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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAMA GALA IS BROADWAY BOUND

Loretto – The theater will be center stage this summer for the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art (SAMA) at Loretto’s 40th annual summer Gala. This year’s “Spotlight on Broadway” event will celebrate the glitz and glam of the Great White Way on Saturday, July 21. Glenda Forosisky of Altoona returns as Gala chair.

The red carpet awaits attendees as they make their way to the tent. Actors from Cresson Lake Playhouse’s production of *Annie* will greet guests upon arrival and will later perform musical numbers during the reception in the gallery. While in the Museum, guests can peruse a collection of classic theater posters in the exhibition, *Bright Lights and Opening Nights: Film, Theater and Dance Posters from the Mark del Costello Collection*. The exhibition surveys a wide variety of theatrical productions ranging from Broadway musicals and stage plays to Hollywood blockbusters, avant-garde cinema, ballet, modern dance and more.

Under the tent, white fairy lights and draped fabric will line the ceiling to create an air of romance and drama for the dining and dancing spaces. Tables will be adorned with elegant white ostrich feather arrangements in gold and crystal, designed to imitate the famed Rockettes’ head dresses, and others with custom-designed fresh floral arrangements. Adding to the ambience will be white-lit decorative trees that add the look of New York City’s Tavern on the Green at night.

Guests will certainly enjoy trying their hand at the Gala’s casino games. The famous raw bar will return, and the Broadway- or New York City-themed hors d’oeuvres and dinner will add to the excitement while pleasing the palate. Dinner will be enhanced by musical numbers performed by actors from Altoona Community Theatre.

The evening’s music will be provided by The Bachelor Boys. New to the Gala, The Bachelor Boys are a premium 4-piece band specializing in high-energy music with a “cooler-than-average” song list that is never cheesy and focuses squarely on filling the dance floor.

Always a highlight of the Gala, this year’s live and silent auctions will feature a variety of exciting and unique items. The live auction will be headlined by a vintage Suzuki motorcycle, a Michael Strueber watercolor, a Warrior’s Mark alpaca rug and cocktail party, Helen Gorsuch ceramic sculpture, a pair of Spillway Bowls, and vacation packages to Fallingwater and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. The silent auction boasts a supporting cast featuring a variety of original

artwork, beautiful jewelry, a Pittsburgh Pirates luxury suite package, a pair of hand-painted cornhole games, an Omni Bedford Springs Resort getaway, and much more.

The Gala will begin at 6 p.m. on July 21. Tickets are \$175 per person. Reservations are required by July 13. For tickets or more information, please call the Museum at (814) 472-3920. Advertising and sponsorship opportunities remain available.

Over the past four decades, the Gala has evolved into one of the most sophisticated and complex outdoor social events in Pennsylvania. The proceeds from the event enable SAMA's five museums – Altoona, Bedford, Johnstown, Ligonier Valley and Loretto – to remain open to the public. The Gala also helps underwrite the Museum's exhibitions and innovative Arts-in-Education and Museum/Healthcare Partnership programs. For more information on the Gala or SAMA, call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.

The "Spotlight on Broadway" Gala is sponsored by Kooman & Associates, LLC; Nancy and Steve Sheetz; and UPMC Health Plan. Also contributing to the Gala is: Dr. Magdi and Karen Azer; Benzel's Bretzel Bakery; Blair Companies; Blue Spark Capital Advisors; Mary and Dr. Joel Borkow; Jim Cayce and Tom Dosh; Dr. Betty Cottle; Cassandra and David Davies; Deb DeGol and Robert Krumroy; Forney Financial Solutions; Glenda and Michael Forosisky; Jeanne and Robert Gleason; Jane and Lee Hite; Kooman & Associates, LLC; Kranich's Jewelers; Laurel Auto Group; Diane and Dr. Scott Q. Little; Jeria and Steve McKnight; Marian and Dr. Owen K. Morgan; Newborn Enterprises, Inc.; Barb and Ed O'Brien; Michelle and Steve Passarello; Nancy R. Sheetz; Margaret and Michael Strueber; Chantel Ventura; WJAC-TV; and Aline and Gerald Wolf.