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## **SAMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GARY MOYER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT**

Loretto – After more than a decade leading the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, Executive Director G. Gary Moyer has announced his retirement effective fall, 2018. The Museum will announce its incoming director in early August.

Moyer joined the SAMA leadership team in January 2008. Over the next ten-plus years, he has overseen the implementation of new programs, a growing permanent collection, the launch of *The Gallery* newsletter, and several exciting SAMA projects. Major accomplishments include significant facility upgrades such as the Loretto Museum’s Archival Storage Expansion Project; the establishment of important programs such as the dinner-and-awards event, *Night of Distinction*, and the *Monuments & Masterpieces* world art tour; and the Ligonier Valley Museum’s Donald M. Robinson sculpture park. Most recently, Moyer has been at the front of the Museum’s expansion into Bedford County, with a fifth SAMA site in Bedford’s historic Anderson House.

Moyer also was at the helm when the Museum received the Geoffrey Wagner Estate bequest, which brought to the Museum 62 paintings, drawings and prints by Colleen Browning, enabling SAMA to be the primary repository for the important Magic Realist painter. In addition, the Museum produced a major book on the artist, *Colleen Browning: The Enchantment of Realism*, written by Philip Eliasoph and published by Hudson Hills.

With the addition of approximately 1,500 works of art during Moyer’s tenure, SAMA’s permanent collection now stands at over 5,000 works. Noteworthy acquisitions include George Bellows’ *The Drunk, Second Stone*; Gary Bukovnic’s *Harmony in Blue and Green*; T.M. Heaton’s *Portrait of Juliet Lea Hillman*; William Morris Hunt’s *Bugle Call*; Martin Lewis’ *Novice in the Subway*; Gilbert Stuart’s *Portrait of Captain Joseph Anthony*; George Tooker’s *Window*; and others. Several collections also were acquired under Moyer’s direction, including the Catherine and David O’Neill Collection of Old Master Prints and Drawings, the Schilling-Knapton Collection, the Shirley Zampelli Sturtz-Davis & William D. Davis Collection, the Southwestern Art Collection, and collections of Milton Herbert Bancroft, Leonard Baskin, and Edward Glannon.

“I have a sense of pride with what we have accomplished at SAMA,” said Moyer. “From improving the Museum’s financial position to enlarging and enhancing the permanent collection

to establishing a value-added community outreach that touches the people living in this region, we have worked diligently to drive museum excellence to establish a cultural legacy for the people of rural southwestern/central Pennsylvania.”

Moyer came to SAMA following a management career with Fortune 500 firms and a background in the college sector. A former director of admissions at Saint Francis University, Moyer has continued to teach as an associate professor in the business program for the University’s continuing education department.

Moyer has an M.BA from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, as well as a Master’s of Arts degree in Industrial Relations and Personnel Administration from Saint Francis University. He is presently a board member of Cambria County Historical Society and has formerly served on the board of Goodwill of the Southern Alleghenies, the Visiting Nurses Advisory Committee for Conemaugh Health System, and the Greater Johnstown/Cambria County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program.

“My time at SAMA has been a journey highlighted by new friends and professional acquaintances who truly love this museum, care deeply about the arts and have a remarkable sense of community,” said Moyer.

“Bravo,” said Jim Cayce, SAMA Board of Trustees President. “The Trustees join me in wishing Gary, his wife Suzy, and his family the very best in retirement. Gary has been a joy to work with and I will miss his candor, sense of humor and sage advice. Enjoy!”