

# THE PARTHENON SPEAKERS BUREAU

***A presentation by the Parthenon Speakers Bureau is perfect for civic meetings, garden clubs, and other small groups. For a minimum \$25 donation to the Conservancy for the Parthenon and Centennial Park, you will receive an educational program from a trained volunteer. Your donation helps support The Conservancy's programming and outreach in the community.***



***To schedule a program, call the Parthenon at 615.862.8431 or email the details of your request to [info@parthenon.org](mailto:info@parthenon.org)***

Nashville undertook the construction of a full-scale replica of the Parthenon to house the art exhibition for the Tennessee Centennial Exposition of 1897. Cities, major industries, and other interest groups also built pavilions for the celebration. Nashville's 1897 Parthenon was constructed of brick, plaster, and wood lath. It was intended to reflect the city's reputation as *The Athens of the South*.

After the Exposition, backed by popular demand, Nashville left the temporary structure standing. In 1921, faced with crumbling pediments and decaying plaster, the Park Board authorized reconstruction of the Parthenon with permanent materials.

This time, a commitment was made for a more complete replica, both inside and out. The interior was redesigned, replicating the floor plan of the original Greek structure. What had been the basement of the 1897 Parthenon was reclaimed for use as gallery space. The Parthenon remained virtually unchanged until 1987, when a radical renovation began, adding an East ground level entrance, office space, and making the building fully handicapped accessible.

Alan LeQuire sculpted a statue of Athena, standing almost 42 feet tall, which was unveiled in the Parthenon's Naos in 1990. In 2002 that statue was gilded and painted making the sculpture more historically accurate. Efforts are currently underway to revitalize Centennial Park, the site of the 1897 Exposition, by boardening its appeal to Nashvillians and visitors alike and enriching our cultural and educational landmarks.



LOOKING FOR AN INTERESTING  
PROGRAM FOR YOUR NEXT MEETING?

WE MAY HAVE THE SOLUTION...

**THE WAY WE WERE:  
THE TN CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION**

This presentation offers a fascinating look at life in Nashville in 1897. Find out why Nashville was called the "Athens of the South" and why the city chose the Parthenon to showcase the art exhibit at the Centennial celebration. (20-30 Minutes)

**THE COWAN COLLECTION  
NASHVILLE'S BEST KEPT SECRET**

After attending the Centennial Exposition in 1897, James Cowan donated 63 paintings by American artists to the Parthenon. You will learn the history of this important donation and some of the most significant paintings on exhibit (20 Minutes)



We offer your group the opportunity to learn more about the Parthenon and Centennial Park!

**THE PARTHENON AND CENTENNIAL PARK:  
YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW**

Learn more about this historic building and plans for the future of Centennial Park. Find out what is happening today that might surprise you and learn more about what we have to look forward to as the master plan for Centennial Park takes shape. (30 Minutes)



**SCULPTURES, VASES, AND RUINS:**

Learn how and why the Greeks developed the magnificent art and architectural styles that still influence us today. (25 Minutes)

**MYTHOLOGY OF THE PARTHENON:  
FROM APHRODITE TO ZEUS**

This program highlights Greek gods, goddesses, and mythological creatures in the Parthenon, from ancient times to modern depictions. (20 Minutes)

**THE MAKING OF ATHENA**

Learn more about Alan LeQuire's extra-ordinary sculpture of Athena, including the gilding process.

(20 Minutes)

