

Maloof®

A Newsletter for Friends of the Foundation

EXPLORATIONS IN WOOD

Opening Day Reception
Sunday, March 3
JOIN US!

Seventy works by some of the world's most accomplished wood artists will be on view at The Maloof, March 3 through August 11.

Explorations in Wood: Selections from the Collection of the Center for Art in Wood presents a range of objects brought together from one of America's foremost wood art collections. The works, including both functional and purely sculptural objects, demonstrate how, in the hands of skilled and imaginative artists, one of nature's more common materials may be transformed using a variety of tools and techniques into objects that are uniquely astonishing, beautiful or expressive.

At The Maloof, a visitor's introduction to wood art typically begins with Sam Maloof's modernist furniture, some examples of which include lathe-turned spindles, legs or other components, integrated into finished chairs or tables. *Explorations in Wood* spotlights turning as a key ingredient in the conceptualization and realization of wood art creations, offering examples of vessels, bowls and other works.

The Center for Art in Wood traces its roots to the 1970s when brothers Albert and Alan LeCoff joined with woodworker and teacher Palmer Sharpless on a mission to expand awareness of wood art. Targeting scholars, educators, artists, students, museums, collectors and others, the three organized symposia and exhibitions, which led later to the



Clockwise from top left:
***Split Sphere II* (1997)**
Mark Bishop, Australia
Made of wood, bleach and dye
***Untitled Vessel* (c. 2004)**
Gianfranco Angelino, Italy
Made of pine, oak and laminated pine
***3rd Rocking Bowl* (2009)**
Hans Joachim Weissflog, Germany
Made of African black wood and boxwood

PHOTOS BY JOHN CARLANO

establishment of a permanent home for their passion. What began as the Turning Center in 1986 evolved in time into The Center for Art in Wood.

Located in Philadelphia a few blocks from Independence Hall, The Center today welcomes thousands of visitors annually to its storefront gallery, library, museum store and art collection, which holds more than 1,000 objects.

Curator Andy McGivern originated *Explorations in Wood* at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin, where it debuted in 2017. The touring exhibition is generously

supported by a grant from the Henry J. Luce Foundation, and will be on view at The Maloof until mid-August.

The exhibition is part of Maloof Education's 2019 "Environmental Connections" program, supported in part by a grant from the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District. K-12 students in local public schools will visit The Maloof to learn about creativity, making and the role of wood as a useful and sustainable natural resource.



Smithsonian Affiliate



HISTORY

From Tree to Treasure

Wood rescued from Sam’s Avocado Tree teaches lessons in renewal

Sam Maloof’s first workshop was established in Ontario, California, in the garage of a home that had been purchased by his wife Alfreda using GI Bill benefits earned while serving in WWII. As the Maloof family and woodworking business grew, Sam needed more space and the family began looking for a larger property located farther out of town.

From this search came an idea to trade the house in Ontario for a citrus parcel in Alta Loma. When Sam first walked the property located at Highland and Amethyst, he discovered a beautiful, mature avocado tree that he would later say influenced the decision to move.

During the Maloof family’s nearly half a century living on their land, the avocado tree stood at the center of their lives. At first a source of shade and fruit, the tree and its surroundings would come in time to serve as an ideal backdrop for photographing Sam’s extraordinary furniture.

To Sam, the quintessentially California setting spoke to the connections between nature and the craft of woodworking. It was a location chosen with a marketer’s eye, to fuel the client’s imagination: See my chair not as a mere domestic object, but as a sculpted, organic form, derived from nature, as beautiful as the trees, earth and sky.

When time came to vacate the original site, making way for construction of the 210 Freeway, Sam was sad to see bulldozers coming to uproot his beloved tree. Before it could be taken away, he asked that the wood be harvested and set aside for some future project.

On the original property, the avocado tree was located a bit closer to the historic Guest House than is the present-day oak, which was well-established before Maloof buildings were relocated.



Pictured in many photos of Sam’s modernist furniture, the avocado tree came to represent a certain way of life in California: Relaxed, comfortable and inspired by nature. Behind Sam (center) are woodworker Paul Vicente (standing) and Sam’s nephew Nasif Maloof, circa 1966.



Above, A fallen limb from Sam’s avocado tree was rescued for use as the central beam in the upstairs Treehouse Room.



Retired arts educator and Maloof board member John Scott sits in the Avocado Chair he commissioned last year and generously donated to The Maloof.

visitors that all wood comes from trees, and all trees come to us as gifts of nature. Such a chair could also carry forward Sam’s great appreciation for the potential of a well-chosen and thoughtfully worked piece of wood.

Like most woodworkers, Sam never used avocado wood to build furniture—it’s too soft for such a use. But a limb from the very same tree did find its way into the construction of Sam’s home. Still visible as a central beam in the upstairs Treehouse Room, the log remains an essential ingredient in most visitors’ memories of the house.

As for the remaining avocado wood? In 2018, longtime Maloof board member John Scott commissioned master craftsman Mike Johnson of Sam Maloof Woodworker, Inc. to make an avocado wood chair from Sam’s design. That work now completed, the chair has been donated to The Maloof where it will be on view for the first time at Opening Day of the *Explorations in Wood* exhibition, in the Jacobs Education Center gallery starting on March 3. After the exhibition closes, the chair will become a regular feature of Historic Home tours.

The terrain surrounding the oak is also sloped in a way that does not replicate the original site.

The trunk was slabbed, dried and stored for years, where it remained well after Sam’s passing in 2009. A few ideas came and went, and so did insects, gradually damaging much of the rescued wood.

In 2018, an old friend of Sam’s had an idea: Suppose the tree could find new life as a chair to be held in the Maloof Collection in perpetuity! The Maloof could display the chair in Sam’s mid-century Historic Home, a reminder to

Grants Enable 2019 Environmental Connections Program



Maloof Teens guide students on tours of the Discovery Garden

In an era when young people often experience life as filtered through digital screens, The Maloof offers visitors a nearby place to discover nature, experiencing first-hand the ways in which seeds, trees and the wood they supply offer inspiration for the making of furniture or the building of a family home.

In 2019, The Maloof’s Environmental Connections program seeks to develop new curriculum and experiences to advance student and community understanding of ways in which the environment shapes and inspires contemporary life and creativity.

Community support has been essential to the launch of the Environmental Connections program: A generous grant from the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District, serving portions of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, has provided funding for K–12 learning experiences, including field trips, tours and art-making. Support from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has provided funding to introduce Native American garden legacy and themes into the Discovery Garden.

In May, inspired by ongoing work with the City of Rancho Cucamonga, funding made possible by Maloof memberships, will enable the launch of a new, free community workshop, to be hosted in the Upper Barns, inviting visitors and volunteers to learn about the use of rescued trees in the making of garden benches. Come see us, Thursdays in May, from noon to 4 p.m.

ANNIVERSARY

Leading the Way

Maloof Board marks 25 years of accomplishments...
and elects a new President.



For 25 years, The Maloof's all-volunteer Board of Directors has guided not-for-profit arts and education programs with local, regional and national impact.

Twenty-five years since the founding of the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts, the organization's Board of Directors met in January to elect a new president. **Connie Ransom**, president for the past seven years, passed the baton to her successor, attorney **John Brown**. "Your appreciation for historic preservation, your love of art, and your long years of professional and community service will serve The Maloof well," she said.

Ransom, who will remain on the board, gratefully acknowledged the support of her fellow board members. "What a treat it has been to work beside you all," she said, recapping a long list of the board's achievements during her tenure.

A strategic plan adopted in 2012 defined five institutional priorities, including increased fundraising, improved governance, growth in staff and volunteers, expansion of audience and embracing the responsibilities of the collection. Ransom highlighted progress in every category, including the raising of nearly \$1 million in new gifts and grants; the naming of The Maloof as a Smithsonian Affiliate, and the launch of new tours, exhibitions, publications, educational programs and workshops. Attendance at the Maloof has doubled under Ransom's leadership.

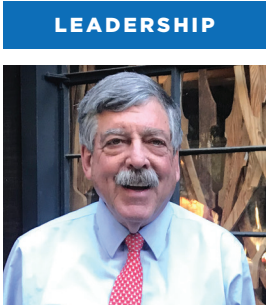
"Nobody fills Connie Ransom's shoes," said Brown, a partner at the firm Best Best and Krieger. "What Sam Maloof is to woodworking, Connie Ransom is to the arts, fine arts and education. You've devoted decades and decades of your life to that."

The new president said his involvement in historic preservation traces to the 1970s, when he worked to landmark an historic church in Alaska's Aleutian Islands. As a young attorney, Brown joined efforts to save Riverside's Mission Inn, and more recently has served on the board of the California Historical Society.

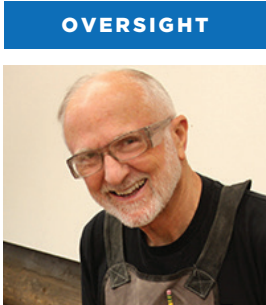
"I believe that my role at The Maloof is to carry forward something that I know everyone at this table realizes as our ambition: sustaining this home, these grounds, and this non-profit organization for 200 years to come."



After seven years as President, **Connie Ransom** takes special pride in collaborations with institutions such as the University of California, Riverside California Center for Native Nations.



Newly elected President **John Brown** advocates passionately for historic preservation.



Fritz Weis brings his enthusiasm as a woodworker to his role as Treasurer, overseeing The Maloof's budgets and investments.



As The Maloof's longest serving board member, recently retired city councilperson **Diane Williams** offers institutional memory and deep community roots.



Longtime Board Member **Nick Brown** (right) welcomes Municipal President **José Alfonso Luna López** of Mexico's San Martín Tilcajete. For nearly two decades, Brown has spearheaded The Maloof's Mexican Folk Art Weekend and related philanthropy.

Volunteer Board

The Maloof's 16-member, all-volunteer board meets five times a year, led by the President and Executive Committee, which currently consists of the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. The board sets policy and budgets, and oversees the work of Executive Director **Jim Rawitsch**, who is responsible for day-to-day management.

Maloof Foundation bylaws provide for three members of the board to be appointed by third-party entities: one by the City of Rancho Cucamonga; one by San Bernardino County Transportation Authority; and one by Sam Maloof Woodworker, Inc., the furniture making enterprise that carries on the making of Sam Maloof's designs.

Until this year, the board seat reserved for the City has been held by longtime city council member **Diane Williams**. With her recent retirement from the city council after 28 years, the City has appointed recently elected city council member **Kristine Scott** to join the Maloof board. Williams will continue to serve The Maloof as a private citizen. Elected in January to the position of Secretary, she has also joined the Executive Committee.

The County's position on The Maloof's board is held by **Supervisor Janice Rutherford**, first appointed in 2012. **Joanne Johnson**, partner with her husband in the Sam Maloof Woodworker entity, holds the third specially appointed seat.

Newly elected Vice President **Richard Pace** joined the board in 2015, after having been a Maloof volunteer. He manages cybersecurity programs for Southern California Edison.

Treasurer **Fritz Weis** was reelected. A resident of Claremont, he is a retired CFO and college president, with experience as a woodworker.

Other members of the board include: financial advisor **Nick Brown** of Redlands, who has spearheaded The Maloof's Mexican Folk Art Weekend for nearly two decades; retired city planner **Larry Henderson** of Alta Loma; Sam Maloof's widow **Beverly Maloof**; land use attorney **Lindell Marsh** of Newport Beach, who represented Sam in negotiations to save and relocate his home; retired minister **Carolyn Owen-Towle** of San Diego; retired arts educator **John Scott** of Manhattan Beach; and **Todd Wingate**, of Riverside, who is curator of exhibitions and collections at Riverside Art Museum.

Looking Ahead

Two new members have also joined the board in recent months. **Steffanie Dotson** of San Diego, who is an artist, woodworker, and urban gardener, is a former president of the national Furniture Society. Writer and curator **Katie Nartonis**, formerly of Bonham's Auctions, specializes in 20th century decorative arts.

During the January meeting Ransom announced with pride that emeritus board member **Anthea Hartig** has recently been appointed Elizabeth MacMillan Director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, becoming the first woman to serve in that role. Hartig, who grew up in Rancho Cucamonga, was instrumental in The Maloof's listing on the National Register of Historic Places. "We wouldn't be here without Anthea," reminded Ransom.

As for what happens next, the board intends to develop a new strategic plan in 2019, which will guide The Maloof's next phase of development. Challenges ahead include renewal and conservation of The Maloof's historic buildings, including replacement of the Historic Home roof. Other priorities include expansion of Discovery Garden education programs, including the incorporation of Native American themes and heritage, and the continuing development of woodworking courses in the Upper Barn workshop. The Foundation is also working on Maloof Center plans to enable wood artist awards, fellowships and exhibitions.

PRESERVATION

Conservation Challenges

Institutional priorities include a new roof and expanded endowment

A recent drone photo reveals ingenuity—and complexity—of The Maloof’s original roofing scheme. Replacement will be a costly undertaking.

Two years in development, The Maloof’s first comprehensive Historic Structure Report presents detailed recommendations for ongoing conservation efforts.

Prepared by historic preservation architect Robert Chattel and preservation consultant Laura Carias of Chattel Architecture, the report seeks to establish priorities and protocols providing for long-term survival of The Maloof property, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Maloof Historic Home and Workshop are especially vulnerable, given the age and deterioration of the buildings’ roofs.

A Roof Study was conducted concurrently, and has been incorporated into the Chattel report. Associate principals Kyle Normandin and Jeffrey Caldwell and senior associate Michelle Sandoval of Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates guided their firm’s efforts, which have identified leaking and intrusion in several locations.

The original roofing materials consist variously of built-up asphalt and the Maloof’s signature blue metal panels. Immediate, short-term repairs are under way to address leaks, but additional repair and replacement will be needed for the longer term. The full roof replacement program is estimated to cost \$300,000, with WJE proposing a phased approach over a period of years.



Fundraising has begun, with Phase One repairs to be undertaken in early 2019. Major donor support will be essential to qualify for potential matching grants, and support at every level is welcome.

The Maloof is a not-for-profit public benefit institution qualified under IRS Section 501-C-3. Donations of any amount are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. For information, contact the Foundation Office at (909) 980-0412.

Maloof Foundation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS			EMERITUS MEMBERS	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
John Brown <i>President</i>	Nick Brown Steffanie Dotson	Carolyn Owen-Towle Connie Ransom	Anthea Hartig Ann Joslin	Jim Rawitsch
Richard Pace <i>Vice President</i>	Larry Henderson Joanne Johnson	Sup. Janice Rutherford John Scott	William Knox Mellon, Jr.	
Fritz Weis <i>Treasurer</i>	Beverly Maloof Lindell Marsh	Kristine Scott Todd Wingate	David Spencer Joe Unis	
Diane Williams <i>Secretary</i>	Katie Nartonis			

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YOUR SUPPORT HELPS BUILD THE FUTURE

A quarter of a century since The Maloof’s founding as a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization, your support remains an essential ingredient in our continuing commitment to public service. And there are many ways to contribute.

MEMBERSHIP

Use the reply envelope stitched into the centerfold of this newsletter to join or renew your membership. Members at every level enjoy discounts in the Maloof Store and other benefits. Please visit malooffoundation.org for a full list of the available rewards.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The Maloof educates children, teens, veterans, artists and the community at large about the value of art as expression...exploration...and inspiration for the future. Every gift makes a difference, and amounts over and above your annual membership help support Maloof programming that informs, celebrates and transforms lives for the better.

LEGACY

Museums are one of the few human institutions designed to serve across generations as repositories of shared culture and values. Your endowment gift or bequest helps assure that generations to come can know something of the time in which you lived, and the dreams you held. Your planned gifts of appreciated assets—equities, real estate or personal property—can help save on taxes, too!

WORKS OF ART

Thanks to many generous benefactors, The Maloof Collection now holds Sam Maloof’s first- and last-made rocking chairs, as well as many other unique pieces of furniture. If you have works of art that need a home, please don’t hesitate to inquire about arrangements for their future. Your gifting of appreciated art assets may also reduce tax obligations for you or your heirs.

For help with your giving plans, please call the Executive Director at (909) 980-0412.

NEW WORKSHOPS

Maloof-inspired Woodworking

1-, 2- and 3-day Courses | Small Group Workshops! | Unlimited Learning!

Making a Maloof-inspired Bench with Larry White

3-day, hands-on course led by master woodworker and Maloof Resident Artist Larry White teaches you how to make a Maloof-inspired bench in solid walnut—which you can take home, give as a gift, or keep forever as an heirloom. Fri., Sat., Sun. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. each day. Includes wood and materials. Four students max. \$850 per person/\$800 members.

Larry White’s intensive, small-group workshops sell-out months in advance, earning high ratings from participants.



Making a Maloof-inspired Table With Dennis Hays



2-day, hands-on course led by master woodworker Dennis Hays offers 16 hours of instruction and studio time, teaching you to build a small side table made of solid walnut. Learn to design for strength; select for grain and color; cut, route, shape, sand, finish and more—and take home a truly unique, hand-made treasure. Fri., Sat. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. each day. Includes wood and materials. Six students max. \$500 per person/\$450 members.

Dennis Hays’ focused, instruction moves participants forward together in a supportive, small-group setting.

Turning a Lidded Box With Jeremy Sullivan

1-day course combines detailed instruction and hands-on practice at a lathe. A professional woodturner for 20+ years, Jeremy teaches you to: use and sharpen gouges and scrapers; rough-turn boxes for drying and improved lid fit; hollow end grain effectively and quickly; use the skew chisel; prevent catches; develop a perfect suction-fit lid that “glides gently down” to close. Get inspired, find your unique voice, and produce better work than you ever thought possible. Sat. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Includes wood and materials. Four students max. \$250 per person/\$200 members.

Jeremy Sullivan’s step-by-step method welcomes beginning and intermediate woodworkers, with tips both to get started and advance.



Become a Maloof Member and Save!

For detailed course descriptions, available dates and reservations: Malooffoundation.org/



Plan Your Visit

Public Hours:

Thursdays and Saturdays
12–4 p.m.

5131 Carnelian Street
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701
(909) 980-0412
malooffoundation.org
North of I-210, Carnelian Exit

Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts
P.O. Box 8397
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701
(909) 980-0412

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Volunteer Your Talents!

Gallery

Do you have a few hours per month to welcome visitors to The Maloof? Volunteer your talents for service in the Jacobs Education Center gallery! Thursday and Saturday afternoon slots are open for spring and summer. Find out more: info@malooffoundation.org.

Garden

Interested volunteers receive training and support to guide visitors through the Discovery Garden. Expand your knowledge of plants and share The Maloof's message of sustainable, water-wise landscape. Learn about Native American garden heritage, too! For information: info@malooffoundation.org.

Workshop

The Maloof is launching informal, drop-in community workshops introducing visitors to the making of garden benches using wood rescued from the Discovery Garden and elsewhere. Visit or volunteer your time for a worthy project. Thursdays in May, noon to 4 p.m. in the Upper Barn.

Tours

Volunteer docents learn about California modernist arts, craft and furniture, and share the Maloof story with visitors from around the world! Get involved: info@malooffoundation.org.

Two Garden Workshops!

March 16 and May 11
8:30–11:30 a.m.

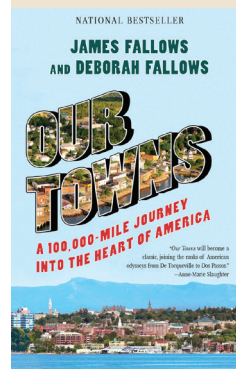
Pruning and planting workshops led by experienced gardeners teach you how to plant and maintain sustainable, water-wise landscape. Informal Saturday morning sessions let you learn by doing, with guidance from knowledgeable landscape professionals.

Maloof Special Event

Authors James and Deborah Fallows

Friday, April 12, 8 p.m.
Bridges Hall of Music, Pomona College

The Maloof, in collaboration with Pomona College and the Claremont Museum of Art, will present “An Evening with James and Deborah Fallows” featuring a lively conversation with the husband and wife co-authors



of the bestselling book *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America*. The event seeks to explore how the arts, and the creativity they foster, are fundamental to civilized society and communities in the 21st century.

Known to readers of *The Atlantic* as one of America's most astute observers of contemporary culture, author James Fallows will discuss what has been learned from the Fallowses' four-year cross-country journey in search of communities that are successfully reinventing themselves for the future. Formerly associated with the Pew Research Center, Deborah Fallows shares an interest in the role of arts and artists as essential ingredients in the building of creative, humane and prosperous communities.

Pomona College Professor of Politics Susan McWilliams, author of the book *The American Road Trip and American Political Thought*, will moderate.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL SHAY POLARA STUDIO



Maloof members at the \$125 level and above receive a complimentary copy of *Our Towns* (Paperback). Members at the \$250 level and above receive the book and invitation for two to attend a pre-event reception on the campus of Pomona College, with special guests including James and Deborah Fallows, Susan McWilliams, Alex Langlands, author of *Craft: An Inquiry into the Origins and True Meaning of Traditional Craft* and special guests attending from across the nation. To join, renew or upgrade your membership, please use the reply envelope stitched into the centerfold of this newsletter, or visit malooffoundation.org/membership. Your tax-deductible membership supports Maloof Education programs serving children, adults, veterans, artists and the community at large.

The Maloof Futures programming is made possible with support from the Windgate Charitable Foundation.

The event is free and open to the public but tickets are required. To reserve tickets, visit the Events section of the Pomona College website at www.pomona.edu/events and select April 12, 2019. Or contact us at info@malooffoundation.org for assistance.