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For more information, contact:

Vanessa Houser, SAMA Director

(814) 472-3925

Debbie Grazier, SAMA-Bedford Coordinator

(814) 589-3020

Travis Mearns, Public Relations Coordinator

(724) 238-6015

### **SAMA-BEDFORD RECEIVES PRESERVATION AWARD**

Bedford – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Bedford is just three months old, but it already has a major award to its credit. In August, the Museum was named a recipient of the *Initiative Award in Community Involvement* as part of Preservation Pennsylvania’s annual Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards. A total of 22 awards, representing projects and people across the commonwealth, will be presented at a ceremony in Harrisburg in September.

“Enhancing tourism and having a cultural impact on the Bedford County region through this historical preservation is a unique opportunity,” said Vanessa Houser, SAMA Director. “I am excited to see the programming that evolves as we assimilate to the community.”

Pennsylvania’s Historic Preservation Awards continue a tradition started in 1979 to honor excellence and innovation in preservation. The annual awards recognize significant contributions in the field of historic preservation practice made by both individuals and organizations.

“The annual awards program is a wonderful celebration that honors passion for the past, applauds achievement in the present, and inspires a history-rich future for Pennsylvania,” said Mindy Crawford, Executive Director of Preservation Pennsylvania.

For the past two centuries, the Anderson House has occupied a stately position on Bedford’s Main Street. Today, it houses SAMA’s fifth and newest Museum. SAMA-Bedford opened to the public in May and offers eight galleries, a children’s creativity studio, interactive displays and audio tours, as well as a community garden at the rear of the building.

“We are proud to be part of the fabric of the Bedford community,” said Jim Cayce, President of SAMA’s Board of Trustees. “I am excited that SAMA can play a vital role in making the Anderson House the jewel it is.”

The new Museum has enjoyed a steady stream of visitors and feedback has been extremely positive. “Incredible facility. Thank you to SAMA for expanding here,” said visitor Nanette Anslinger of Altoona. “The current exhibit touches every fiber of one’s body and soul, particularly, of course, the eye! I’m filled for the day.”

SAMA tapped Clark Contractors of Bedford for the five-month-long project to transform the Anderson House into a fine arts museum. The project presented a number of challenges,

including stabilizing the structure and leveling floors which, in some cases, had sagged six-to-eight inches, according to Clifton Clark, President and Owner of Clark Contractors.

“Another challenge was preserving all of the building’s existing architectural elements, such as the trim and doors, while pulling the building apart and putting it back again,” he said. “Looking at the building now, it seems new life has been put back into the structure.”

The 2018 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards will be presented on Thursday, September 27 at the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg. The program begins at 3:30 p.m. with awards presentation and is followed by a reception. The event’s keynote speaker is noted preservation economist Donovan Rypkema of PlaceEconomics. For a list of all 22 award winners or more information on the awards presentation or Preservation Pennsylvania, please visit [www.preservationpa.org](http://www.preservationpa.org).

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Bedford is located 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 or 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 call the Museum at (814) 589-3020 or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).