

MUSEO DE ARTE DE PONCE

After the Seismic Events Occurred in January 2020.



The Present Condition of the Collection and Building of the Museum.

After the seismic events occurred in the Southern region of Puerto Rico during the past weeks, the Board of Trustees and Executive Director, Alejandra Peña Gutiérrez, would like to inform about the present status of the Museo de Arte de Ponce. Of the extensive collection, with a total of approximately 4,500 objects, three sculptures suffered damages from the earthquake that hit the island on Tuesday, January 7, yet the rest of the collections are safe and have been properly stored until seismic activity ceases. As required in these circumstances, the Museum is currently performing the appropriate Emergency Recovery Process, which includes the evaluation of our collections, as well as our grounds.

An expert team of structural engineers have inspected the premises of the institution, including the main building, designed by Edward Durell Stone and completed in 1965, which houses the permanent display of the collection, and the new annex building, built in 2010, where the department offices, the library and the Conservation Center are located. After a series of detailed assessments, the engineering firm has confirmed that, so far, no structural damage has been found, but evaluations on the structure will continue. The in-depth results obtained from these studies will also provide structural recommendations reflecting the seismic reality of the region.

The Edward Durell Stone building, mainly in its second floor, sustains visible non-structural damage evident to the naked eye. The damage consists mostly of breakages and detachments of

sections of the plaster ceiling. It is important to clarify, however, that the ceiling does not hold any structural function. The restoration work required in the second floor is significant, and will have to be closed while reconstruction is in progress.

As part of the undergoing Emergency Recovery Process, we are currently engaged in preliminary tasks in preparation for the reconstruction phase of the second floor, and remain hopeful that the seismic activity will cease during this period. Due to all of the aforementioned, the Museum will remain closed until further notice.

Our goal, however, is to re-open the first floor of the Museum as soon as possible. In the meantime, the institution will continue to carry out art workshops in shelters of the Southwest region of the Island and operate a Collection Center, accepting personal hygiene articles, in our facilities.

Community Outreach Efforts



Art Workshops.

Since January 15, a week after the seismic events, the Museum is visiting shelters in the most affected communities of the municipalities of Ponce, Yauco and Guánica. These workshops, for children, adults and the elder communities alike, create a space for the participants to express their emotions and anxiety caused by the earthquakes.

For the remaining of January and the month of February, the Museum will work in alliance with **Música y País**, a non-profit institution that supports musicians and early music development in Puerto Rico. This partnership will enrich the experience of our art workshops, bringing a series of short music concerts.

As part of the continuous support to the cultural and creative sectors of the island, the Museum will collaborate with two non-profit organizations, Kiva and Causa Local, in their efforts to inform of grant opportunities and funding they will be offering to local artists and professionals in the arts or creative industries.



Collection Center

The staff assigned to our Collection Center, is receiving donations of items most needed at the shelters: those related to personal hygiene, such as oral care products, shower products, and feminine products, among others; as well as diapers for children and adults. The donations are delivered to the shelters organized by the National Guard where people who have lost their homes and most of their belongings during the seismic events are tended to. Located at the back of the Museum, the Center operates from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from Monday to Saturday.

