What is the Gilcrease Museum Vision Project?
An exciting new opportunity for Tulsa to advance an $83.6 million design and construction project for a new museum dedicated to preserving and repositioning the City of Tulsa’s most valuable asset to:
• ensure Gilcrease better serves the citizens of Tulsa as a leading cultural destination locally, regionally and nationally
• provide a facility capable of long-term protection of the City’s $2 billion asset

How is the project funded?
The project is funded with $73.6 million in public funding and a $10 million private gift from the A.R. and Mary Louise Tandy Foundation.

Who is responsible for the project?
The Mayor and a citizen-led task force oversees the project in collaboration with the City of Tulsa Engineering Services staff, the design team comprised of SmithGroup, Gallagher & Associates, 1Architecture, Flintco and Gilcrease Museum staff. Gilcrease Museum, its collection and grounds are owned by the City of Tulsa.

When does construction start and end?
Construction is planned to begin in January, 2022 with a planned completion in late 2024/early 2025.

Key Milestones in the Project Timeline
• June/July 2021 – Rendering of new museum shared with public
• July 4, 2021 – Last day Gilcrease will be open to the public before temporary closure
• July – November, 2021 – Collection moved to secure offsite location
• December, 2021 – Demolition of building begins
• January, 2022 – Groundbreaking ceremony for construction
• Late 2024/early 2025 – Grand Re-opening

Why is the City building a new Gilcrease as opposed to renovating the existing building?
Accredited museums must operate to a certain environmental standard in order to retain accreditation, appropriately maintain and protect valuable collections as well as secure and protect any loaned exhibitions. The original Gilcrease Museum building (a 1913 carriage house) has seen as many as four separate additions throughout its history, with each addition compromising its ability to operate safely and sufficiently protect the collection. With all major mechanical and electrical systems at end of life, a renovation of the existing building was determined by professional engineers, design team and Mayor’s Vision Task Force to be fiscally unsound, necessarily leading to a decision to build a new museum that can protect the City’s $2 billion asset.

When is the last day the Museum will be open to the public before its temporary closure?
Gilcrease will be open through July 4. Timed tickets can be purchased by visiting www.Gilcrease.org. At this time, all staff and guests will be required to wear facemasks through May.

Was the community asked to provide input in the development of this project?
Yes, despite a pandemic, the museum received important community input to the project, receiving 1,900 survey responses, conducting four community conversations with diverse audiences, 35 one-on-one interviews with leaders representing diverse communities, listening sessions and discussions with North Tulsa leaders and 35 consultations with tribes whose art, culture and history is represented in the Gilcrease collection.
What happens to my membership during the temporary closure?
Gilcrease will provide a number of exciting opportunities to show members our appreciation for their support during this critical time. While membership may look a little different, we will have new and fun ways of including you in this next chapter of the museum’s development. Discounts for programs and special member-only activities will be offered as well as advance registration for a variety of activities to be announced. Your membership support is all the more important as we make this journey to the future together.

Will the Thomas Gilcrease House, the Helmerich Center for American Research and the Thomas Gilcrease Mausoleum remain on the museum’s campus?
Yes. The Thomas Gilcrease House has recently received a new roof as well as structural improvements to preserve it for future uses. The Helmerich Center will continue to be open for scholarly research, classes and lectures. The Gilcrease family mausoleum will remain intact and is scheduled for needed minor repairs in the coming year.

How will I be able to track construction progress?
We will provide updates around key project milestones through the media and the Gilcrease website, www.Gilcrease.org.

Will Gilcrease provide public programming during its temporary closure?
Yes! Although the building will close to the public on July 4, Gilcrease staff will continue to provide programming throughout its temporary closure in schools, libraries, cultural institutions, parks and other public spaces to benefit the community.

Will Gilcrease be selling or giving away any of its collection?
No, Gilcrease will not be selling or giving away its collection. Gilcrease will temporarily loan some of its collection to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the DeYoung Museum in San Francisco, Crystal Bridges in Bentonville, the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, Wyoming, and the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City during this time of temporary closure.

Will there be re-use of materials from the current building in the new building?
While the City of Tulsa will follow sustainable building and re-use practices, it is too early in the design process to determine re-use of specific materials.

How can I be a part of this exciting project and the museum’s future?
• Attend our community events as we provide popup exhibitions and programs across Tulsa.
• Follow us on social media or sign up to receive regular museum updates at gilcrease.org/about/enews/
• Become a member! Join online at gilcrease.org/support/join/ or by calling the Membership office at 918-596-2758.
• Donate to support our operations, programs, community outreach, online collections or the Campaign for Gilcrease at gilcrease.org/support/ or by calling the Development office at 918-596-2756.
• Shop our online store at gilcrease.org/store/