

THE GALLERY



The philanthropic spirit is alive and well at SAMA

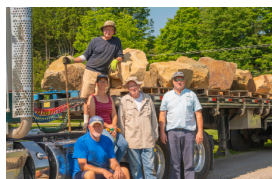
The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art (SAMA) is delighted to announce a momentous donation that will further enrich its esteemed collection. Lois Glass Benson has generously gifted “Andrew Carnegie at the Market” by Joseph Woodwell, an exceptional 19th century artwork, to the museum.

On the donation, her son, Jonathan Benson (left) provided background on the provenance of the piece.

He stated, “In 1928, my mother’s parents received this painting as a wedding gift from an uncle who paid \$79 for the artwork originally. She was an artist who went to Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she met my father who was a musician. Because she was an artist and a Pittsburgh girl, she knew the value of the painting and how special it was. She wanted to give this

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PLAN YOUR VISIT TODAY!



Ligonier art camp was so popular, an extra week was offered to the community.

THANK YOU

A special thank you to our Educational Improvement Tax Credit sponsors for your continued support. We utilize funds to create AIR programs for local students, supply art kits for special programming, and bring our permanent collection into classrooms throughout our region at little or no cost to the school districts that want and need arts programming. Donations made to SAMA's Annual Giving Fund can also be contributed to educational programming. Please consider donating today!

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To learn more about becoming an EITC Sponsor, please contact Kristin Miller at SAMA Ligonier at (724) 238-6015.

Education Update

This year, camps were offered by the Altoona, Bedford, and Ligonier museums at off-site locations. Thank you to SAMA Teaching Artists, Deb Bunnell and Amy Roadman, and the organizations which hosted the week-long events: Fairview Hills Community Center, Trinity Lutheran Church, and the Loyalhanna Watershed Association Barn. We were thrilled to have a record turnout at all three museums!

The camps are taught in small, informal groups to foster the child's creativity, personal growth, and interest in the arts. Students enhance their developmental skills including problem-solving, organization, self-direction, communication,

and collaboration through creative lessons. The most important objective is for the children to have fun!

Art camps are made possible through the AIE Partnership of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The PCA Arts in Education Partner in this region is SAMA. Thank you to additional generous donors like the Grable Foundation, Jack Buncher Foundation, the Wolf-Kuhn Foundation, the Syra Bettwy Fund and the Stephen J. Pellegrine Scholarship Fund.

Follow us on facebook for announcements of dates and locations next Spring!

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

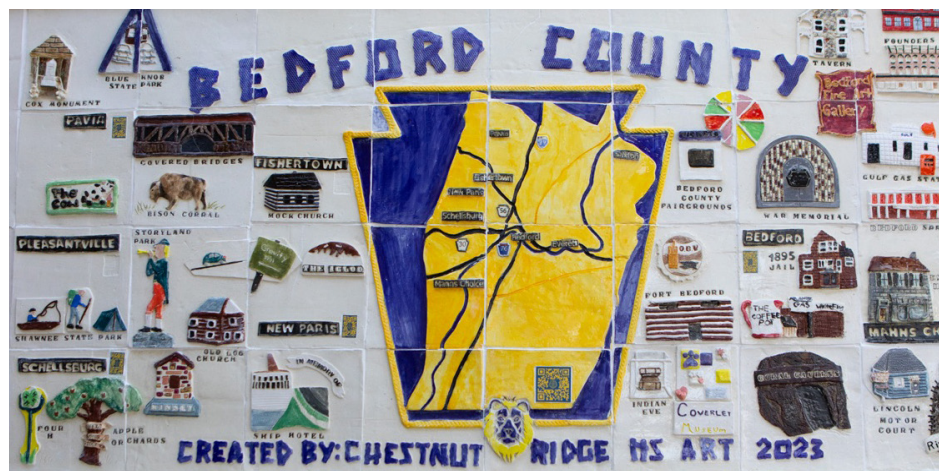


Photo provided courtesy of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) and Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC).

An extraordinary residency, known as Art Sparks, took place this year at the Everett School District. With veteran teaching artist Bob Zabrosky, high school students embarked on a journey to conceive and craft a ceramic mural that showcases notable destinations in Bedford County. Ingeniously, the students incorporated QR codes to allow viewers to delve deeper into the significance of each site. This magnificent work graces the Bedford North Plaza of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, ensuring that it will be admired by countless individuals for generations to come.



Photograph by Clare J. Kaczmarek of new Jack Mayer sculpture and pond.

LIGONIER GARDENS

The meticulous care and a passion for horticulture by this group created a stunning landscape for the community.

The seven gardens at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art in Ligonier are being revitalized. Each garden will have their own individual appearance and the new additions will make stronger statements during all twelve months of the year. Giant boulders, new shrubs and ornamental trees and perennials will be added. As well, a fountain sculpture by Ligonier artist, Jack Mayer, has been added.

Michael M. Strueber, Director Emeritus of SAMA, reflects on the day, "Tuesday, July 11, 2023, was a stellar day for SAMA Ligonier's gardens. We cleared, placed, and secured 18 giant boulders that weighed a total of fifteen tons that were delivered from Tussey Landscaping in Hollidaysburg, PA. As well, we cleared, placed, dug, and secured a truckload of shrubs, trees, and perennials from Martin's Garden Center in Tyrone, PA. Both companies gave us contractors' prices

and significantly reduced delivery charges. In addition, we continued restructuring five of the seven gardens. These gardens are huge and challenging and will take time, resources, and continued labor to evolve. Now, five of the seven gardens are greatly improved, weather and deer permitting."

Strueber oversaw the development of the museum and its initial landscape and gardens twenty-five years ago. Joan Mudge, SAMA Trustee, along with Site Director, Kristin Miller, and the museum staff have been of great assistance. The team boasts an extensive knowledge of plants, effortlessly transforming the SAMA Ligonier garden into a breathtaking botanical sanctuary.

Thank you to the companies who worked with us on this important environmental project, and to the dedicate team of laborers for their hard work.

Philanthropic spirit *(cont' from front)*

painting to a place where it would be appreciated. We called museums in Pittsburgh, and they weren't interested. We found the Bedford Fine Art Gallery in the surrounding area, and Gerald Hawk (member, SAMA Board of Trustees, cover photo right) directed us to your museum. When we looked into the Museum and saw the way you share and rotate your collection in different exhibitions at different locations, we knew it was the right fit. My mother wanted it to be seen and appreciated. She said, 'That's perfect. This is what I want to do'."

SAMA extends its deepest appreciation to Jonathan and Lois Glass Benson for their charitable disposition. This donation is an invaluable addition to the already diverse and distinguished collection. This work represents a pivotal moment in art history that will undoubtedly become a centerpiece in exhibitions and enhance our efforts to engage visitors from all walks of life.



Joseph Woodwell, *Andrew Carnegie at the Market*, n.d.

EXHIBITION SUCCESSES



Visitors delight in photographs from this exhibit.

DONALD M. ROBINSON PHOTOGRAPHY BIENNIAL

Altoona is excited to report on the success of the Donald M. Robinson Photography Biennial, featuring an exhibition, an awards celebration, photography symposium, a publication of essays, and an outdoor exhibition.

Juried by Dan Leers, the Curator of Photography at the Carnegie Museum of Art, the Biennial exhibition featured approximately 50 artists and photographers from around the world. The Donald M. Robinson Photography Biennial was exhibited in all three galleries of Altoona. Award winners of this exhibition were as follows:

First Place: Michael Hunter Thompson, Park Pool, 2020

Second Place: Gary Baranec, Return, 2008

Third Place: Don Claude, Super Mom, 2018

Honorable Mention: Jack Powell, Whale Fall #1, 2020

MORE FROM LIGONIER

Currently on display at Ligonier is a dual exhibition. J. D. Titzel's exhibition titled, "An Appreciation for the Familiar" covers a plethora of his 2D oil work from over the last 30 years. His artwork is juxtaposing a special glass exhibition displaying the history and majesty of Bryce Glass. This carefully curated exhibition titled, The Art and Novelty of Bryce Glass, will celebrate the rich history and important role the Bryce family and Bryce, McKee & Co. played in our region. See these two exhibitions on display through November 5, 2023.



Gallery shot of In Our Elements exhibition. Photograph by Ashley Samek.

Sirofchuck: In Our Elements

Paul, Mandy & Clair Sirofchuck family exhibition of works in wood, glass and paint tops annual attendance charts.

In Our Elements, was a family exhibition of work by Paul, Mandy & Clair Sirofchuck. Visitors enjoyed a realm of artistic heritage in an exhibition that beautifully displayed together the creative voices of a single family. A diverse array of artworks gave witness to a remarkable synergy of shared inspiration and individual

perspectives of each member for the Sirofchuck family. From masterful brushstrokes to innovative sculptures, this unique showcase celebrated the dynamic artistic legacy that flows through generations. The May 2023 exhibition led to record-breaking attendance nearing 900 visitors at the Museum that month.

THIS SUMMER AT SAMA

Bedford 5th Anniversary

SAMA provides local and regional history to the community in celebration of the branch's 5th Anniversary of serving Bedford.

The Anderson house underwent major renovations from April 2016 to May 2018 to become home to the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art in Bedford. In honor of our five-year anniversary, Bedford hosted a "Summer of History" series of exhibitions from Michael Morgart, Lincoln Highway

Heritage Center, and Fort Bedford Museum. The summer culminated in the opening of the newly constructed pavilion sanctuary and renovated gardens. As the beautification continues, we would like to share some personalized opportunities to all our SAMA friends and family.

(cont. in green box)



Gallery shot of the 2023 Summer of History exhibition at SAMA Bedford.

TEXTILES UNLEASHED

This exhibition was a juried exhibition of fiber-based artwork by Pennsylvania regional members of Studio Art Quilt Associates.



Sue Reno, *In Dreams I Slept in a Cabin*, 2019.

Textiles Unleashed was sponsored by Benzel's Bretzel Bakery. The exhibition showcased a wide range of 2D and 3D quilt artworks, and highlighted the diverse styles and techniques of an art form that prioritizes aesthetic value over utility. The jurist selected the quilts from over 100 entries submitted by current members of SAQA-PA (and those that have listed PA as their second region.) According to co-curators Meredith Eachus Armstrong and Sharon Wall, "working with fiber stretches back to ancient times and has grown and developed across the centuries into a vibrant art form encompassing a variety of materials and processes from low to high tech."

BRICKS

Bedford is working to replace deteriorating bricks along the walking path through the Mouse Myers Grass Garden, from the back of the museum porch to the new pavilion, and surrounding the new gardens! You may personalize a brick for you, your family, or even honor a loved one. The donated bricks will enhance the experience for all of our visitors as a lasting tribute paving the way for generations to come. It's easy to get started! Brick ordering is open through December 31, 2023. Bricks cost \$100 and will be installed in the Spring of 2024. There's limited space so place your order as soon as possible!



Order a personalized brick to be remembered forever in your home town.

Monte Carlo Gala



We are deeply thankful for your unwavering support in making a difference in the lives of those we serve.

In the heart of Altoona, an evening of unparalleled elegance and artistic splendor unfolded at the Gala Fundraiser which was held at the Altoona Grand Hotel. The much-anticipated Gala brought together art enthusiasts, philanthropists, and community members to celebrate and support the museum's mission. With a blend of captivating artwork in our live and silent auctions, delectable cuisine, and an atmosphere of excitement, the Gala stands as a shining

beacon of the museum's commitment to artistic excellence and community engagement. The addition of live music and the casino gave another layer of enchantment to the evening. We could not hold the fundraiser without our Gala Committee and all of those who supported and attended the Gala. **THANK YOU!** Your generosity has made a profound impact on our museums. Download your pictures from the event using the QR code provided.



Guests test their luck with celebrity dealer, John McKeegan, President at Mount Aloysius College.

Altoona's New Look

Altoona installed permanent window displays showcasing examples of the beautiful artworks that can be found in our permanent collection. These new, colorfully vivid window displays add visual flair to SAMA and downtown Altoona. In addition to beautifying the area, these window displays also function as insulation which will reduce SAMA's ecological footprint and increase our building's ability to regulate temperature

in a greener, more cost effective manner. Thanks to the data of the City of Altoona environmental heat map survey and the skilled project execution of SAMA's Facilities Manager, Lee Rummel, we were able to eliminate the heat leakage from our windows while also adding a large pop of color. SAMA hopes to continue to provide free access to fine arts to add value to the lives of Altoona residents.

THANK YOU

TO ALL OUR AMAZING BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF FOR MANY SUCESSFUL EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS IN 2023.

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FLYING IVORIES RETURN

Altoona's 21st annual fundraiser is hosted by co-chairs, Debora Van Duren and Ehrin Ward.

Join us for Dueling Pianos: Neon Nights, an unforgettable experience where creativity, philanthropy, and entertainment unite in a symphony of neon brilliance. On November 3, 2023 at the Blairmont Club, guests will have the opportunity to indulge in a sensory journey through dinner stations that delight the taste buds and visually complement the overall ambiance thoughtfully prepared by the celebrated chef.

Live music from the Flying Ivories will keep the energy high as guests dance the night away. Specializing in all-request,

sing-along, totally interactive dueling piano shows, the Flying Ivories tackle music from any genre. The audience is encouraged to get involved in the pianist's antics in this combination musical performance and comedy act.

Guests are encouraged to embrace the neon theme in their attire, donning their boldest and brightest ensembles. From glowing accessories to neon patterns, the dress code reflects the playful and vibrant spirit of the evening. The core mission of the event is to raise funds



The Flying Ivories at 2022 Dueling Pianos.

for SAMA's initiatives. A silent auction featuring unique neon artworks, exclusive experiences, and luxurious items will tempt guests to bid generously, knowing that their contributions support our exceptional programs, numerous changing exhibitions, and award-winning educational experiences.

Scan the QR code to buy tickets or become a sponsor.



Mark Your Calendars



**Fri, Sep 29 | Altoona
Art After Dark**
A new monthly event series.

With its casual laidback atmosphere, Art After Dark will showcase a variety of local talent from musicians, artists, and local oddities. From 6-8pm, bring friends to explore the museum and its offerings, and mingle with others in this creative community gathering featuring live performances, art, and more. Cost \$10 per person.



**Fri, Oct 27 | Bedford
Exhibition Celebration**
Artwork by Val Rossman.

Slow / Fast / In Between, will be on view in the Titelman and the Paula and Dean Lemley Galleries from October 27, 2023 until January 21, 2024. We invite you to celebrate with us from 6-8pm! Cost \$15.00 per person, and additional donations are always greatly appreciated to help support this program and other programs offered by SAMA.



**Sat, Nov 11 | Ligonier
SPCArts Reception**
Join us for refreshments with the artists.

Bring your friends and family to the opening reception from 6-8pm where award winning artists will be announced and awards will be distributed. Make reservations for you and your guests on our event list page at sama-art.org. We look forward to seeing you there! Cost \$10 per person.



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Front: Jonathan Benson and Gerald Hawk pose next to the artwork donated to SAMA. Photograph by Jonathan Benson.

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Bedford

137 E. Pitt St.
Bedford, PA 15522
(814) 589-3020

Hours:
Wednesday-Sunday:
12:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Johnstown

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

During school calendar:
Monday-Friday
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Ligonier

One Boucher Lane &
Route 711 South
Ligonier, PA 15658
(724) 238-6015

Hours:
Wednesday-Sunday:
12:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Loretto

112 Franciscan Way
P.O. Box 9
Loretto, PA 15940
(814) 472-3920

Hours:
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HOLIDAY HOURS: Closed Nov 23, Dec 24 & 25, Dec 31, & Jan 1.

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