

THE GALLERY



SAMA receives highest honor in 2023 “Year of Service”

Reaccreditation is a process that takes several years, where every aspect of the museum’s operations, scholarship and conservation efforts is analyzed and evaluated. Of the United States’ estimated 33,000 museums, only 1,099 have earned the standing of currently accredited. In Pennsylvania alone, there are only 35 institutions with this achievement. On November 22, 2022, the American Alliance of

Museums (AAM), the only organization representing the entire scope of the museum community, announced the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art has earned reaccreditation.

Over the past two years, SAMA’s staff and Board of Trustees have worked with AAM to present the museum’s strategic plan, operating procedures, and hundreds of pages worth of reports. The Commission

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

uses these materials and its collective expertise to grant reaccreditation for ten years, deny reaccreditation, or defer to gather more information. Through a rigorous process of assessment and review, AAM determined SAMA demonstrated we meet standards and best practices and are an educational entity that is an appropriate steward of the collections and resources

we hold in the public trust. The Accreditation Program ensures the integrity and accessibility of museum collections, reinforces the educational and public service roles of museums, and promotes good governance practices and ethical behavior. It is the highest professional honor bestowed upon a museum. We are honored to have received reaccreditation.

WELCOME TRUSTEES

Educated and experienced new members join SAMA for an exciting new year!

We are pleased to announce our newest Board of Trustee members, Meghan Bardell and Ehrin Ward. Bardell and Ward will join existing members in overseeing the organization and representing SAMA proudly in the six counties we serve Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fayette, Somerset, and Westmoreland. Together they will fulfill SAMA's mission to preserve, exhibit, and advance American art and bring educational and cultural programs and activities to the people of the southwestern area of central Pennsylvania.

Meghan Bardell is the finance and marketing director at Howard Hanna Bardell Realty but is also a self-employed artist. Bardell has been exhibiting her works of art in several galleries in Maryland and Pennsylvania since 2009. Bardell said "I have been an "artist" since birth. I give everything I do 120% effort and refuse to fail or give up, and I always try to inspire my children to work hard every single day, just like my parents and grandparents did for us

kids growing up". Meghan is looking forward to helping and promoting art and artists in our communities.

Ehrin Ward has a background in fine art and textile design. She received her Bachelor's degree from Albright College in Reading, PA with a major in fine art and a minor in fashion illustration. Ehrin continued her studies receiving a master's degree in textile design from Philadelphia University (now Thomas Jefferson University) in Philadelphia, PA.

Ehrin has always had a passion for the arts, both visual and performing. She enjoys watercolor painting and illustration and is happy to be part of SAMA's community.

In addition to new trustees, SAMA also has new roles for current staff members, Danté DiAndrea and Hannah Harley. See more about their new roles inside this edition of *The Gallery*. Congratulations staff and trustees!

THANK YOU

TO ALL OUR AMAZING BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF FOR YOUR SERVICE IN 2022 AND BEYOND.

STAFF

Danté DiAndrea, Altoona Site Director
Christi Draves, Bedford Site Director
Sandra Hampton, Director of Operations
Beverlie Hartnett, Registrar
Hannah Harley, Director of Development and Curator, Johnstown and Loretto
Erica Kilbride, Director of Marketing
Kristin Miller, Ligonier Valley Site Director and Education Coordinator
Lee Rummel, Facilities Manager
Michael M. Strueber, Director Emeritus

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Ehrin Ward
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Gerald P. Wolf, Emeritus

BECOME A MEMBER

Did you renew your membership for 2023? Purchase today to continue receiving announcements and benefits like this newsletter provided only to valued SAMA members.

In the 2023 Year of Service, we want to make it all about you! We want to hear from members and visitors about their experiences at SAMA and their passion for the arts in our community. In our first of several testimonial videos SAMA will produce this year, hear from President of the

Board of Trustees, Barry H. Newborn. Use the camera app of your smartphone to follow the QR code to Barry H. Newborn's testimonial on why SAMA matters to him on Youtube @SAMAartonline.



Education Update

The Museum/Healthcare Partnership (MHP) and Artist-In-Residence (AIR) programs are going strong.

MHP residencies are designed to help area residents suffering from mental or physical conditions. Currently, we have a residency planned with UPMC in Somerset County at Twin Lakes Treatment Center with teaching artist, Evgeny Krayushkin.

We also have a residency with Bethlen Communities in Westmoreland County. Teaching Artist, Rita Haldeman, will be facilitating that residency. In late spring 2023, SAMA Loretto will be displaying a special, "Arts for Healing" exhibition from a residency completed by Evgeny during a residency with Conemaugh Hospital.

There are two very special AIR residencies this year. We are highlighting our "Art Sparks" Residencies with two Bedford school districts. The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Turnpike has

offered these very special programs to schools near the turnpike. With the support from SAMA teaching artists, these residencies have blossomed into fantastic murals which guests will enjoy for years to come.

This year, Everett Area School District and Chestnut Ridge School District are participating in this exciting opportunity. Each school has teaching artist, Bob Zabrosky, visiting. The students from each district are creating a special mural which displays their distinct venues and important locations from their region in the county. It also highlights their school spirit. Once completed, these murals will be placed at the Turnpike plazas located in Bedford county for visitors to view for many years to come. A special unveiling will be celebrated in late spring for both districts.

NEW POSITION: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

We are pleased to announce the appointment of SAMA veteran Hannah Harley to the position of Director of Development and Curator of Johnstown and Loretto. With Harley's recent interest and successes in grant writing for SAMA, she will focus her attention on obtaining funding for projects across all SAMA sites. She will relocate to the main office at Loretto where she will also curate exciting and thought-provoking exhibitions for both the Loretto and Johnstown branches.

BECOME A TEACHING ARTIST

The Artist-in-Residence (AIR) program allows students to interact directly with professional teaching artists in a student/mentor relationship with mutual involvement in the creative process. Presentations are designed to offer in-depth learning about particular artistic disciplines for students, teachers, arts groups, and the community at large.

Apply to be a teaching artist today to change a child's life tomorrow! Deadline for the 2023-24 school year, August 15, 2023.

Become a part of something special.

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SAMA CELEBRATES

NEW DIRECTOR AT SAMA ALTOONA

We are pleased to announce the promotion of the SAMA Loretto Site Coordinator, Danté DiAndrea to the position of SAMA Altoona, Site Director. He is excited for the opportunity to spearhead several of SAMA's signature fundraisers, From Italy with Love and Dueling Pianos, as well as collaborate on the Donald M. Robinson Photography Biennial 2023 Exhibition and Symposium this summer.

ARTISTS OF THE 21st CENTURY

SAMA celebrates the area's talented young artists with the Museum's twenty-fifth annual student art exhibition.



All three galleries at Altoona showcase student artwork for the first time.



ANNOUNCING DATES AND LOCATIONS

Bedford: June 26-30
@ Trinity Lutheran Church

Altoona: July 10-14
@ Community Center at
Fairview Hills

Ligonier: July 31-Aug 8
@ Ligonier Watershed

The exhibition is open to schools that participate in SAMA's Arts-in-Education or Artist-in-Residence program. Each district is permitted to submit up to 25 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 was a first for Altoona who hosted the student artwork on behalf of Loretto which

was closed for renovations. At Altoona, you will find student artwork from schools in Blair, Somerset, and Cambria counties. Bedford displays student artwork from the Bedford County Schools, and Ligonier Valley showcases student artwork from schools in Fayette and Westmoreland counties.

The exhibition will be displayed at Altoona until April 16, 2023, Bedford until April 23, 2023, and Ligonier until April 30, 2023. This exhibition is sponsored by the Sigma Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa International Honorary Organization for Women Educators and the Jack Buncher Foundation.

This project was made possible through the AIE Partnership of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency.



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

LOCAL ARTISTS



Adalberto Ortiz, *Pennant*, Acrylic on Canvas.

27th 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, *Runaway Pony*

SECOND PRIZE: Connie Clutter, *Disparaged*

THIRD PRIZE: Stuart Thompson, *ART (Albuquerque Rapid Transit)*

FOURTH PRIZE: Richaed McWherter, *The Strength of Dreaming*

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE: William Karaffa & Elizabeth Sickles

AWARD OF MERIT: Joseph Syznar, Eileen Stoner, Larry Mallory, Adalberto Ortiz.



Visitors are drawn in by the beauty of the oversized artworks submitted for this year's juried exhibition.

BIENNIAL 2023

SAMA Loretto reopened on February 3, 2023 with new events and exhibitions to offer. Occuring every two years, *Biennial* is a juried exhibition which celebrates the impressive creative talent of artists from across our state of Pennsylvania. The exhibition is sponsored by Benzel's Bretzel Bakery.

Biennial is an opportunity for contemporary artists to be

recognized for their excellence by competing for several awards adjudicated by this year's awards jury. Artworks featured in this show were selected by this year's selection juror, Thomas Paquette. This year's award committee consisted of Dr. Pete Skoner, Dean of the School of STEAM and Professor at SFU, Jessica Campbell, Assistant Professor of Visual Arts, and SFU students Julie Scagline and Julie Hart.

LORETTO IS OPEN

Join us for the Awards Reception on April 1, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Cost to attend is \$25 per person. Appetizers, refreshments and imbibements are included. Registration is required for this event by March 31st and can be made online at sama-art.org or by contacting the museum at (814) 472-3920.

Meet the Biennial 2023 exhibition award winners!

"Best of Show" - "Yosemite" by Nancy Hershberger

1st Place - "Encroachment" by Robin Gibson

2nd Place - "My Paint Box" by Robert D. Huckestein

3rd Place - "Locked Out" by Jeff Mathison



SAMA RAFFLE

This holiday season SAMA raffled off Sheetz gift cards to raise funds for the 2023 Year of Service in celebration of our 47th Anniversary.

Our staff and trustees did an amazing job getting the word out and selling raffle tickets to friends, family, and visitors of SAMA.

Congratulations to the winners Jana Sidler, Gorden Smith, and Bob Strang.

We thank Sheetz for their generosity in donating prizes for this fundraiser.

FUNDRAISER SUCCESSES

A successful return of Crystal Soiree and Dueling Pianos.

Bedford's Crystal Soirée took place at the opulent Omni Bedford Springs Resort and Spa on Saturday, January 28, 2023.

Christi Draves, Site Director at SAMA Bedford, stated, "I was humbled by the efforts put forth by the committee, donors, sponsors, attendees, staff, and volunteers; and am endlessly grateful for their efforts in

making the Crystal Soirée 2023 such a success.

It positively reflects our presence and efforts within the community and proves that we are a vital component of downtown Bedford. To all who came together to support two amazing organizations, thank you! We strive to directly work towards the betterment of

the community every day. It's incredible to see what good the museum can do for this region, and we are so glad so many people were a part of it! The evening proved to be as exciting and entertaining as hoped, and was a wonderful way to start the year in celebration of things to come."

Altoona's Dueling Pianos took place at Hollidaysburg's beautiful Blairmont Club on Friday, November 4th, 2022. On this year's Dueling Pianos event, Hannah Harley states, "Thank you to all the attendees, sponsors, and supporters who gave to SAMA's Dueling Pianos event in 2022! We are honored by your efforts to support this valuable institution. Thank you to our chairs, Tiffany and Matt Stuckey & Ehrin and Bill Ward Jr., for making this such a beautiful event. They worked incredibly hard behind the scenes and were, as always, such a treat to work with.

We are endlessly grateful for their efforts in making this night such a success.

I also want to express my gratitude to the SAMA staff and the Board of Trustees, the Blairmont Club, and the committee for this event. Our sponsors, attendees, and donors mean the world to us and your attendance was a meaningful contribution to helping us support our community seven days a week. It takes a village to make these events happen, and we are all fortunate to be a part of such a community."



Mark Your Calendars



Sat, March 25 | Altoona From Italy with Love

Italian wine and food you cannot get anywhere else! Indulge in the taste of Italy with wine from DellaVino Imports Warehouse. Experience a curated culinary experience with the perfectly paired menu from the celebrated chef at The Casino at Lakemont Park. See you at 6:00 p.m. at the Casino for chance auction, raffle and more!



Sat, July 22 | SAMA Gala: Monte Carlo

The 2023 Gala promises to be a grand, sophisticated, and entertaining evening scheduled from 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. at the Altoona Grand Hotel. The evening will be filled with music, laughter, amazing hors d'oeuvres, delicious sweets, and an open bar. We encourage our guests to embrace the theme and place big bets at the tables to support SAMA!



June 9 - 11 | Altoona Donald M. Robinson

Join us at SAMA Altoona for the Donald M. Robinson Photography Biennial 2023 exhibition and symposium. The juried exhibition attracts photographers across the nation who will assemble to meet and discuss the state of the medium in a symposium setting with guest lecturers who are experts in the field.



Sat, Sept 9 | Ligonier Garden Party: Fall Harvest

Cozy up to SAMA at the 21st annual Ligonier Garden Party! This year's theme will be a fall harvest to kick off the autumn season. Starting at 5:00 p.m. at the Ligonier Valley Museum, enjoy some cider and stroll through the dual exhibition by J.D. Titzel and Bryce Glass. Later in the evening, relax by the fire and roast some marshmallows.

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 general operating campaign to allow for endless opportunities for your dollars to be put to use!

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

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





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