

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Brasfield & Gorrie Wins Morse Expansion Contract; Museum to Break Ground in Early December

Note to Editors: Two high-resolution renderings of the Morse Museum's expansion project—an exterior view of the new wing at the south end of the Museum and a garden view of the planned installation of the Daffodil Terrace from Louis Comfort Tiffany's Long Island estate, Laurelton Hall—are available. Please e-mail pubaffairs@morsemuseum.org for more information.

WINTER PARK, Fla.—The Board of Trustees of the Charles Hosmer Morse Foundation is pleased to announce that an agreement has been reached with Brasfield & Gorrie to provide general contracting services for an expansion project at the Morse Museum that will increase public exhibition space by 50 percent. Groundbreaking is set for Dec. 7.

Under the approximately \$3.3 million contract—which has been awarded following a competitive bidding process—Brasfield & Gorrie will oversee construction of a 12,000-square-foot addition to the museum's existing building. The project will also triple the size of the courtyard garden at the museum's rear entrance to 4,450 square feet. Brasfield & Gorrie, based in Birmingham, Ala., is one of the largest privately held contracting firms in the country. It established full-service offices in Orlando in 1985.

The Morse's new wing—expected to open by winter 2011—will provide the additional space required to exhibit most of the museum's holdings of objects and architectural elements from Louis Comfort Tiffany's Long Island country estate, Laurelton Hall. The

total cost of the Morse project, including installation and landscaping, is expected to be about \$5 million.

A focal point of the Laurelton Hall galleries will be the recently restored Daffodil Terrace from the estate. It measures 32-feet-long by 18-feet-wide and is supported by eight marble columns topped with bouquets of glass daffodils. The terrace will be installed in a glass gallery visible from vantage points both inside and outside of the museum. This work has never been on display in Winter Park or as planned at the Morse.

In addition to the Daffodil Terrace, more than 300 objects—including leaded-glass windows, lamps, art glass, furnishings, and more—will be installed in six other new galleries. Most of these objects have not been on view since 2006 when the Morse loaned a number of them to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York for a six-month special exhibition.

Laurelton Hall, built between 1902 and 1905, is often cited as Tiffany's greatest work of art. The 84-room mansion was destroyed by fire in 1957. Jeannette and Hugh McKean, who together built the Morse Museum's collection over a 50-year period, salvaged architectural elements and some of the artist and designer's most prized works from the ruins of the estate. Today the Morse is home to the world's most comprehensive collection of works by Tiffany and is the largest single repository of surviving materials from Laurelton Hall.

The Laurelton Hall galleries will occupy the ground floor of the planned two-story structure while the second level will provide for an expanded library, a conference room, and additional offices for the collection and curatorial staff. The addition, to be situated off of Canton Avenue, will extend westward into surplus parking from the existing 28,000-square-foot main museum building that fronts Park Avenue and stretches from Canton to Cole avenues. The museum currently devotes about 12,000 square feet to exhibitions. The project will provide more than 6,000 square feet of additional exhibition space.

Architect RLF (Rogers, Lovelock & Fritz Inc.) of Winter Park has designed the new wing to complement the museum's current Mediterranean-style features. George Sexton Associates of Washington, D.C., is designing the installations.

The complete expansion project team is as follows:

Architect: RLF (Rogers, Lovelock & Fritz Inc.), Winter Park, Florida

Exhibition/Lighting Design: George Sexton Associates, Washington, D.C.

General Contractor: Brasfield & Gorrie, Lake Mary, Florida

Conservation: Griswold Conservation Associates LLC, Culver City, California

Civil Engineer: Christensen & Associates, Oviedo, Florida

Structural Engineer: Allan & Conrad Inc, Winter Park, Florida

Acoustical Engineer: Quietly Making Noise LLC, Oviedo, Florida

Landscape Architect: Ravensdale Planning & Design, Winter Park, Florida

Security: Steven R. Keller & Associates Inc., Ormond Beach, Florida

The Morse Museum, founded by Jeannette McKean in 1942 on the Rollins College campus, opened its Park Avenue galleries on July 4, 1995 in space developed from former bank and office buildings. The Morse is owned and operated by the Charles Hosmer Morse Foundation and receives additional support from the Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation. It receives no public funds.

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