WATSON CLINIC

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 21, 2026

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ORLANDO HEALTH WATSON CLINIC LAKELAND HIGHLANDS HOSPITAL, WATSON CLINIC & THE WATSON CLINIC FOUNDATION PARTNER WITH THE AGB MUSEUM

Lakeland, FL —**Orlando Health Watson Clinic Lakeland Highlands Hospital, Watson Clinic** and the **Watson Clinic Foundation** are announcing that they are a sustaining partner of the **Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art** in Lakeland.

"At the hospital, we know that one of the pillars of being healthy is enjoying the arts, whether it is fine art at the Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art at Florida Southern College or facilitating our patients' recovery through art therapy," said **Dawn Willis**, Community Relations Manager at Orlando Health Watson Clinic Lakeland Highlands Hospital. "We are proud to uplift the community through the arts programming offered at the museum."

Daryl Ward, executive director of the Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art at Florida Southern College, said the museum's sustaining partners are essential collaborators to ensuring arts access to everyone in the community.

"Art experiences play a pivotal role in the physical and mental health of a community, in addition to making a significant contribution to our local quality of life," Ward said. "These partnerships not only support our exhibitions and programming but also provide operational resources for the Museum as well."

"Much like Watson Clinic, the AGB Museum has built a lasting legacy by enriching lives throughout our community and beyond," said Watson Clinic Chief Executive Officer **Jason Hirsbrunner**. "We're proud to serve as a sustaining partner to this extraordinary institution that means so much to so many."

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Sustaining partners support the museum's programming and initiatives, including:

- Serving more than 30,000 local and global visitors annually.
- Providing tours for over 4,500 fourth graders, and hosting nine K-12th grade Student Art Exhibitions each year.
- Awarding Spring Break and Summer Art Camp Scholarships to disadvantaged youth, who could not enroll otherwise.
- Awarding Teen Art Class Scholarships to those students interested in pursuing art education outside of school who do not have the means to do so.
- Collaboratively offering masterwork and contemporary fine art exhibitions year-round.
- The purchase of necessary equipment and supplies to update their facilities.

"Through its sustaining partnership with AGB, we will help expand opportunities to connect arts, health and well-being across our community," said the Watson Clinic Foundation Executive Director **Kim Brunson**. "Partnership programming will include support for a pilot program designed to connect patients with meaningful arts and cultural experiences, as part of a whole-person approach to health and well-being, as well as arts-based cancer support and survivorship programming."

This partnership is being announced just in time for Arts & Health Week, a city-wide initiative led by the Watson Clinic Foundation's Arts in Medicine program that celebrates the power of the arts to improve health and strengthen our community. This popular movement takes place from November 8 – 14 at various venues across Lakeland. Visit ArtsandHealthWeek.org for a schedule of events.

About Orlando Health: *Orlando Health is a private not-for-profit, integrated academic healthcare system with $15 billion of assets under management, that serves the southeastern United States – including Florida and Alabama – and Puerto Rico. With corporate offices in Orlando, Florida the system provides a complete continuum of care across a network of medical centers and institutes, community and specialty hospitals, physician practices, urgent care facilities, skilled nursing facilities, home healthcare, and long-term and behavioral health care services. Founded more than 100 years ago, Orlando Health's mission is to improve the health and the quality of life of the individuals and communities we serve. The system provided nearly $2 billion in community impact in the form of community benefit programs and services, Medicare shortfalls, bad debt, community-building activities and capital investments in FY 24, the most recent period for which the information is available. For more information, visit orlandohealth.com, or follow us on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and X.*

About Watson Clinic: *As one of the largest multispecialty medical clinics in the southeast, Watson Clinic provides comprehensive healthcare services to residents of Lakeland and surrounding communities. First established in 1941, Watson Clinic has grown to include over 200 board-certified physicians representing more than 40 medical and surgical specialties. The Clinic is proud to deliver quality healthcare to every generation from our 21 convenient locations throughout Polk, Pasco and Hillsborough counties. More information is available at www.WatsonClinic.com, or follow us on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and X.*

About The Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art at Florida Southern College: *The Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art at Florida Southern College is a not-for-profit, academic and community museum that seeks to enhance lives through inspirational and engaging art experiences for all. It is the largest and only nationally accredited visual arts organization in Polk County and the only Smithsonian Affiliate art museum in Central Florida. In January 2025, Museum opened its new Dr. Anne B. Kerr Wing, with an additional 14,000 sq. ft. of exhibition and education space, including six new galleries, as well as multi-functional classroom and event spaces. The Museum's hours are Tuesdays–Saturdays 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm, and closed Mondays and major holidays. The facility is handicap accessible and special needs assistance is available. Admission is free, thanks to our Strategic Partners, the Ting Tsung and Wei Fong Chao Foundation and Dr. Alan and Linda Rich.*

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