



**For Immediate Release**

Miriam Taylor  
Ogden Museum of Southern Art  
504-539-9604  
mtaylor@ogdenmuseum.org

**OGDEN MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN ART'S EDUCATION MANAGER AWARDED BY THE  
NATIONAL ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

**NEW ORLEANS** – March 6, 2017

The Ogden Museum of Southern Art is pleased to announce that the National Art Education Association has named Ellen Balkin, Education Manager at the Ogden Museum, the 2017 Southeastern Region Museum Education Art Educator. This prestigious award, determined through a peer review of nominations, recognizes the exemplary contributions, service, and achievements of an outstanding NAEA member annually at the Regional level within their division. Balkin was presented the award at the NAEA National Convention in New York, NY, the first weekend of March, 2017.

NAEA President Patricia Franklin states, "This award is being given to recognize excellence in professional accomplishment and service by a dedicated art educator. Ellen Balkin exemplifies the highly qualified art educators active in education today: leaders, teachers, students, scholars, and advocates who give their best to their students and the profession."

Balkin has been with the Ogden Museum of Southern art since 2004, working as a docent, outreach coordinator, camp director and education coordinator. She assumed her current position as Education Manager in June 2015. Under her leadership, the Ogden Museum's Education Department has been awarded the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, the Orleans Public School Network's Outstanding Community Partner Award, and has been recognized for outstanding Institutional Leadership by Fashion Week New Orleans for "achievements and contributions in support of the Southern Fashion Industry."

During her time at the Ogden Museum, Balkin has expanded the Museum's Education Outreach Program to provide Orleans and Jefferson Parish public school students opportunities to make meaningful connections with Southern art and artists. Over 10,000 students have participated in these creative experiences since the program's inception. Specific programs expanded under her leadership include the *Early Childhood Curriculum Program* (serving 400 students a year), the *Artists and Sense of Place Residency Program* (serving 600 students a year), and the *Day with an Artist Program* (serving 200 students a year.) In 2015, Balkin traveled to the White House to accept the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award from First Lady Michelle Obama for the Ogden Museum of Southern Art's *Teen Docent Program*. The program was one of twelve selected for the nation's highest honor for out-of-school arts and humanities programs that celebrate the creativity of America's young people, particularly those from underserved communities.

Balkin is also responsible for the curation of over 14 exhibitions a year installed in the Education Gallery and throughout the Museum. These exhibitions support and honor the teaching of art to

students throughout the region. In 2015, approximately 14,000 people engaged in programming presented by the Ogden Museum's Education Department.

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#### About the NAEA:

NAEA is the professional association for art educators. Members include elementary, secondary, middle level and high school art teachers; university and college professors; education directors who oversee education in our nation's fine art museums, administrators and supervisors who oversee art education in school districts, state departments of education, arts councils; and teaching artists throughout the United States and many foreign countries. For more information about the association and its awards program visit the NAEA website at [www.arteducators.org](http://www.arteducators.org)

#### About the Ogden Museum:

Located in the vibrant Warehouse Arts District of downtown New Orleans, Louisiana, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art holds the largest collection of Southern art and is recognized for its original exhibitions, public events, and educational programs which examine the development of visual art alongside Southern traditions of music, literature, and culinary heritage to provide a comprehensive story of the South. Established in 1999 and in Stephen Goldring Hall since 2003, the Museum welcomes almost 80,000 visitors annually, and attracts diverse audiences through its broad range of programming including exhibitions, lectures, film screenings, and concerts which are all part of its mission to broaden the knowledge, understanding, interpretation, and appreciation of the visual arts and culture of the American South.

The Ogden Museum is open daily from 10AM-5PM with extended hours on Thursdays from 6-8PM for Ogden After Hours. Admission is free to Museum Members and \$13.50 for adults, \$11 for seniors 65 and older, \$7.25 for children ages 5-17 and free for children under 5.

The Ogden Museum is free to Louisiana Residents on Thursdays from 10AM-5PM courtesy of The Helis Foundation. The Helis Foundation is a Louisiana private foundation, established by the William Helis Family. The Art Funds of the Helis Foundation advance access to the arts for the community through contributions that sustain operations for, provide free admission to, acquire works of art, and underwrite major exhibitions and projects of institutions within the Greater New Orleans area.

The Museum is closed Martin Luther King Day, Lundi Gras and Mardi Gras, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day.

The Museum is located at 925 Camp Street, New Orleans Louisiana 70130. For more information visit [ogdenmuseum.org](http://ogdenmuseum.org) or call [504-539-9650](tel:504-539-9650).