

NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

615 Church St. | Nashville, TN | 37219

CONTACT: Ed Brown Public Information Officer Ed.brown@nashville.gov 615.862.5800 (desk) 502.475.6029 (mobile)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Tuesday, June 14, 2022

NPL AND CHEEKWOOD PARTNER FOR FREE ENTRY TO ESTATE AND GARDENS



Community Passports Available for Checkout to Davidson County Residents Now

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Nashville Public Library patrons can now get free admission to the Cheekwood Estate & Gardens, as the Library and Cheekwood today launched a new addition to NPL's Community Passports collection.

The addition means library customers can now get free admission to three local arts and culture attractions: Cheekwood, the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum and the National Museum of African American Music.

"We're thrilled by this partnership, and more importantly, for the opportunity it offers to Davidson County residents," said Kent Oliver, director of NPL. "Cheekwood is one of Nashville's most beautiful attractions. We're pleased to offer library customers even more than they might expect as part of their patron experience as we help even more people experience Cheekwood for themselves."

"Cheekwood is so excited to be a part of the Nashville Public Library's Community Passport program and we look forward to welcoming new visitors throughout the summer," said Jane O. MacLeod, President/CEO of Cheekwood.

The passport to Cheekwood offers free admission for up to 2 adults and 2 children and is good for regular admission.

How to Check Out a Cheekwood Passport

Patrons can visit the Library's website to place a hold on their passport and pick them up from any NPL location.

Check outs are valid for up to seven days, with no renewals available. Once the passports are used, customers can check them out again at their leisure.

The passports can be used during Cheekwood's normal business hours and are good for up to two adults and two children to visit the gardens and Cheekwood Mansion. Passports do not arant entry to any after-hours or special events.

To qualify for the passports, customers must have an NPL card and be a resident of Davidson County. Users can <u>apply for a card online</u> or in person at <u>any of NPL's 21</u> locations.

To learn more about NPL's Community Passports collection, users should <u>visit NPL's</u> website.

About Nashville Public Library

With more than 2 million books, movies and music items to choose from, plus great programming and resources to improve early and adult literacy, STEAM, ESL and other key skills, NPL is Nashville's gateway to some of the best resources our city has to offer. Every year, across our 21-location system, thousands of visitors discover how our library lives up to our philosophy: at NPL, books are only half the story.

About Cheekwood Estate & Gardens

With its intact and picturesque vistas, Cheekwood is distinguished as one of the leading Country Place Era estates in the nation. Formerly the family home of Mabel and Leslie Cheek, the 1930s estate, with its 30,000-square-foot Mansion and 55-acres of gardens, today serves the public as a botanical garden, arboretum, and art museum with furnished period rooms and galleries devoted to American art from the 18th to mid-20th centuries. The property includes 13 distinct gardens including the Blevins

Japanese Garden and the Bracken Foundation Children's Garden, as well as a 1.5-mile woodland trail featuring outdoor monumental sculpture. Each year, Cheekwood hosts seasonal festivals including Cheekwood in Bloom, Summertime at Cheekwood, Cheekwood Harvest and Holiday LIGHTS. Cheekwood is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and nationally as a Level II Arboretum. It is a three-time voted USA Today Top 10 Botanical Garden and in 2021 was recognized by Fodors as one of the 12 Most Beautiful Gardens in the American South. Cheekwood is located eight miles southwest of downtown Nashville at 1200 Forrest Park Drive. It is open Tuesday through Sunday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., with extended days and hours of operation depending on the season. Check cheekwood.org for current hours.



- NPL -