



General Fact Sheet

Operations

Attendance in Fiscal year 2007 (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007)
~ 300,000 up 18% from previous year as of May 2007

- Fifty percent of our annual operating budget of \$11 million comes from our admissions, Museum Store sales, events and rentals. The other 50 percent comes from State funding. A growing number of visitors mean that we are increasingly self-supporting and somewhat less exposed to budget changes, which may occur at the state level.
- Florida State University assumed governance of the Museum in July 2000, (transferred from Florida's Department of State). The Ringling Museum offered one of the most elegant settings for a college art museum in the world, with a collection worthy of comparison with those of Harvard and Yale. Beginning in the early 1960s, FSU established a presence in Sarasota by offering actor training. In 1973 FSU established a master's program in acting through a partnership with the independent Asolo Theater Company. The combination is a good fit for both institutions.

Endowment

- John Ringling's estate upon his death in 1936 included \$1.2 million for care of the Museum and its collection. When FSU assumed governance 64 years later, the endowment had hardly grown to \$2 million. In 2002, when \$43 million was provided through the State for new buildings, it came with a condition that the Board of Directors would raise \$56 million for endowment within five years. Impossible as the task then seemed, it succeeded. By the project's completion in February 2007, over \$56 million had been donated or pledged to endowment, marking the first major commitment to the Ringling's long-term stability since John Ringling's original bequest in 1936.

