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## **SAMA ANNOUNCES FIVE ADDITIONS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art is pleased to announce the additions of Nicole Clark of Bedford, Sandy Hughes of Everett, John Kubinsky of Johnstown, the Rev. Joseph Lehman, T.O.R., of Loretto, and Michelle Passarello of Altoona to its Board of Trustees.

A graduate of Point Park College in Pittsburgh with a degree in musical theater, Clark is active in a number of artistic endeavors. She enjoys playing piano and is a talented vocalist who sings as a cantor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bedford. She has served as an Ambassador for SAMA's newest museum in Bedford and has shared some of her many talents, which include painting, sculpting, gardening, sewing and videography, in children's art camps and other SAMA programs.

"I look forward to using my creative talents to help serve the Museum and will work toward achieving the goal of sharing more art experiences with the Bedford community and its many visitors," she said.

Hughes has been involved with arts organizations from coast to coast. She danced with the New York City Ballet for four years and has continued to support dance organizations, including Ballet Vero Beach and the San Francisco Ballet. She has been a member of the San Francisco Fine Arts Museum and Vero Beach Museum of Art, a benefactor of Vero Beach's Riverside Theatre, a board member of the Mental Health Association, and an Eagle member of Indian River Medical Center. In 2017, she was a Red Carpet Sponsor of Bedford's Crystal Soirée.

"I am honored to have been asked to join such a wonderful group of people," said Hughes. "My love of art goes back to visiting beautiful art museums throughout the world with my family while my father served in the Air Force. It was an illuminating thing for a young girl and it carried over to me wanting to explore more and more."

Rev. Lehman is currently Vice President for Mission Integration at Saint Francis University in Loretto. Before coming to the area, he held positions at Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Mass., and Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, and was Chief Financial Officer at Washington Theological Union in Washington, D.C. Lehman has a B.S. in accounting from the University of Texas at Dallas, a Master of Divinity from Washington Theological Union, a M.A.

in higher education administration from George Washington University, and a Ph.D. in higher education from Boston College.

“It is an honor to be invited to serve on the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art Board of Trustees,” said Rev. Lehman. “Through its multiple venues, SAMA serves a vital service to citizens throughout southcentral Pennsylvania to enjoy the fine arts. I hope that my service on the board will help to ensure the future of the arts in our community for years to come.”

Kubinsky is Vice President, Loan Group Business Development and Credit Supervisor, for 1<sup>st</sup> Summit Bank in Johnstown. A Richland High School alumnus, Kubinsky earned a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and a M.B.A. in finance from Indiana University. He is past president of both ARTWORKS in Johnstown and the Cambria County Development Corporation and has previously served as a board member of Bottle Works Ethnic Arts Center.

“I am excited to join SAMA’s Board of Trustees,” said Kubinsky. “SAMA is a treasure for the residents of the Laurel Highlands.”

Passarello is a lifelong resident of Altoona. She has been married to Attorney Steven P. Passarello since 2011 and they have one son, Dominic. Mrs. Passarello works as a paralegal and office manager in her husband’s law firm, the Law Offices of Steven P. Passarello, Esq., P.C. Mrs. Passarello also serves as chair of the Central Pennsylvania March of Dimes Signature Chef’s Auction, as well as on the board of Evolution Expression, a non-profit arts organization and trauma-based group that uses expressive arts as tools for healing children. She is an active member of SAMA’s Gala and *Think Pink* committees and will serve as chair for the Museum’s 2019 Gala.

“I am so honored to be named to the Board of Trustees for SAMA,” she said. “I love my SAMA family and the passion we all share for the arts. I look forward to being able to continue to help SAMA provide charitable, literary, cultural and educational programs to our region for years to come.”

SAMA Executive Director Vanessa Houser said the new trustees bring a wealth of energy, experience and passion that will benefit the Museum and the communities it serves. “I am very excited to work with each of these new appointees and leverage their individual talents to help sustain a cultural legacy in Southwest/Central Pennsylvania,” she said.