



**Massillon**  
**MUSEUM**  
ANNUAL REPORT

**2018**

# MASSMU

MASSILLON MUSEUM

121 Lincoln Way East | Massillon, Ohio 44646  
 P 330.833.4061 | F 330.833.2925 | massillonmuseum.org



## MASSMU & OHREGIONALITIES

Tuesday to Saturday: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm  
 Sunday: 2:00 to 5:00 pm

## ANDERSON'S IN THE CITY

Monday to Friday: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
 Saturday: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
 P 330.833.7255

*The Massillon Museum strives to be fully accessible. Guests can use the Sensory Room with private breastfeeding area. In many cases, exhibitions include braille labels and audio components.*



## CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ANNUAL REPORT

- HB Heather Bullach
- ANC Alexandra Nicholis Coon
- CC Chris Craft
- MEF Megan Fitze
- NJ Nancy Jobe
- MP Michelle Persons
- SP Scot Phillips
- BR Brandon Rohrer
- MAS Mandy Altimus Stahl
- EV Emily Vigil
- MV Margy Vogt
- BY Bailey Yoder

COVER PHOTOGRAPHS—ANC



MORROW & MEYER, LLC | A.A. HAMMERSMITH INSURANCE, INC. | MASSILLON DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION | JAMES D. SNIVELY, ATTORNEY AT LAW  
 EMSCO, INC. | KELLER'S OFFICE FURNITURE | LARRY SLAGLE, ATTORNEY AT LAW | ANDERSON'S IN THE CITY | HAMMER'S SERVICE  
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## **Report from the Executive Director**



**Alexandra Nicholis Coon**  
Executive Director

2018 was by far the most challenging, and most EXCITING year of my memory at the Massillon Museum. Evolution of the Museum is visible; anticipation of all its potential is palpable; and support of its members is what helped sustain and elevate its activities throughout a period of intense growth.

As we have been working hard to prepare MassMu to better serve both current and future generations, feedback from our membership has been helpful and invigorating. YOU are those who, besides our staff, utilize the Museum more than any others, and it is important to us that you take part in the energy of this major project, feel welcome within its walls, and take pride in its new form and abilities.

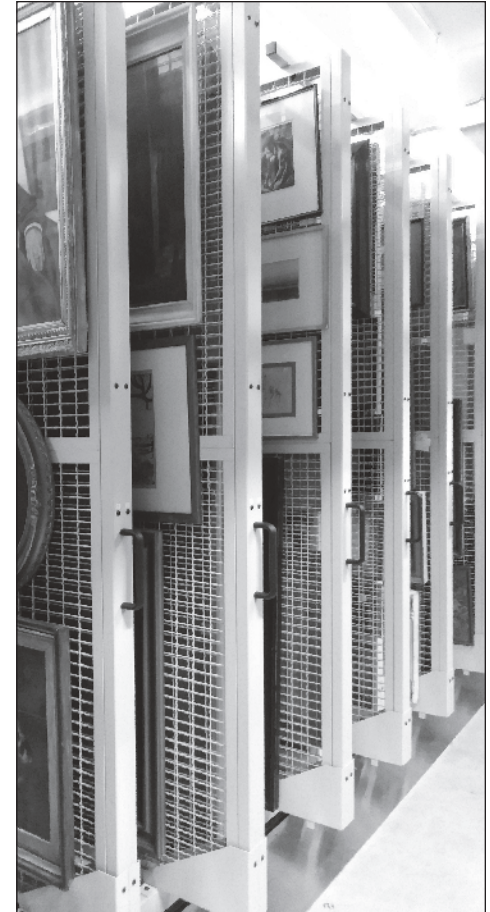
The Massillon Museum has changed to reflect the community that supports it, and also to help shape the future cultural landscape of downtown. We aim to expose our visitors to new ideas and artistic experiences, while honoring our heritage and preserving its memory, both distant past and present day.

With the leadership of our board of directors, guidance of Capital Campaign chairs, support of an engaged staff, and reinforcement of a strong core of volunteers, MassMu has cultivated a foundation upon which the new and improved facility can stand strong for another eighty-five years. Combined with contributions from donors and grantors, your contributions not only assist us deliver the quality programs, exhibitions, and educational experiences you have come to expect from the Massillon Museum, but nurture a sense of community that frames who we are. I look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

## Financial Summary

	UNAUDITED	AUDITED	AUDITED
	2018	2017	2016
Revenue	2,366,295	1,272,884	1,184,047
Expenses	910,340	941,429	930,782
Depreciation	89,651	108,393	120,763
Net Income	1,366,304	223,062	132,502
Cash	145,767	786,359	832,784
Investments	486,485	348,362	307,694
Net Fixed Assets	5,918,334	2,655,495	2,276,566
Other Assets	842,616	1,429,335	1,554,448
Total Assets	7,393,202	5,219,551	4,971,492
Liabilities	895,532	88,188	63,191
Net Assets	6,497,670	5,131,363	4,908,301

*Framed documents and works of art hang on moveable racks mounted on tracks in the Museum's storage facility on the third floor, where temperature, light, and humidity are precisely controlled. MAS*



## Message from the Board Chair



**David W. Schultz**  
Chairman of the Board

A new year has begun—a very special one in the life of the Massillon Museum. We are getting closer to a “finished” Museum. Within a few months we’ll be fully operational in our new and remodeled facilities. Our staff can—thankfully—move from their temporary cramped quarters into the new offices, classrooms, and galleries.

All of this has come to pass thanks to the generosity of foundations, businesses, and individuals who believe in the mission of this wonderful institution. However, the mission is not yet completed. Funds are still needed to finish this project. If you have not yet made your commitment, now is the time to do so. Contact Museum Director Alexandra Nicholis Coon or our Capital Campaign co-chairs, Bob and Nancy Gessner.

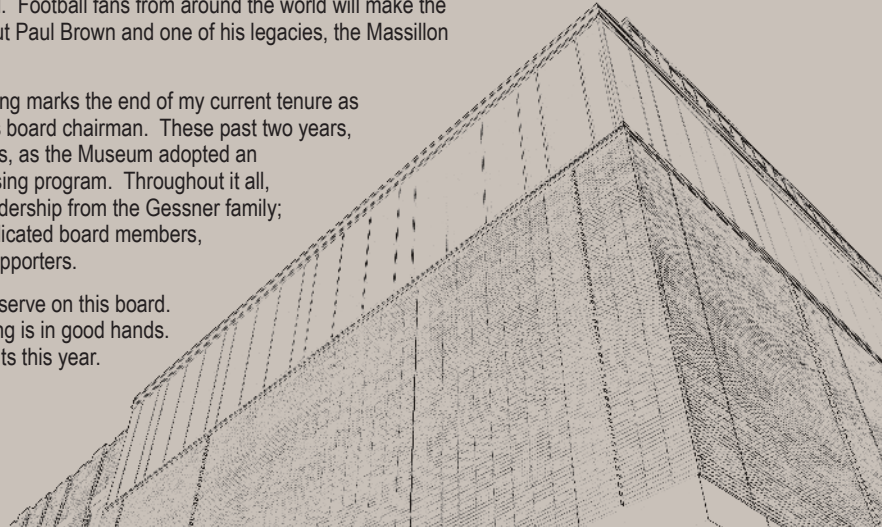
The Massillon Museum was founded in 1933. Today, more than eighty-five years later, the Museum has become known in not only the state of Ohio, but nationally for its innovative exhibitions and programming, as well as for how well it is managed.

Citizens of Massillon should take particular pride in the new Paul Brown Museum. Paul Brown put Massillon on the map through his innovative coaching methods. With the support of several organizations, including the Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club, the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and the Brown family, an appropriate tribute has been created. Football fans from around the world will make the pilgrimage to Massillon to learn about Paul Brown and one of his legacies, the Massillon Tiger football program.

The 2019 annual membership meeting marks the end of my current tenure as a Museum board member as well as board chairman. These past two years, in particular, have been exciting ones, as the Museum adopted an unprecedented building and fundraising program. Throughout it all, we have been blessed with solid leadership from the Gessner family; Alexandra Coon; and a group of dedicated board members, Museum staffers, and community supporters.

It has been a privilege and honor to serve on this board. As we move ahead, I know everything is in good hands. I look forward to many enjoyable visits this year.

See you in our Museum!



## MassMu Staff



### **Alexandra Nicholis Coon**

Alexandra Nicholis Coon, executive director for the Massillon Museum, holds a BA in art history from Kent State University, an MA in art history through the joint program at the Cleveland Museum of Art and

Case Western Reserve University, and a collections care certificate from the Campbell Center for Historic Preservations Studies. She has been with the Massillon Museum since 2001 and served as its curator from 2003 to 2010. Nicholis Coon served as adjunct faculty for Walsh University from 2006 to 2011. She is president of the Ohio Museums Association; a member of the Cleveland Print Room board of directors; a member of Jackson School for the Arts Community Advisory Board; a trustee of the Massillon WestStark Chamber Foundation; Visit Canton board vice president; and a member of the City of Massillon's Community Improvement Corporation and Imagine Massillon task force. She enjoys digital photography and earned honorable mention in the Professional Women Photographer's 37th International Women's Call for Entry (2012). In 2011, she was recognized with the YStark! "Twenty Under 40" award and was a 2012 inductee in the Canton YWCA Women's Hall of Fame. A member of Soroptimist International Canton/Stark County and the Akron Chapter DAR, she resides in North Canton with her husband and twin daughters.



### **Scot Phillips**

Scot Phillips, MassMu's operations officer, also serves as membership coordinator, handles rentals of the lobby Fred F. Silk Community Room, and organizes bulk mailings. He is working on the Capital Campaign steering committee. He came to the

Massillon Museum as an intern in January of 2008. Phillips graduated from Kent State University with a BA in art history and a minor in fine arts. He worked with Sandi Thouvenin—to whom he is now married—and the local community to acquire the vintage photobooth that has become a popular part of a visit to the Massillon Museum. He is vice president of the Downtown Massillon Association. Phillips was commissioned by the City of Massillon to create murals on two of the flood-control pumping stations, by the Elum Music Company and Sangria Stand to paint murals at their businesses, by the Water Street Tavern and Main Street Kent to create a mural in the revitalized area of downtown Kent, by Coon Restoration to paint decorative elements at St. Mary's Church, and by the Special Improvement District of Downtown Canton to create a mural commemorating the Massillon/Canton football rivalry. In November 2018, he painted historic lettering on the Magnolia Flouring Mills in conjunction with Stark Parks. In 2013 he painted several of the public art portraits that were displayed in downtown Massillon. This year Phillips was co-curator and project director of the *Moniker: Identity Lost and Found* exhibition and catalog.



### **Mandy Altimus Stahl**

Archivist Mandy Altimus Stahl began her Massillon Museum career in 2004. She graduated from Kent State University with a BA in history, *summa cum laude* with honors. Stahl has produced documentary works for the Museum such as *Massillon in*

*the Great War: Voices from the Archives, The Legacy of Steel, The Greatest Generation, and Faces of Rural America*. She was the 2016 plenary speaker for the Society of Ohio Archivists, and in 2015 she appeared on the Travel Channel's show, "Mysteries at the Museum," retelling the tale of Jacob Coxey's 1894 protest march. In 2015, Stahl and her family published her grandfather's World War II prisoner of war memoirs, *Forced March: From the Bulge to Berchtesgaden* by Major John J. Mohn. Her book, *Early Massillon and Lost Kendal*, was published by Arcadia Publishing Images of America series in 2017. Stahl serves on the Massillon Historic Preservation Commission and as treasurer for the Charity School of Kendal Foundation. In 2018, Stahl was inducted into the YWCA Canton Women's Hall of Fame. An award-winning photographer, she has produced photo series such as *A Long Time Ago: The Fairytales of Mandy Altimus Pond* (2014); *The Face of Hunger in Stark County* (2015); and the middle school student project, *Images of World War I* (2014), funded by ArtsinStark. In her spare time she can be heard singing with her husband, Bryan Stahl, or leading local history walking tours with Margy Vogt. In December 2018, she gave birth to a son, Donovan.



### **Megan Fitze**

Megan Fitze, education and outreach manager, coordinates and generates educational programming for exhibits; art classes; docent tours; outreach; and onsite special events. She organizes the annual *Celebration in Art* exhibition and

NEA Big Read program. She is also co-chair of the new MassMu accessibility committee. Fitze holds an MA in art education with a specialization in museum education and administration from The Ohio State University (2016) and a BS in sociology from Manchester College (2004). Before MassMu, she resided in Columbus, working for Dublin Arts Council as the director of education and special projects. Fitze previously served on the boards of Women Crafting Change and the Friends of the Cultural Arts Center; she is currently a member of the state agency board, Ohio Alliance for Arts Education. She lives with her husband, Josh, and baby, Wesley, in Wooster.



### **Bailey Yoder**

Bailey Yoder joined the Massillon Museum staff in April as the curator of football heritage for the new Paul Brown Museum. She holds a BA in history and adolescent to young adult education from the University of Mount Union, and an MA in

history and applied history from Youngstown State

University. She is in charge of research and design of new exhibitions in the new space, and oversees the management of the extensive Paul Brown and Massillon Tigers archives and collection. Since starting, Yoder has helped to coordinate and design the Paul Brown Museum exhibition space, as well as open the inaugural exhibits in October—*Paul Brown: Lessons from the Bench*, and *Loyal to the Lot*. With *Classic Interactions*, she developed an interactive app, “The Philosophies of the Games of Football and Life,” for the exhibition. Yoder previously served as a graduate student intern at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor in Youngstown, Ohio, and graduate intern at the Suttiff Museum in Warren, Ohio and the Niles McKinley Birthplace Memorial Library and Museum in Niles, Ohio. She assists as a coach for the University of Mount Union cheerleading squad in her spare time.



### **Brandon Rohrer**

Brandon Rohrer started his employment at the Massillon Museum in March of 2016. He serves as the guest operations manager, which includes functioning as the Museum’s volunteer coordinator and manager of the Museum’s shop,

OHregionalities. Rohrer has made his goals, since joining MassMu, to improve record-keeping and expand the Museum’s volunteer base. Rohrer co-chairs MassMu’s accessibility committee. Prior to joining the ranks of the Massillon Museum, he worked for three

years as assistant facilities manager for the McKinley Presidential Library and Museum. He continues to share his astronomy knowledge as a planetarium presenter for the McKinley Museum.



### **Nancy Jobe**

Nancy Jobe, MassMu’s events coordinator, is a lifelong resident of Massillon and a graduate of Massillon Washington High School. She obtained her BA from Kent State University and an MS in social administration from Case Western Reserve

University. A licensed independent social worker with supervision designation and an Ohio adoption assessor, she retired—as program administrator of the adoption, family resources, independent living, and placement units—from Stark County Job and Family Services, Children Services Division, in January 2016. Jobe is a board member of the Washington High School Alumni Association and a member of the Massillon Woman’s Club. She and her husband, Jim, have two adult children.



### **Emily Vigil**

Emily Vigil is the Massillon Museum’s Studio M coordinator. She earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in painting from Marshall University in 2000 and a master of fine arts degree in

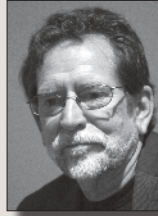
painting and drawing from Louisiana State University in 2003. Vigil began her work for Massillon Museum in 2009, when she digitized negatives for the *Faces of Rural America* exhibition. She worked as the Museum's events coordinator until from 2010 until 2016. Her past experience in the arts has included curatorial work for the West Virginia State Museum, a position as gallery director for Marshall University's Birke Art Gallery, and art teaching positions from pre-k to college level. In addition to working at the Massillon Museum, she currently teaches art to preschoolers as part of the Artful Living and Learning program.



### **Michelle Persons**

Michelle Persons, registrar, started at MassMu as an intern in 2015. Through her internship she assisted with installation and research for the *Fashion Outlaws* exhibition and worked on an inventory and rehousing project in the business collection. She

continues to assist with a variety of collections care projects as well as maintaining the records related to the collections. She received her MLIS with a museum studies concentration from Kent State University and a BA in technical writing from Youngstown State University. Her career in the nonprofit sector has been full of diverse experiences at various organizations.



### **Christopher Craft**

Christopher Craft is a graduate of the College of Wooster with post-graduate work from both Kent State University and the University of Akron. He holds a master's degree in art education from the University of Akron. Craft taught visual art

and American history for thirty-one years for Fairless Schools and was an adjunct staff member for Malone University, teaching ceramics. He has been with the Massillon Museum for fourteen years. As special projects coordinator, he facilitates History Discussion Group, assists with Brown Bag Lunches, and helps with exhibition installations. He co-founded The Artful Living Program (now Artful Living and Learning) and served as program director for ten years. He is also very active with the Museum's speakers' bureau. Involved in American Civil War living history for more than thirty years, he participated in hundreds of events and reenactments, several films and television productions, and two presidential inaugurations. As an artist, he has work in many private collections and in the collections of Kent State University, the University of Akron, the First Ladies Historical Site, and the White House. Craft, who has been married to Marcia for thirty-nine years, has two children and five grandchildren.



### **Heather Bullach**

Heather Bullach has been the Museum's traveling exhibits coordinator since 2015. Prior to joining MassMu, she spent five years working with Translations Art Gallery in Canton. A portrait and landscape artist working primarily in oils, her style ranges

from hyper-realism to expressive impressionism. She earned her bachelors degree in art at Malone University (Canton, Ohio) in 2011. Her work is widely exhibited around Northeast Ohio, including four solo exhibitions since 2011. Her awards include The Canton Arts District All-Stars Exhibition winner in 2015, The Mary Ellen McFadden Award for artistic achievement in 2011, and The Ohio Watercolor Society 2010 Scholarship. She has taught painting at Malone University since 2015.



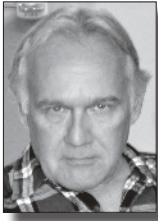
### **Shauna Wenneman**

Administrative Assistant Shauna Wenneman graduated with honors from the University of Akron in 2017 with a bachelor of arts in history and a minor in art history. Her final thesis explored how museums and memorials commemorating genocide and

mass violence misconstrue information to improve aesthetics and gain sponsorship. She was the president of the University of Akron's chapter of the Secular Student Alliance, where she tripled



membership; organized two conferences; and fundraised to support the Akron-Canton Food Bank, the Cleveland Animal Protective League, and Camp Quest. She was a counselor at Camp Quest Ohio. Wenneman's interests—administration, education, outreach, and accessibility—benefit the Massillon Museum. In her down time, Wenneman walks through Massillon with her two huskies, Bodhi and Baldur, attends metal concerts, rides her motorcycle through Amish Country, and fosters kittens.



### **Rick Rohrer**

Rick Rohrer, who is the Museum's facilities manager, came to the Massillon Museum with a varied background in commercial and residential real estate, construction, and museums. During his time within the real estate field, he focused

on maintenance and emergency on-call services. When dabbling in construction, he worked as a building superintendent, helped create the William R. Day Building in Canton, and helped maintain the Stern and Mann's building, also in Canton. During Rohrer's time as facilities manager of the William McKinley Presidential Library and Museum, he dealt with everything from grounds upkeep and landscaping to building maintenance. As the Massillon Museum's facilities manager, he oversees maintenance-related issues, ensures the facility's safety and cleanliness, and plays an active role in the construction of the



### **Allan Moore**

Recently joining the Museum in November, Allan Moore is the bookkeeper. He is a lifelong resident of Massillon and a graduate of Massillon Washington High School. He holds a bachelor of business administration from Kent State

University, a bachelor of science in accounting from the University of Akron, and a master of business administration from Ashland University. He came to the Museum after retiring from Cleveland Clinic Akron General Hospital, with a forty-plus-year career in healthcare accounting and finance, most recently having held the position of corporate controller and director of corporate payroll. In his spare time, when not a boring accountant, he is a rabid football fan of the Massillon Tigers and The Ohio State University Buckeyes. Also considered an oenophile, he continues to expand his knowledge of viticulture and oenology whenever possible, both in the making and consumption of wines. Moore lives with his wife, Donna, and their two cats, Doolittle and Danielle.

expanded facility. In his spare time, Rohrer enjoys visiting museums and spending time with his five adult children.



### **Margy Vogt**

Public Relations Coordinator Margy Vogt has written and designed three local history books and leads Massillon history walking tours. As a volunteer, she chairs the Museum's Brown Bag Lunch series and the Community

Candlelight Walk. She serves on the Massillon Public Library, Charity School of Kendal Foundation, and Community Improvement Corporation boards; the Imagine Massillon task force; the Massillon Historic Preservation Commission; and the St. Timothy's Church history committee. When she received the Rotary Club of Massillon's Paul L. David Humanitarian Award in 2004, she designated the accompanying charitable contribution to establish the Museum's Margy Vogt Photography Endowment Fund. She encourages others to contribute in support of the Museum's photography collection and exhibitions. The Repository recognized her as one of "Stark County's Most Interesting People;" she was inducted into the Canton YWCA Women's Hall of Fame; she received the Massillon WestStark Chamber of Commerce J.S. "Sandy" Sanders Award, the Knights of Columbus Humanitarian of the Year Award, and the Mayor's Community Service Award; and she was honored in 2014 as a Massillon Distinguished Citizen.

## Velma B. Erwin Research Room and Archives/Permanent Collections

As construction and renovations began this year, many temporary collections storage locations throughout the Museum were cleared and rehoused in the main storage room by a collections team—staff members Archivist Mandy Altimus Stahl, Registrar Michelle Persons, Studio M Coordinator Emily Vigil, and Special Projects Coordinator Chris Craft; volunteers Mark Picocco and Lois McHugh; and interns Amanda Sisler, Rebecca Finley, Sarah Dickes (Malone University), Hope Bruce (Walsh University), and Erin Elder (Walsh University).

Each collection was categorized, photographed, inventoried, assessed for condition, and rehoused in a cabinet. These collections included women's accessories—hats, shoes, gloves, fans, parasols, and hair adornments; glass—bottles, tableware, Massillon whimsies, and art glass; silver; and framed artwork and documents. New drawers were purchased

through Preservation Honor Roll funds and the Jane Williams Mahoney Memorial Fund. Some collections were reorganized within cabinets, including doll house furniture, musical instruments, sports equipment, and license plates. Several of these items were featured as lower lobby exhibits throughout the summer. Images of many will be added to the Museum's online resources in 2019.

Part of the collections team worked with St. Joseph's Catholic Church members to preserve items found in the church time capsule. Wet, fragile newspapers and pamphlets found inside provided a glimpse into 1890s Massillon; important church documents reflected the parish's past. The team froze the documents to kill

possible mold, then defrosted and encapsulated them in archival mylar for protection.

The Museum collection has been featured in several projects this year. Walsh University museum studies student intern Hope Bruce completed the rehousing of the American Indian stone tool collection. The Nobles Pond archeological collection of Phil Cossentino was the subject of a *Canton Repository* article on February 11. Since November 2016, Mandy Altimus Stahl has been providing "This Week in History" front pages for the *Massillon Independent*. PBS aired a "Gilded Age" special on February 6, 2018. Stahl worked with the producers to use twenty Jacob Coxey photographs from the Museum's archives. MAS

*Ansel Adams and his wife Virginia, hosted Dick and Susan Gessner in their home when they traveled to California to take possession of a limited edition portfolio of twenty-one photographs hand-printed by the artist himself. At the December Museum board meeting, Susan and son Bob Gessner unveiled Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico as they announced the gift of the collection to the Massillon Museum. The portfolio is the unrivaled gem of the Museum's strong photography collection. MV*



## 2018 Donors to the Permanent Collection

Dedicated by American Container  
Roll Off Service, LLC  
Anonymous Gift  
In memory of Lida Bammerlin  
Jim and Sally Bryan  
Dr. Joseph M. Crews  
City of Massillon  
Esser David and Bobby David  
Helen and Bobby David  
Bill Dewald  
In memory of Al Englehardt  
Firelands Historical Society  
Susan and Richard Gessner  
Gift of All Who Served  
Richard Hardgrove in recognition of the employees  
of the First National Bank in Massillon  
Joe and Dana Herrick  
Floyd Horton—in memory of Janet (Theis) Yarnell,  
Class of '63, dedicated to her granddaughters,  
Kylie and Baylie Yarnell  
Jan Jordan  
Jim Kasburg Agency  
Dave and Kim Leffler  
Massillon Public Library  
Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club  
Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club—  
in memory of Dennis Gibson  
Lorraine B. Matthews  
Paul Maxhimer  
The McCallum family

Miller girls—in memory of Margaret P. Miller  
Wanda Miller  
Wanda Miller—in memory of  
H. Garver Miller and Lois Miller  
Museum purchase  
Mary Ann Poling  
Thomas F. Radel Sr.  
Richard Regula  
Tom and Sandy Ross  
S.O.A.R. Chapter 2711  
Linda Sasavicz  
Andrea Schepis  
In memory of Virginia L. Sepos  
Wendi Siemund  
Viktor Shreckengost  
Smokin' Joe (*Moniker* artist)  
In memory of Homer and Florence Snyder  
In memory of Alice Somogy  
The Henry Sonnhalter family  
John E. Spuhler Jr.—  
in memory of Bessie M. Spuhler  
In memory of Steelworkers of Massillon, Ohio  
Ron E. Thorpe  
Try Pottery (*Moniker* artist)  
Loren C. Veigel—  
in memory of Marvin and Berdine Veigel  
Basil Violand  
Reggie Watson  
Klaus M. Weber  
In memory of Edward and  
Ruth Stone Wilkof

MP

## Paul Brown Museum Collections and Research Library

As the end of the year is nearing, so is the completion of the Paul Brown collections storage room and research library. The brand new facilities are state-of-the-art, temperature-controlled areas that will house the archives and objects in the collection—team photographs, posters, clothing and textiles, equipment, and more from Washington High School sports teams, bands, and various support organizations. The main collection storage space, adjacent to the new staff offices on the third floor, includes space-saving rolling racks to house and protect every artifact. The research library—adjacent to the Paul Brown Museum galleries on the second floor—will open in the spring of 2019. The space will be available to researchers by appointment.

Curator of Football Heritage, Bailey Yoder, dove right in when she started in April to begin development of an inventory of everything in the Paul Brown and Massillon Tiger football collections. While the construction of the new building continues, Yoder plans to complete the list in the coming year and start rehousing the collection into the new spaces this spring. BY



## Education and Outreach

Massillon Museum's partnership with its community is integral to the success of its education and outreach through creative programming in and out of the building. In 2018, staff and volunteers engaged more than 7,500 individuals in Stark County and beyond through Museum programs, by hosting information tables and craft activities at festivals and community events, talks at career days, and via the MassMu speaker's bureau.

An interactive sensory tour was created for the summer exhibition, *Moniker: Identity Lost and Found*, engaging individuals through smell, touch, and auditory elements. On the lower level, a large boxcar, outlined on the wall in chalkboard paint, prompted individuals to leave messages or monikers. Hundreds of visitors left symbols and notes.

The Do the Mu series involved visitors of all ages through workshops such as the ever-popular "Zombie Face Painting" every fall; exhibit-related themes like "Paint by Train," which coincided with the *Moniker* exhibit; and two Big Read workshops, "Wizard Staffs" and "Fantastical Terrariums," in alignment with the NEA Big Read book.

For the eleventh year in a row, the Museum was awarded the prestigious NEA Big Read grant to highlight the book, *A Wizard of Earthsea*, by Ursula K. Le Guinn. Saddened by the passing of LeGuinn prior to the NEA program, MassMu paid tribute to the remarkable imaginative woman who crafted fantastical worlds by curating a unique exhibition entitled

*Earthsea Imagined* by renowned fantasy artist Charles Vess. Fifty-four original illustrations by the artist were featured in the fiftieth-anniversary edition of *A Wizard of Earthsea* this past October. By the end of April, over four hundred students (elementary-aged to high school) had toured the exhibition; participated in thoughtful, docent-led discussions; reviewed major themes, such as Taoism and the concept of good vs. evil; and explored descriptive literacy through art-making. Students had the exceptional opportunity to meet with Vess himself, engage in various book talks led by librarians from Massillon Public Library, and view the anime film, *Tales from Earthsea*, post-tour, at the historic Lions Lincoln Theatre.

Massillon Museum coordinated several successful book talks, offered fantasy drawing, modeling of creatures in clay, and fantastical terrarium workshops. Partners presented fairy garden and accessory-making programs, fantasy-themed cake decorating, a History Happy Hour on "The Evolution of the Hero," dragon puppet-making workshops, and even a special workshop on runes and codes hosted by the Library.

This was an exciting year of forging new partnerships and developing innovative programming. The Museum is fortunate to be part of a community that understands and supports the impact that art can make on many levels. Finally, the Massillon Museum education department wishes to recognize the contributions of its 2018 Walsh University museum studies program interns, Maeggie Herman-Laurence and Nathan Lawrence. MEF



*Do the Mu (top), a free workshop on the first Saturday of every month, encourages creativity and a love of MassMu.* MAS

*Celebration in Art annually showcases more than 200 works of art by students from area schools.* MEF

## Artful Living and Learning

Artful Living and Learning (formerly The Artful Living Program) began its eleventh year of programming in the preschools of fourteen school districts in Stark and Carroll counties in October, 2018. Designed and initiated through the Massillon Museum, the program is presently operated through the Stark County Educational Service Center. The Museum continues its role in this groundbreaking arts program by maintaining two seats on the advisory board, publishing program-related social media postings, maintaining a program web page, and serving as a meeting site for program-related events.

The program employs twenty-four teaching artists who instruct more than two hundred lessons each week in visual art, music, dance, drama, and literacy. Over twelve hundred preschool children receive two to four lessons each week over a period of twenty-five weeks. Research has repeatedly demonstrated statistically significant improvement in academic achievement and creative growth in children who have experienced Artful Living and Learning over those who have not.

Funding for Artful Living and Learning for the 2018–19 school year has been achieved through grants from the Timken Foundation, MCTV, The Paul and Carol David Foundation, the Ohio Arts Council, the Gessner Family Foundation, and ArtsinStark. Significant funding comes from continued support of the participating city and local school districts. cc

## History Discussion Group

It was an interesting year for Massillon Museum's History Discussion Group. The first two sessions were held in the community room of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church due to construction at the Museum. The participants of those first meetings were very grateful to Father George Baum and the staff of St. Timothy's for their gracious hospitality. St. Timothy's was a welcoming and beautiful site for our meetings. Attendees were also grateful to Father Baum and Margy Vogt for their tour and historical presentation of St. Timothy's magnificent stained-glass windows.

Participants enjoyed a new series of topics, with greatest attendance attracted to January's discussion of "Lost Massillon—Places That Once Were" and to Vogt's annual quiz show, "Tigertown Trivia," in November. Other popular topics included "Great Quotes" in February and "Show and Tell" in December.

Massillon Museum's History Discussion Group has been meeting monthly since 1995. Attendance is free to all with an interest in history or with interesting anecdotes of personal experiences or of life's lessons learned. cc

*Stark Parks naturalist Allison Terlacher brought two birds with her to illustrate her "Birds of Prey" program for the May Brown Bag Lunch.* ANC

## Brown Bag Lunches

Brown Bag Lunch topics in 2018 covered the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the Underground Railroad, Scot Phillips's murals, building a fantasy world, birds of prey, Massillon Public Library then and now, railroad history, the story of Meyers Lake, and Johnny Appleseed.

During construction, the Salvation Army graciously allowed the Museum's lunch programs to be held in its all-purpose room for the first half of this year's series, and St. George Cultural Center hosted the last five sessions of the season. The Museum is appreciative of their help as well as Sunny Slope Orchard's sponsorship of the Johnny Appleseed program.

Staff, volunteers, and guests are looking forward to the seventeenth year of Brown Bag Lunches in the Museum's new event space with the sponsorship of the Fernandez Hillibish History Fund at the Stark Community Foundation. MV



## Exhibitions



Walking with buZ, Gurdon, Arkansas, 2016, the closing photograph of the Moniker catalog SP

### Celebration in Art

2018 was a banner year for the annual K–12 exhibition, *Celebration in Art*, featuring artwork from twenty-one schools in Western Stark County. More than 250 pieces of art were exhibited salon-style in the Museum's main gallery. The colorful exhibition encompassed everything from pillow creatures to ceramics to large oil still-lives. The opening reception welcomed 589 visitors celebrating the artwork of students and the art educators who foster their creativity. MEF

### Moniker: Identity Lost and Found

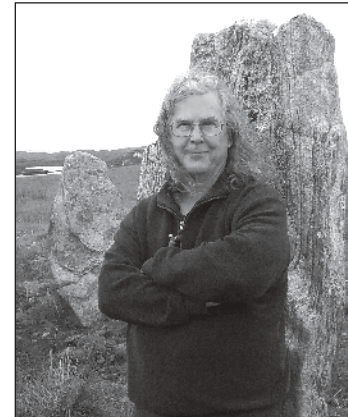
*Moniker: Identity Lost and Found* was an unprecedented documentation and exploration of moniker art, a grassroots art movement which began in rail yards in the early twentieth century and continues today. This exhibit and catalog connected railroad heritage, so interwoven with Massillon local history, with an underrepresented artistic tradition. Unique symbols and words on the sides of train cars were ephemeral marks that crossed the countryside, exposed to whomever idly watched passing trains. Through repetition, recognition, and transcontinental exposure, symbols took on a deeper meaning. A drawing became a moniker, a name, an identity.

Until the Museum's exhibition (June 23 to October 21) the history of monikers was mostly that of folklore. There had been no definitive written history or catalog of this art form or the individuals involved with it. The Museum was proud to have produced a full-color, hardcover catalog with financial support from the Ohio Humanities, which sold out in less than one week. Another point of pride was the number of visitors who traveled from throughout the United States to attend the exhibition. Thirty-three states and three Canadian provinces were represented at the opening reception alone on June 23. It is the Museum's hope that the exhibition will travel. ANC

### Earthsea Imagined by Charles Vess

Artist Charles Vess exhibited his original drawings at the Massillon Museum last spring in conjunction with the NEA Big Read. MassMu was the first venue to exhibit the fifty-four illustrations exclusive to the collection of *Earthsea* books and published last October for the fiftieth anniversary of Ursula K. Le Guin's *A Wizard of Earthsea*. In his keynote address at the historic Lincoln Theatre on April 26, Vess revealed that an author rarely acts as artistic director of the illustrations, as was the case on this book. He wrote of the process, "For the past four years, I have worked in very close collaboration with Ursula, doing my best to slip inside her mind so that I could depict *Earthsea* as she had always envisioned it. Vess truly brought Le Guin's stories to life. Ursula K. Le Guin passed away on January 22, 2018; the Massillon Museum was honored to be able to dedicate its presentation of the 2018 Big Read in her memory.

MP/ANC



Charles Vess  
by Marie  
Shaffer

## Stark County Artists Exhibition

The *Stark County Artists Exhibition* opened on November 10, 2018. The jurors—John Carlson, artist, Cleveland; Meg Harris Stanton, owner, Harris Stanton Gallery, Akron and Cleveland; and Tariq Tarey, visual ethnographer and documentary photographer, Columbus—selected fifty-five artworks by forty three artists to be included in the show from the 206 artworks submitted by eighty-four artists. HB



ABOVE: David Kuntzman, Laura Kolinski-Schultz, and William M. Bogdan (honorable mentions); Pamela Glover Wadsworth (second place); and Stephen Tornero (best in show) NOT PICTURED: Clare Murray Adams (third place), Lindsey J. Bryan and Bruce Humbert (honorable mentions) MAS

RIGHT: Curator of Football Heritage Bailey Yoder is organizing the football collection.

MAS



## Paul Brown Museum

This year, the Paul Brown Museum opened at MassMu in the midst of the excitement of the successful 2018 Massillon Tiger football season. In August, during Pro Football Hall of Fame weekend, the Museum hosted a pop-up Paul Brown exhibit in downtown Massillon to build excitement for the October soft opening. The exhibition included selected photographs and artifacts from the inaugural exhibition and a social media photo station of life-size Paul Brown and Obie standees.

In conjunction with the annual Massillon-McKinley parade on October 26, the new Paul Brown Museum previewed the *Paul Brown: Lessons from the Bench* and *Loyal to the Lot* inaugural exhibitions. Included in the new space is an interactive app developed by Classic Interactions—*The Philosophies of the Games of Football and Life*, which captures the ideals of Paul

Brown developed during his forty-five-year tenure as a football coach. In the new year, visitors can expect to see a comprehensive timeline of Paul Brown and Massillon Tiger history.

Visit Canton provided marketing support for the new Paul Brown Museum. BY

## Lessons from the Bench

Curated by Bailey Yoder and guest curator Craig Joseph, *Lessons from the Bench* takes a look at the different roles Brown played in his lifetime as a coach, innovator, and teacher, and how these roles are reflected today in members of the Massillon community. BY

## Loyal to the Lot

*Loyal to the Lot* explores the photography of Akron artist Stephen Tomasko in his six-year project of documenting visual stories of the tailgating experience at the Municipal (Muni) Lot at Cleveland Browns First Energy Stadium. Sounds of the Muni Lot can be heard playing from speakers overhead. BY

Paul Brown drawing plays, Massillon Museum collection, gift of Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club



## Studio M

The new Studio M gallery on the second floor was the first new space of the Museum's expansion to be opened to the public. Studio M is Massillon Museum's designated space for celebrating contemporary art, designed to exhibit artwork in all media. Studio M will present about six contemporary art exhibitions each year and already has exhibits scheduled through 2021. It replaces and expands on a shared space in the Fred F. Silk Community Room. The original Studio M has been exhibiting artwork since 2003.

### **The Great Tangles and Promised Land**

The debut show in the new space was a two-person photography exhibit, Laura Ruth Bidwell: *The Great Tangles* and Shari Wilkins: *Promised Land*. Bidwell's artwork compared photographs of tangles in her urban Cleveland neighborhood with tangles in her previous rural surroundings in Peninsula, Ohio. In *Promised Land*, Shari Wilkins exhibited photographs of Cairo, Illinois, shot on miniature instant film. Wilkins wrote that her photographs "captured the beauty of a southern river town that lost its luster long ago."

### **seen and not seen**

The second show in the new space was Greg Martin's exhibit, *seen and not seen*. Martin used pre-film photography and mixed media to explore the illusory intimacy of social media. EV

facts are never what they seem to be, *Greg Martin, collodion on clear glass, paint, acrylic sheet, 2018*

## Fred F. Silk Community Room

Exhibits in the Fred F. Silk Community Room reflect collaborations between the Massillon Museum and regional community partners. The 2018 exhibits included *Shake!: Pawsitive Ohio*, *The Big Read Fantasy Poster Exhibit*, *Photographs by Friends of Relay for Life*, an exhibit by the Boys and Girls Club of Massillon, and the annual Walsh University *Image to Image* exhibition. For inquiries about exhibiting in the Fred F. Silk Community Room, contact Education and Outreach Manager Megan Fitze at [mfitze@massillonmuseum.org](mailto:mfitze@massillonmuseum.org) or 330.833.4061 x112. EV



## Traveling Exhibits

*Imagining at Better World: The Artwork of Nelly Toll* was on display at The Decorative Arts Center of Ohio in Lancaster, Ohio, September 15 through December 30, 2018. This marks the eighth venue to host the traveling exhibit since its debut in 2015, reaching a total combined audience of more than 25,000. HB

## The Immel Circus

During second-floor renovations and the creation of the new Studio M space, the Immel Circus gallery was closed for nearly nine months. Guest curator Craig Joseph worked with the staff to reinterpret the space surrounding the miniature circus display, highlighting artifacts that have not been seen recently. The gallery reopened in September. MAS



*Emma Ward, trapeze artist, c. 1941, Massillon Museum collection, gift of Dr. Robert Immel*





The Thouvenin family (top) attends the Island Party every year—dressed for the occasion. *ANC*

Volunteer and member Lani McHenry brought her grandchildren to the children’s holiday party. *MV*

## Special Events

What an exciting time to be involved with MassMu! This year the ongoing construction project inspired creative thinking and problem-solving to ensure our guests were minimally impacted by our progress!

We chased away the February winter blues with *Celebration in Art* featuring amazing artwork in many media produced by Western Stark County students. In the spring, the Big Read events created a magical atmosphere at MassMu as we celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the book, *A Wizard of Earthsea*. In June, the *Moniker* opening was a huge success, drawing railroad enthusiasts from all over the United States and beyond!

Even with a change in venue for the Relics and Refabs Roadshow and a different layout for the annual Island Party, thousands of guests attended our signature summer events. Held at St George’s Greek Orthodox Church, Relics and Refabs presented vendors of antiques and collectables as well as artists who specialized in upcycled and vintage wares. Appraisers were available to offer their expertise on the value of family heirlooms and antiques. Music, food, and family art activities rounded out the day.

MassMu brought back Carlos Jones & the PLUS Band to entertain more than 2,500 guests for the annual Island Party! Guests enjoyed pulled pork, MassMu salsa, island drinks, and dancing on the lawn to reggae music. Crafts and blowing bubbles in the children’s activity area added to this fun family-friendly event.

MassMu joined the excitement in Duncan Plaza to kick off the Massillon Tiger football season with our annual Tiger-Striped Ice Cream Night! Specially made orange and black ice cream was provided to the football team, the Massillon Tiger Swing Band, all who attend the rally, and, let us not forget...OBIE!

Party season began with the children’s Pumpkin Patch Party. There were cookies, games, and fall fun for all MassMu members who attended.

MassMu christened the new event hall space in October by hosting Art After Dark in collaboration with the Canton Museum of Art. In its third year, this popular Halloween costume party and joint fundraiser alternates locations between MassMu and Canton Museum of Art.

The parties continued into November and December as the Museum decked the new hall to participate in Light-up Massillon and the Community Candlelight Walk. Both events offered an opportunity for our community to see the beautiful Christmas trees decorated by downtown businesses and displayed in the Museum lobby, visit the newly renovated MassMu shop, and see the new event space! The members’ holiday party and children’s party, complete with a visit from the old elf himself—SANTA—completed a very full year of entertainment, art, and history-in-the-making! *NJ*

## Facilities Report

This year has been consumed by the excitement of construction, and much time has been spent gaining knowledge of the new equipment and expansion. Working with newly built and renovated areas, particularly as they have afforded the Museum more space, has been one of the significant project benefits to date. We look forward to working with the remodeled building in the coming year and witnessing how visitors enjoy and make use of it. Major improvements to the existing building completed in 2018 include additional restroom facilities and the remodeling of the lobby area, which includes Anderson's in the City, the Museum shop, and the Event space. Having added 18,000 square feet to manage, the facilities team has been busy planning for the anticipated maintenance and security required for the additional buildings. RR



## Accessibility

The Massillon Museum has established a dedicated goal to create accessible spaces with ancillary programming for all visitors with physical, cognitive, developmental, or learning disabilities. In 2018, MassMu created its first accessibility committee, comprised of individuals from its surrounding community, as well as Museum staff, volunteers, trustees, and local nonprofit representatives. They quickly established an accessibility mission, approved by the Museum's board of directors: "Massillon Museum welcomes you to participate in a diverse experience where art and history are for everyone." The committee set a goal to work in an advisory capacity as accessibility advocates for Museum exhibits and programs. Thanks to the work of the committee, the Museum has since installed child protection seats in the men's and women's restrooms, created an audio descriptive tour for *Moniker: Identity Lost and Found*, and provided handicapped restrooms for the Island Party.

Because of the generous support of Puffin Foundation West, Ltd., the Museum also unveiled the MassMu Sensory Room, a devoted 468-square-foot space on the lower level of the Museum. This unique room is an adaptable space for Museum guests with varying needs. It is open during all Museum hours as a free and accessible space for any Museum visitor.

MEF

*An alphabet floor puzzle (left) is one of the activities available in the Sensory Room. MV*

*Volunteers Denny and Linda Schlegel (right) MV*

## Volunteers

More than 237 volunteers assisted with various Museum events, archival and collections projects, classes and workshops, and baking. Our twenty-fourth annual Island Party was staffed by MassMu staff and more than 132 volunteers. Volunteers donated 5,107 hours of their time to the Museum in 2018.

The activities committee was hard at work this past year. Having had its first meeting for 2018 on July 25, the children's Pumpkin Patch Party was the first event the committee planned for this season. It was a great success with more than eighty participants in attendance.

The committee's next focus was holiday tree decorating. The "Massillon Businesses" tree theme has been a very popular for three years in a row, and the committee has decided to expand that program to all of Massillon. They organized a wine and cheese reception to welcome local merchants to the Museum to decorate trees that represented their respective businesses. It was a festive undertaking with thirteen businesses participating. BR



## 2018 Massillon Museum Members

The Massillon Museum is truly fortunate to reside within a community that continually supports our growing mission and accessibility to our patrons. This year, that foundation allowed MassMu to mark ten years of continuous membership growth! Our goals for the 2018 membership campaign were to raise \$62,000 and reach 785 members by the close of the year. Campaign volunteers, MassMu board, and staff knew the goals of this year—once again increasing support while in the midst of the Capital Campaign—would be a challenge, one we could only achieve together!

Our support through June of 2018 mirrored that of the previous year. Therefore, during the fall campaign, it was paramount that we make a massive push to increase our totals by the close of the year. As a team, all who volunteered during the campaign were able pull together and increase our financial base dramatically. Our goals were high, but once again we achieved and surpassed them.

An extra boost to the campaign came from a “new and increased support” match by the Gessner Family Foundation—a great incentive to Museum backers for increasing existing support or joining as a new member. As of December 31, 2018, the MassMu membership campaign raised \$70,637 and tallied 796 members. This is a dollar increase of more than \$5,000 from 2017, and more than a \$55,000 increase from the dollar total in 2009, when the membership program was revitalized. Since that 2009 membership year, we have increased the membership roster by approximately 150%.

A successful campaign needs exceptional leadership. Rick and Kathy Kettler pushed our campaign to successful completion, once again providing necessary, unrestricted operational support, allowing MassMu to serve its local and regional audience in many different facets. As a result of their hard work of everyone who helped and supported along the way, we can celebrate another victory together. As membership grows, so does our impact in the community! <sup>SP</sup>



*It was our privilege to be the co-chairs of the Massillon Museum's recent membership campaign. In this capacity we were able to see the incredible energy and creativity this Museum brings to the community. The outstanding results of this year's campaign—the ever-increasing membership, as well as the significant increase in financial support—underscore our community's belief in MassMu. Thanks to everyone's efforts, art will continue to come together with history in Massillon, Ohio. Our sincere thanks to all who supported this campaign! —Rick and Kathy Kettler*

MV

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enjoys MassMu events.*

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*Members Matt and Katie Danner are familiar faces at the Massillon Museum.*

MV

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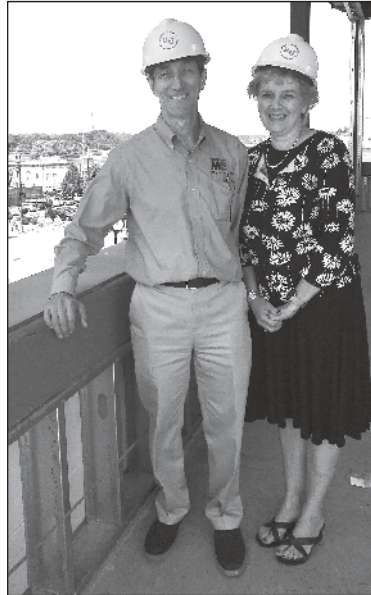
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*Bob and Nancy Gessner have expertly led the Museum through the current Capital Campaign, which is nearing its goal, following in the footsteps of Bob's parents, Susan and Dick Gessner, who chaired the fundraising effort when the Museum first moved to the corner of First and Lincoln Way more than two decades ago. ANC*

## Capital Campaign

The Museum's expansion project may be coming to a close, but the opportunities are just beginning! The new spaces have already been utilized by thousands of people—and we have yet to open the second-floor permanent collection galleries, ceramics studio, darkroom, classrooms, and arts garden. The new event space has afforded us the ability to host larger meetings and receptions for our events, as well as facilitate community activities like those coordinated for the Community Candlelight Walk and Light-Up Massillon events. Our café's kitchen expansion and the remodeling of the transaction counter to add seating has both enlarged and brightened the space, now complete with a charging station for mobile devices! The Paul Brown Museum opened with a preview on October 26, and the first two exhibition installments have attracted visitors from throughout the state and region. New exhibit rotations and installation of a permanent, interactive timeline will debut Spring 2019.

We are extremely grateful for the leadership of Nancy and Bob Gessner as campaign chairs, for the artistic vision of DLR Group/Westlake Reed Leskosky architects, and for general contractor Dunlop & Johnston for making the project a reality. Thank you also for the dedication and passion of our board of directors, staff, volunteers, and every donor to the expansion. It is with this village that the Massillon Museum has been able to grow, thrive, and position itself as a hub of community, artistic, and historic activity for generations to come. ANC

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TOP: Studio M, the first of MassMu's new spaces to be finished, drew a large crowd on its debut night.

MAS

ABOVE: A creative group of MassMu supporters costumed as the Immel Circus were among the guests at the Art After Dark fundraiser in October, which inaugurated the new event space. MAS



TOP: John and Alicia Pieper and Jane Meyer (center) share some fun at the annual holiday party. MV



ABOVE: Joe Paquelet with Terry Barat and Dr. Michael Barat in the newly expanded and remodeled Museum shop. MV

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*With the completion of the new Studio M, the Fred F. Silk Community Room Gallery is now dedicated to collaborations with community partners such as the annual Walsh University Image to Image photography exhibition (top) and the Boys and Girls Club of Massillon members' show (above). EV*

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# Massillon Museum



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