current members are always free. During the regular season, the first Sunday of the month is Free Admission Day.

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