

THE GALLERY



SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
MUSEUM OF ART
YEAR OF LEGACY

ISSUE 68
sama-art.org



The 2025 “Year of Legacy” at all SAMA sites

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art (SAMA) is thrilled to announce its plans for a yearlong celebration of its 50th anniversary from 2025-2026.

SAMA was incorporated on April 10, 1975, and founded in June 1976. Since then, SAMA has grown from a modest collection of 47 artworks to become a leading cultural institution serving six counties in Pennsylvania and

welcoming approximately 25,000 visitors annually. The golden anniversary marks a significant milestone for the Museum, celebrating five decades of art, culture, and community engagement.

The Year of Legacy will reflect SAMA’s rich history and its contributions to the arts in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fayette, Somerset, and Westmoreland counties.

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ENTER TO WIN A \$250 AMAZON GIFT CARD

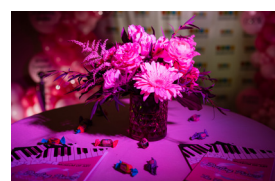
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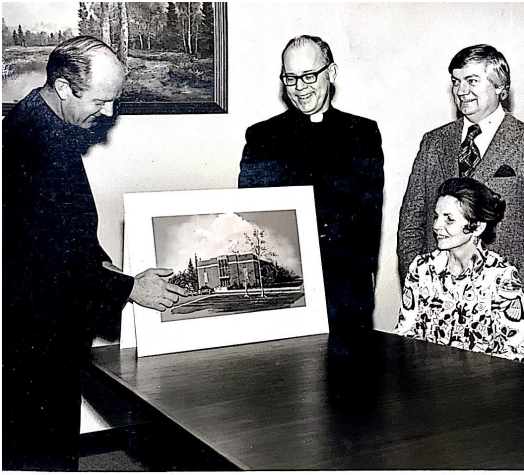
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Subscribe to sama-art.org to join our email list and be the first to know about events like these!



FIND US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

PLAN YOUR VISIT TODAY!



Presentation of Doyle Hall at Saint Francis University to become Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, date approx fall 1974.

Year of Legacy *(cont' from front page)*

“SAMA’s 50th anniversary is not just a celebration of the Museum but also a celebration of the people, artists, and communities who have supported and enriched its journey,” said Sandra Hampton, Director of Operations. “We are excited to honor our past while looking forward to a vibrant future for the arts in our region.”

SAMA invites everyone to join in this historic celebration.

Follow our facebook pages for more details and event announcements as the anniversary approaches this summer.

- @SAMAaltoona
- @SAMAbedford
- @SAMAjohnstown
- @SAMAligonier
- @SAMAloretto

SAMA TOUR CONTEST

Visit each museum in 2025 for your chance to win a \$250 Amazon gift card!

We’re hosting an exciting new contest designed to inspire art enthusiasts to explore four of our locations in 2025: Altoona, Bedford, Ligonier, and Johnstown. From January 1, 2025, through October 31, 2025, visitors can embark on an unforgettable journey through captivating exhibitions and engaging events at each museum—and enter for a chance to win a \$250 Amazon Gift Card!

This special contest is part of SAMA’s 50th Anniversary celebration, commemorating five decades of fostering the arts and enriching the cultural fabric of Pennsylvania. Join us as we honor this milestone with an art-filled adventure like no other!

To participate, pick up a SAMA Tour Passport card at the first SAMA location you visit. Present your passport card at the front desk of each museum location to receive a stamp. Visit all four locations between January 1, 2025, and October 31, 2025.

Once your passport is fully stamped, you’ll be eligible to win an exclusive prize! The winner will be announced on Saturday, November 1, 2025. To claim the prize, participants must present their completed passport card.

This initiative offers a unique opportunity to celebrate the arts and experience the rich cultural heritage of Pennsylvania. With diverse exhibitions and exciting events planned throughout the year, each SAMA location promises a one-of-a-kind visit. Don’t miss your chance to be part of this historic anniversary celebration!

If you have questions or need additional details about the SAMA Tour Passport contest, please contact SAMA Altoona at altoona@sama-art.org or call (814) 946-4464.

Don’t miss your chance to map out your art adventure—start your journey today!

SAMA LEGACY CHALLENGE

HELP US REACH \$100K.

Your contribution to the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art is critical to our success. Serving the community through educational, cultural, and fulfilling opportunities requires assistance from a range of resources.

Thoughtful donations by members and patrons help us keep our four museums in Altoona, Bedford, Johnstown, and Ligonier open to the public free of charge. Donations also help fund world-class exhibitions and a diverse range of programming from tours of rotating exhibitions, signature fundraisers, traditional workshops and art camps for all ages, innovative Arts-in-Education programs in our schools, and more.



FIRING UP CREATIVITY

SAMA's Expanding Education Program Brings Raku Pottery to Local Schools.



Art teacher, Tom Billeck, at Hempfield Area School District demonstrates Raku firing in ceramics.

Bringing hands-on art experiences to students across the region, SAMA continues to expand its educational outreach. With residencies now hosted at 33 schools and community organizations—and more applications arriving—the program's impact is stronger than ever.

One particularly exciting residency took place at Hempfield Area School District in Westmoreland County. High school art teacher Tom Billeck sought a teaching artist with expertise in Raku firing, a centuries-old Japanese ceramics technique. Dating back to the 16th century, Raku firing involves rapidly removing pottery from a kiln at its peak temperature and applying finishing touches to create unique textures and patterns.

To bring this specialized art form to his students, Billeck collaborated with SAMA's newest teaching artist, Alexis Dillan. With extensive experience in Raku firing, Dillan guided students through the intricate process, helping them craft stunning ceramic pieces that reflected both technical skill and creative expression. This residency not only introduced students to an ancient and beautiful art form but also provided a rare opportunity to experiment with unconventional ceramic techniques.

The enthusiasm generated by this residency has sparked further collaboration. In the spring, students from Greensburg Salem High School will visit Hempfield to observe the Raku firing process firsthand. Inspired by what they learn, they plan to incorporate

BECOME A TEACHING ARTIST

SAMA Teaching Artists have the opportunity to provide hands-on art activities to students from a school participating in a SAMA residency. Approved artists are required to participate in professional development workshops that prepare them for the program and to attend advanced training each year they are listed in the approved Teaching Artist Directory.

Learn more and apply to be a teaching artist today to change a child's life tomorrow! Deadline for the 2025-26 school year, August 15, 2025. Visit sama-art.org/pcaresidencies.

this technique into their own ceramics program, expanding the reach of this unique art form even further.

SAMA's commitment to fostering artistic growth through specialized residencies demonstrates the power of hands-on learning and creative exploration. As the program continues to flourish, students across the region will gain even more opportunities to engage with new artistic traditions and techniques, ensuring a vibrant future for arts education.

To learn more about SAMA's educational programs, visit sama-art.org/education.



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SAMA CELEBRATES

WOLF-KUHN FOUNDATION DEDICATION

The Wolf-Kuhn Foundation has been a generous supporter of art education at SAMA Altoona, helping to provide accessible and enriching programs for the community. Gerald Wolf, a dedicated patron of the arts, played a vital role in fostering SAMA's mission and ensuring its continued growth. His passion and commitment to the arts will be deeply missed, but his legacy will live on through the foundation's ongoing support.

ARTISTS OF THE 21st CENTURY

SAMA expands the exhibition to include Johnstown in the Museum's twenty-seventh annual student art exhibition.



Families visit artworks on display at SAMA Altoona exhibition celebration.



KIDS ART CAMPS & WORKSHOPS

Bedford: June 23-27
@ Bedford Presbyterian Church

Altoona: July 14-18
@ Fairview Hills Center

Ligonier: July 21-25
@ Loyalhanna Watershed Assoc.



Register for art camp and find more events and workshops at sama-art.org/events-list

The exhibition is open to schools that participate in SAMA's Arts-in-Education or Artist-in-Residence programs. Each district is permitted to submit up to 30 individual projects and two group projects. Through the programs, SAMA educators and professional artists travel to public and parochial schools to provide lessons designed to enhance students' understanding of art creation, technique, history, critique, and aesthetics. SAMA's award-winning education initiative is the largest of its kind in the Commonwealth. Artworks from the SAMA Education Collection that are used by the teaching artists in the Arts-in-Education program to educate students in a school setting accompany and supplement the exhibition.

This year, to help celebrate our twenty-seventh anniversary, artwork from the teachers was

included in the exhibition and juried awards were given to students in grades 9th through the 12th at each SAMA location. Johnstown hosted its first student art exhibition with artwork from Johnstown School District and Blacklick Valley. At Altoona, artwork from schools in Blair county and several Cambria county schools were displayed. Bedford displayed student artwork from the Bedford County Schools, and Ligonier Valley showcased student artwork from schools in Fayette and Westmoreland counties.

These exhibitions are sponsored by the Sigma Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa International Honorary Organization for Women Educators. This project was made possible through the AIE Partnership of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency.

LOCAL ARTISTS



Clare Kaczmarek, "Wormhole", photograph.

29th SPCARTS

Another successful year for the annual juried regional exhibition.

Each year, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Council for the Arts endeavors to create a space where 19 southwestern county artists can showcase their current work at SAMA Ligonier. Last year's exhibition presented a fresh and eclectic mix of works from 60 regional artists. Thank you for supporting the emerging and established artists with your presence and patronage. Award winners of this exhibition are as follows:

FIRST PRIZE: Dai Morgan, *Providence and the Motorcycle Ride*
SECOND PRIZE: Adalberto Ortiz, *Garden Bug*:
THIRD PRIZE: Margaret Black, *Glory Bee*
FOURTH PRIZE: William Karaffa, *Handle with Care*
AWARDS OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION, EXCELLENCE, AND MERIT: Skip Allen, Larry Mallory, Mark Weleski, Eileen Stoner, Duncan Everhart, and Stuart Thompson.

SHOWCASING PENNSYLVANIA TALENT



Manfred posing in front of an artwork shown at Altoona.

"Emotions in Art" offered a profound and personal exploration of the human emotional spectrum. Artist Heidi Manfred spent 2023 creating four distinct collections, each focusing on a central emotional theme: Happy, Sad, Confident, and Angry. Through thirteen oil paintings in each collection, Manfred captured the peaks and valleys of our emotive experiences, providing a direct and powerful representation of individual feelings like joy, sorrow, and everything in between. Her work resonated deeply with visitors, offering a visual journey through emotions that connected on both personal and universal levels. The exhibition was a moving testament to the power of art.



Rossman poses in front of artworks shown at Bedford.

Val Rossman's remarkable career as a professional abstract artist has spanned over 40 years, during which she created dynamic drawings and paintings in her studio. Known for blending careful planning with unpredictable interruptions, Rossman's work showcased the beauty of spontaneity within structured compositions. Alongside her prolific studio practice, she shared her expertise by teaching at the Wayne Art Center and Woodmere Art Museum, inspiring countless students. Her unique approach and dedication to both creating and teaching have left a lasting impact on the Bedford community, solidifying her reputation as a leading figure in contemporary abstract art.



FUNDRAISER SUCCESSES

A successful return of Dueling Pianos and From Italy with Love.

Dueling Pianos: Bubblegum Daydreams took place on Friday, November 1, 2024 at the Blairmont Club, and From Italy With Love was reinstated as a Valentine’s Day event held on Friday, February 14, 2025 at the Casino at Lakemont Park.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported our fundraisers. Your generosity

and enthusiasm make it possible for us to continue our mission of celebrating the arts, fostering creativity, and enriching our community.

Each event was a success because of your support—our donors, sponsors, volunteers, and attendees—who believe in the power of the arts to inspire and transform lives. Whether you attended, contributed, or helped behind the scenes, your dedication is truly appreciated. As we look ahead to another exciting year, we hope you will continue to be part of our journey. Thank you for making a difference and ensuring that the arts remain a vibrant part of our community. We can’t wait to celebrate with you again soon!

See page 7 for dates of upcoming events and fundraisers. Become a member to receive invitations to signature fundraisers like the Gala, Dueling Pianos, Jingle in July, and more in 2025!



Guests enjoyed “the Frank Sinatra Show” by Rich DeSimone!

DONATE. SPONSOR. ADVERTISE. SUPPORT.

Attending our signature fundraiser events is not the only way to help with SAMA fundraising.

- Donate items for silent auction like paid vacations and weekend getaways, tickets to concerts or sporting events, and themed gift baskets.
- Sponsor a table as a business or as a group of individuals to get reduced price tickets and be recognized in advertising and at the event as a SAMA supporter.
- Advertise your business with a print ad in the evening program to be seen by the crowd of diverse attendants.
- Donate to SAMA’s annual giving campaign to allow for endless opportunities for your dollars to be put to use!

Thank you to all who support SAMA through donations, patronage, volunteering, attendance and committee membership to make our fundraisers such a success!

Find more details about fundraisers and events at sama-art.org



Mark Your Calendars

THANK YOU



TO ALL OUR AMAZING BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF FOR YOUR SERVICE IN 2024 AND BEYOND.

Sat, May 24 | Altoona Art for Your Heart

Lace up, and let your heart beat for the arts! This heart-healthy event invites participants of all ages and fitness levels to run, walk, and promote a healthy lifestyle while making a positive impact on the cultural vibrancy of our community. Pre-register for \$25 by April 30th to be guaranteed a race day t-shirt. Race starts at 9:00 a.m.

Sat, May 31 | Altoona SAMA Royale Gala

Guests will sip on shaken-not-stirred martinis, sample gourmet cuisine, and dance the night away to a special performance by Radio Tokyo at this James Bond themed fundraiser. Join us at the Casino at Lakemont Park from 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. We encourage our guests to join us for an evening of international intrigue.

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Sat, Aug 2 | Bedford Robinson Biennial 2025

Join us for the Donald M. Robinson Photography Biennial exhibition Awards Reception at 6:00 p.m. Cost to attend is \$25 per person. Mingle with the artists and award winners. Appetizers, refreshments and imbibements are included. Registration is required for this event by Friday, July 25th and can be made online at sama-art.org or by contacting the museum at (814) 589-3020.

Sat, Jul 12 | Ligonier Jingle in July

Cool things down at the Jingle in July fundraiser! Guests are invited to chill out this summer at this outdoor Holiday celebration. Starting at 5:00 p.m. at the Ligonier Valley Museum, enjoy some festive lights and stroll through the Spirit of Place: Fallingwater Paintings exhibition. Relax by the fire and roast some marshmallows.

STAFF

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(814) 589-3020

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Johnstown

450 Schoolhouse Road
Johnstown, PA 15904
(814) 269-7234

By appointment and
during performances at
the Pasquerilla Center

Ligonier

One Boucher Lane &
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Ligonier, PA 15658
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