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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Debbie Grazier, SAMA-Bedford Coordinator
(814) 589-3020

Travis Mearns, Public Relations Coordinator
(724) 238-6015

SAMA-BEDFORD PROGRAM TRAINS VOLUNTEERS TO BE GALLERY HOSTS

Bedford – For those who have wondered what it would be like to work in a museum, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art has a program for you. In August, the Museum will debut a Gallery Host Training Seminar perfect for individuals who want to learn more about museums and fine art and would like to be part of the behind-the-scenes activities of a museum. The seminar will take place at SAMA's new Bedford Museum.

Taught by artist and educator Chuck Olson, the Gallery Host Training Seminar will discuss ways to enjoy and enhance one's experiences visiting museums and galleries; how to look and talk about art from a personal perspective; and how to feel comfortable answering visitor questions, while also offering a quick, user-friendly guide to art history using artwork from SAMA's permanent collection currently on view at the Museum.

The four-part seminar will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays from August 29 through September 19. Class size is limited to 20 participants. By the end of the seminar, participants will be trained to serve as gallery hosts at SAMA museums.

Olson is a professional artist, world traveler and Professor of Art and Chairman of the Fine Arts Department at Saint Francis University. His work has been displayed around the globe, including the exhibitions *Visual Histories* (2007) at SAMA-Loretto and *The Influence of Place* (2017) at SAMA-Altoona. Among his many awards are Pittsburgh Magazine and WQED-TV's Harry Schwalb Award of Excellence in Visual Arts (2001-02), SAMA's Service to the Arts Award (2015), and Master Visual Artist for Pittsburgh (2013) with an archive established at the Heinz Regional History Museum. Olson's works are held in major corporate collections, museums and private collections.

Tuition to the Gallery Host Training Seminar is free to SAMA members at the \$100 level and higher. If you are not a member at that level and would like to register, please increase your membership or join at the \$100 level. SAMA members receive free admission to the Bedford Museum, special invitations to SAMA receptions and programs, a subscription to the Museum's online newsletter, and recognition in the Annual Review.

At the conclusion of the seminar, participants will be asked to donate three hours per month to serve as a gallery host at the SAMA Museum of their choice. Two books will be part of the training and will be available for purchase the first day of class at an estimated cost of \$50.

Registration is requested by August 1. For registration or additional information, please call the Museum at (814) 589-3020 or email SAMA-Bedford Coordinator Debbie Grazier at dgrazier@sama-art.org.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Bedford is located in the historic Anderson House at 137 E. Pitt St. The Museum is open daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Museum is closed Tuesdays. Cost of admission is \$10 per person or free admission for SAMA members, ages 21 & under and 65 & older. The Museum offers free admission for Bedford residents on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. Parking is available on the street or in the lot at the rear of the building. For more information, please visit www.sama-art.org.