MASSILLON MUSEUM & OHREGIONALITIES
Tuesday—Saturday: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday: 2:00 to 5:00 pm

ANDERSON’S IN THE CITY
Monday—Friday: 7:30 am to 3:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

P 330.833.7255

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ANNUAL REPORT
HB Heather Bullach
ANC Alexandra Nicholis Coon
CC Chris Craft
MEF Megan Fitze
HH Heather Haden
NJ Nancy Jobe
AO April Olsen
MP Michelle Persons
SP Scot Phillips
BR Brandon Rohrer
MAS Mandy Altimus Stahl
EV Emily Vigil
MV Margy Vogt

INTERNET / TV / PHONE
We go the extra smile.
As a member of numerous organizations and nonprofits, I have thought a lot about what it means to be a member. For me, it goes beyond knowing I am supporting the good work people do to carry out the missions and services that benefit our community. It means feeling engaged, a sense of belonging to something, being a legitimate part of a community, and pride in the fact that I am investing in my own quality of life, as well as helping play a small part in enabling others to do the same.

Fred Rogers said, “Imagining something may be the first step in making it happen, but it takes the real time and real efforts of real people to learn things, make things, turn thoughts into deeds, or visions into inventions.” Our members are real people, and place faith in real people who work at the Massillon Museum to operate, with vision, a place that actively preserves our collective memory, facilitates interesting and meaningful dialogue about historical and contemporary topics, highlights extraordinary moments in time, and celebrates the remarkable accomplishments of pioneering individuals.

Without commitment from individual supporters, MassMu could not manage the physical or digital collections that tell the story of Massillon, of surrounding regions, and of the human condition. Your contributions enable us to present new ideas through artistic vehicles and to cultivate an environment that is welcoming of everyone. This is a place you have helped create and in which you have invested; in turn, the Massillon Museum has blossomed into a community that is all its own—and everyone’s. Fall 2017 marked the launch of construction to expand our facility, an increase of our levy support to help sustain the additional space and programs, and the eighth-consecutive year of membership growth. The Museum’s upward trajectory the last ten years can be attributed not only to programmatic success, but to the vision and hard work of the past decade’s boards of directors, staff, volunteers, and collaborators.

We consistently seek to inspire and to invite discourse; your membership allows this and future generations to experience art and history in new and challenging ways. Thank you for believing in the work we have done together to keep the place where art and history come together alive, well, and growing!

This annual report is dedicated to the memory of volunteers John Sparks and Polly Cochran, who collectively dedicated fifty-four years of service to the Massillon Museum, catalogued no fewer than 50,000 objects and archives, and devoted time in numerous other ways to shaping the Museum and its staff.

Alexandra Nicholis Coon
Executive Director
## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

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Creating positive cultural experiences for all ages in the heart of the community
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It's been quite a year.
And that will also be true at the end of this year, when I submit my message for the 2018 annual report.

Why? We’re in the midst of a very special time in the life of our Massillon Museum.
As anyone who’s visited the Museum in recent weeks knows, construction and remodeling of the Museum is well underway. Demolition of the adjacent wooden structure has taken place and work has begun on the brick buildings that will be part of the “new museum” as well as the Museum building itself.

Because of construction and renovation demands, only the first-floor gallery will remain open. By late summer all work should be completed.

Of special importance is the opening of the Paul Brown Museum, which will open the first weekend in August—to coincide with the annual Pro Football Hall of Fame enshrinement ceremonies.
That Museum will contain artifacts chronicling the life of arguably football’s most innovative coach, whose legacy in Massillon runs deep. The Museum will also contain memorabilia from the collections of the Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club.
The addition and renovation would not be taking place without the efforts of a Capital Campaign that has been led by Bob and Nancy Gessner. They continue to work on raising the funds necessary to complete this wonderful project.
Perhaps not coincidentally, Dick and Susan Gessner led a similar effort just over twenty years ago when our current Museum building was acquired and remodeled. And, in yet another coincidence, I was Museum chairman at that time! As Yogi Berra said, “It’s déjà vu all over again.”

If you have not yet made your pledge to the Museum’s Capital Campaign I urge you to do so. I also urge you to remember the Museum in your planned giving and estate planning.
For several years the Museum has received a most appreciated operating grant from ArtsinStark (AIS), the county’s arts advocate. In 2018, the Museum will be eligible for marketing funds from AIS, which will significantly bolster the Museum’s ability to promote itself. I also urge you to support AIS.

As we enter this important year, it’s worth noting that the Museum’s board will be fully engaged in the life of our Museum. It’s been a hallmark that ours is a “working board,” active in the life of our institution.

The Museum’s board nicely complements our Museum staff, which I would place against any museum staff in the country in terms of their ability and dedication to our Museum. They are a very special group of people.

While the board and staff are key elements of the Museum’s success, I must also recognize the terrific team of volunteers with whom we are blessed. What a group!

Most of what I’ve described above could not take place without the inspired leadership of our Museum’s executive director, Alexandra Nicholis Coon. It has been one of my personal pleasures to watch Alex grow over the years. While I am honored to be serving another stint as Museum chairman, I recognize that Alex is “our leader.” She has earned that title and demonstrates it every day.

Looking ahead, I urge you to support your Museum in every way possible.

Here’s to another exciting year.

David W. Schultz, Chair
Board of Trustees
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 Preservation 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 Jackson School for the Arts Community Advisory Board; a trustee of the Massillon WestStark Chamber Foundation; secretary for Visit Canton; and a member of the City of Massillon’s Community Improvement Corporation and Imagine Massillon task force. Nicholis Coon looks forward to joining the Cleveland Print Room board of directors in 2018. 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. She is a member of Soroptimist International Canton/Stark County and the Akron Chapter DAR and resides in North Canton with her husband and twin daughters.

Scot Phillips

Scot Phillips, MassMu’s operations officer, also serves as membership coordinator, handles Silk Room and lobby rentals, and organizes bulk mailings. He is working on the Capital Campaign steering committee. He began his internship at the Massillon Museum 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 active on the executive committee 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, and by Coon Restoration to paint decorative elements at St. Mary’s Church. In 2013 he painted several of the public art portraits that were displayed in downtown Massillon.

Heather Haden

Heather Haden served as curator at the Massillon Museum from July 2015 to December 2017, and previously served as education and outreach coordinator from February 2014 to September 2015. Holding an MA in art history and a BA in fashion design from Kent State University, she has taught fashion illustration and various art history courses at KSU and contemporary art history at Malone University. She served various roles at the Kent State University Museum from 2006 to 2013. In 2015, Haden published her MA thesis on telepresence art through KSU and served as editor-in-chief for the award-winning Massillon Museum publication, Educator Resource—Imagining a Better World: The Artwork of Nelly Toll. The article, “Blind Spot: A Matter of Perception,” co-authored with Classic Interactions founder John Luchin, about the development of the MassMu exhibition of the same name, will be published in the Spring 2018 issue of Exhibition Journal, a national publication produced by the American Alliance of Museums. She has presented independent research on time-based media and arts and accessibility at regional, national, and international conferences. In December, Heather transitioned from her career at MassMu to become more involved in academia, but she will continue to assist the Museum with special projects.

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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 plenary speaker for the Society of Ohio Archivists 2016 Spring Conference, 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 the Charity School of Kendal Foundation Board. An award-winning photographer, she has produced photo series such as A Long Time Ago: The Fairytales of Mandy Altimus Pond (2012–2014); 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.

Megan Fitze

Recently joining the Massillon Museum in September, Megan Fitze, education and outreach manager, coordinates and generates educational programming for exhibits, art classes, docent tours, outreach, and on-site special events. She organizes the annual Celebration in Art exhibition and the NEA Big Read program. 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, Fitze resided in Columbus, working for Dublin Arts Council as the director of education and special projects. She also has experience with Columbus Metropolitan Library’s Ready to Read Corp and managing the Fair Trade nonprofit, Global Gallery. She previously served on the boards of Women Crafting Change and the Friends of the Cultural Arts Center and is currently a member of the statewide committee, Collaborative for Arts Education in Ohio. Fitze lives with her husband, Josh, in Wooster; they are eagerly expecting their first child in March of 2018.

April Olsen

April Olsen, education and outreach manager at the Massillon Museum until August 2017, developed tours and education exhibits; trained docents; led art and scout programs; and coordinated the NEA Big Read, the Rhythms concert series, classes, the Celebration in Art exhibit, and tour and outreach requests. From Illinois, she holds majors in German and art history and a minor in studio art from Augustana College. At UW-Milwaukee, she received her MA with a focus in early twentieth-century German art. She has taught during jobs and internships at the Art Institute of Chicago, the Lake County Discovery Museum, the Milwaukee Art Museum, UW-Milwaukee, and Illinois schools. She also has interned in curatorial departments at the Art Institute of Chicago’s prints and drawings department and Augustana College. Olsen and her husband and new baby have moved back to the Chicago area to be close to family.

Christopher Craft

Chris Craft is a graduate of the College of Wooster with an MA in education from the University of Akron. He came to the Massillon Museum after thirty-one years in secondary education at Fairless Schools. Craft’s duties at the Museum include facilitating the History Discussion Group, managing Artful Living and Learning, and presenting programs for the
Museum’s speakers’ bureau. He has retired as an adjunct faculty member at Malone University. He has been involved in American Civil War living history since 1972 and was a consultant for the Canton Museum of Art’s 2011 Civil War exhibit, A House Divided, The Heartland Responds. He participated in the filming of several films about the Civil War and in two presidential inaugurations. In 2012, Craft was honored to narrate the Canton Symphony Orchestra’s Master Work Concert presentation of Aaron Copeland’s Lincoln Portrait.

**Brandon Rohrer**

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

Brandon has made his goal, since joining MassMu, to improve recordkeeping and expand the Museum’s volunteer base. Prior to joining the ranks of the MassMu, Brandon was assistant facilities manager for the McKinley Presidential Library and Museum for three years. He continues to share his astronomy knowledge as a planetarium presenter for the McKinley Museum.

**Emily Vigil**

Emily Vigil, the Massillon Museum’s Studio M coordinator, earned a BFA in painting from Marshall University in 2000 and an MFA in painting and drawing from Louisiana State University in 2003. She is a professional artist represented by several galleries. Vigil began her Massillon Museum work in 2009, when she digitized negatives for the Faces of Rural America exhibition. She worked as the Museum’s events coordinator from 2010 until July of 2016. Her previous 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 kindergarten to college level. She now occasionally teaches adult acrylic painting classes at MassMu.

**Heather Bullach**

Heather Bullach has been the traveling exhibits coordinator at the Museum since early 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 tight realism to expressive impressionism. She earned her bachelor’s degree in art at Malone University in 2011. Her work is widely exhibited in 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 currently teaches painting at Malone University and resides in Dalton, Ohio.

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**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 continues to work part-time with a private adoption agency, facilitating adoptions and helping families. She actively participated in six Stark County Citizens for Children Services levies and served as the fundraising chair for the 2015 campaign. Nancy and her husband, Jim, have two adult children.
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. 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 expanded facility. In his spare time, Rohrer enjoys visiting museums and spending time with his five children.

Michelle Persons

Michelle Persons, registrar, started at MassMu as an intern in 2015. Through her internship she assisted with the installation and research for Fashion Outlaws and worked on an inventory and rehousing project in the business collection. She continues to assist with a variety of collections care projects and maintains records related to the collections. During 2016, she assumed the National Endowment for the Humanities Common Heritage grant responsibilities of researching the objects shared through Community Archives Day, coordinating loans from community members for the Stark County in the Great War exhibit, and grant reporting activities. She received her MLIS with a museum studies concentration from Kent State University and a BA in professional writing and editing from Youngstown State University. Her sixteen years in the nonprofit sector have been full of diverse experiences from being the volunteer coordinator at a hospice to a grant specialist managing grant submissions and reports at a hospital foundation. A self-professed museum geek, she’s delighted to be working with the MassMu team during the adventure of the Museum’s expansion. A voracious reader, she enjoys all genres of books, but historical novels and nonfiction biographies top the list. When she doesn’t have her nose in a book, she enjoys playing board games with her family, going to the movies or theater, and, of course, visiting museums.

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 Candlelight Walk. She serves on the Massillon Public Library, Charity School of Kendal Foundation, and Community Improvement Corporation boards; the Massillon Third Century committee, the Imagine Massillon task force, and the Massillon Historic Preservation Commission. 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 urges others to contribute in support of the photography collection and exhibitions. The Repository recognized her as one of “Stark County’s Most Interesting People;” she was inducted into 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 as a Massillon Distinguished Citizen.
Throughout the year, the collections team worked on a number of projects focused on caring for and displaying artifacts in the collections.

As the Jewel automobile is essentially in “long term storage,” even while on display, it is important to adopt methods to ensure its preservation. Sometimes the simplest methods have the most lasting impacts; jack stands are an excellent example of preventive preservation. The tires on the Jewel are difficult to replace, having been made especially for this automobile from period Firestone molds. More delicate than modern tires, it is necessary to preserve them while on display. The jack stands raise the tires off the floor, providing a buffer to reduce air loss that causes flats.

The Stark County in the Great War exhibition featured personal artifacts that had belonged to Charles Breckel. In 2017, Ira Essner, the World War I soldier’s great-nephew, gave the Museum Breckel’s dog tags, uniform buttons, and film negatives from the Great War era to complement the existing collection.

Without former curator Albert E. Hise (1906–1983), the Museum’s collection would not have grown into the extensive art and history resource it is today. In 2017, his dear friend, Wanda Miller, gave the Museum a china set owned by Hise. This collection provides a wonderful opportunity for the Massillon Museum to pay homage to the man who was integral in building the collection through his expertise, his donations, and his connections with artists.

The dinner set not only provides a beautiful example of Limoges china for future research and display, but pieces which comprise this contribution will also be dedicated to developing an education collection. While still under development, the education collection will include objects that enhance hands-on learning experiences within the Museum. The dinner set has provided an opportunity for interns Amanda Sisler and Rebecca Finley to research the chinaware, and hone their skills of object handling and condition reporting.

The Museum purchased a painting, *Visitation*, by John W. Carlson, a Cleveland artist who exhibited his paintings this summer in Studio M. Trained in Cleveland at the Cooper School of Art, and exhibited widely, Carlson draws and paints with raw emotion. The painting acquired by the Museum represents a series of works he sourced from found photographs of anonymous subjects.

The City of Massillon donated a significant collection of public works photographs, negatives, and albums. More than 1,300 images chronicle many major street and sewer projects, canal repair and maintenance, and the three viaduct projects that spanned from the 1930s to 1951. Every image has been digitized and will be available online soon.

The Massillon Museum preserves more than 40,000 photographic negatives taken by Jack Worthington for the Massillon Evening Independent newspaper, between the years 1946 and 1989. This year, the Museum was fortunate that his son, Jack Worthington Jr., and step-son, Randy Sherretts, both donated components of the photographer’s film camera equipment, further enhancing our ability to research, understand, and preserve his regional legacy.

Cataloguing 3,911 items that 30 donors contributed in 2017
2017 DONORS TO THE COLLECTION

Affinity Medical Center Pharmacy
Denny Arner
Dick Bordner
City of Massillon
William Berens
Vivian Cossentino—in memory of Phil Cossentino
Andy Dreamingwolf & Scot Phillips
Ira Essner
Clinton Holloway
Alma Houston—in honor of Alexandra Nicholis
Janalyn Huffman—in memory of
Gilbert & Patricia Crum
Richard Kramer
Mercy Lojo
Karen Dorman Marek
Massillon Public Library
Charles Mauger
Wanda Miller—in memory of Albert E. Hise
Pro Football Hall of Fame

Wiley K. Reed Jr.—in honor of Simon Reed
Molly Rinehart—in memory of
Calvin and Margaret Malone
Michael Riordan
Ross County Historical Society
Mark & Randy Sherrets & Jackie Worthington
Jim Sparks—in memory of John & Amelia Sparks
Steelworkers of the
Massillon-Canton Republic Steel Plant
Kathy J. Taylor
Sylvia Triesel—in memory
of Phil & Vivian Cossentino
Don E. Unger—in memory of
Donald & Vaidna Unger
Margy Vogt
Nancy Welch
Doris Wertz
Jim Wertz
Jack Worthington Jr.

Preservation Honor Roll

Lois and Ed McHugh—
in honor of Bryan & Mandy Altimus Stahl
Sylvia Triesel—in memory of Vivian Cossentino
Bill and Virginia Fox—
in memory of Frances Ruth Cleaver
Wanda Miller—in memory of Albert E. Hise
Wesley Bishop

David Schultz and
Museum staff
installed the jacks
that now protect the
fragile tires of the
Jewel.

FAR LEFT: Amanda Sisler and Rebecca Finley worked with Registrar Michelle Persons to accession Albert Hise’s china, which was donated by Wanda Miller (right).

CENTER: Medal presented to Charles Breckel from the City of Massillon at the close of World War I.

LEFT: Charles Breckel’s dog tag.

MAS

MAS

MAS
VIRTUAL GALLERIES AND RESOURCES

The Massillon Museum’s virtual galleries have increased by more than forty this year, making two hundred different galleries available online. These include Civil War soldiers, the Massillon Fire Department, and 1800s newspapers. Learn more: massillonmuseum.org/virtual-exhibits.

To find tips on preservation, how-to guides, oral history interviews, finding aids, and essays about Massillon businesses (such as coal mines, steel, and glass), visit: massillonmuseum.org/massillon-history.

Amanda Johnson, who interned with the Museum last spring, pored over hundreds of portrait photographs to compile a graphic list of Massillon’s photography studios. Her PDF resource shares examples of each photographer’s work, logos, and years the studio was in operation. This resource is available for downloading on our website: massillonmuseum.org/350.

In the fall, archives interns Hope Bruce (Walsh University) and Sarah Dickes (Malone University) conducted archival research on Massillon’s department stores and the Russell and Company, respectively. These resources will be made available online in 2018.

The Museum’s main summer exhibit focused on World War I, and the staff and volunteers were able to compile digital galleries and resources related to Stark County’s contributions to the war effort from the permanent collection and archives. Virtual galleries now available include representative collections of posters, photographs, archives, propaganda posters, and the personal military effects of Charles Vernon Brown, Harry Curley, and Charles Breckel. The Stark County Honor Roll, a five hundred-page volume, which includes information on every Stark County soldier who served in the Great War, is now digitized and searchable online. Archivist Mandy Altimus Stahl produced a thirty-minute documentary film sourced from interviews with local World War I veterans facilitated by Museum staff and volunteers in the 1980s and ‘90s. It can be found in the virtual galleries. Learn more on the Museum’s website: massillonmuseum.org/wwi.

Presenting 200 virtual galleries: massillonmuseum.org/virtual-exhibits
VOLUNTEERS

More than 130 volunteers assisted with Museum events, archival and collections projects, classes and workshops, bartending, and baking throughout the year. The annual Island Party was staffed by the MassMu team, most of the year-round volunteers, and many people who enjoy working just that one event. Volunteers donated 7,000-plus hours of their time to the Museum in 2017.

The Activities Committee has been hard at work this year, having created a governing body consisting of a president, treasurer, and secretary to help the committee function as independently as possible. The committee held its first 2017 meeting in August.

The children’s Pumpkin Patch Party was the first event planned by the committee in 2017. It was a great success with more than ninety children in attendance.

The committee’s next focus was holiday tree decorating. Due to the popularity of last year’s community collaboration theme, the committee decided to again invite downtown businesses to decorate trees in the windows. They organized a wine and cheese reception and welcomed local merchants into the Museum to decorate trees that represented their enterprises. Thirteen businesses participated.

At the children’s holiday party, more than eighty children—members and children and grandchildren of members—played games, enjoyed refreshments, sat on Santa’s lap, and received gifts.

PLANNED GIVING

At the advent of Massillon Museum’s 85th year, we wish to highlight the importance of planned giving, which will help ensure the organization’s successful operation of existing and new programs another eighty-five years. Oftentimes, we give based on immediate needs, which is an important motivation. Planned giving in its many forms allows you the opportunity to make a lasting impact on the organizations and causes that matter most to you. To learn more about ways to establish a legacy of giving to MassMu, contact Scot Phillips.

We are pleased when we are able to contribute through planned giving to organizations/groups that are meaningful to us. At the same time, we know we are helping our community be stronger and able to reach out to more people through programs, buildings, scholarships, etc. At the Massillon Museum we are preserving the past so future generations can learn the local history.

—Ed and Louise Mahoney
EXHIBITIONS

New exhibitions in 2017 were driven by a focus on educational partnerships and increased accessibility initiatives. In early January, the Museum celebrated 273 artworks by students from fifteen area K–12 public and parochial schools in the annual Celebration in Art exhibition.

The following month, the Museum mounted a pioneering exhibition, Blind Spot: A Matter of Perception, in its main gallery. This exhibit featured ten abstract paintings from the Massillon Museum’s collection, each translated by co-curators Barry Stirbens and Jan Stirbens—community members who are blind—into sonic iPad touch-screen apps. Tactile models, created by local artist David McDowell, along with typewritten and braille labels, explained the art.

In celebration of the 2017 NEA Big Read book selection, True Grit, the Museum curated the exhibition, Westward, Ho! True Grit Themes in Costumes and Artifacts, on display in the Museum’s second floor. This exhibition featured Academy Award nominee Mary Zophres’ costumes from the Coen Brothers’ 2010 film True Grit, on loan from Paramount Pictures. The costumes complemented American Indian artifacts from the Massillon Museum’s collection, curated by Collections Assistant Stefanie O’Connor.

The Museum was honored to be awarded its first grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities this year—the Common Heritage Grant—to support the Museum’s 2017 summer exhibition, Stark County in the Great War. This grant supported a Community Archives Day in March to digitize World War I cultural heritage materials from community members. The fruits of this event not only resulted in a forthcoming community resource, but also contributed a wealth of knowledge to the exhibition. Spanning the main gallery and second floor, this community collaborative exhibition commemorated the centennial of the United States’s involvement in World War I through the display and interpretation of archives, three-dimensional objects, music, and an original documentary produced by Mandy Altimus Stahl.

As the Museum planned the home of the future Paul E. Brown Museum this year, it continued its series of Paul Brown exhibitions on the second floor with Paul Brown: Innovator. Guest curated by Ben Ankrum, this interactive exhibition highlighted a few of Brown’s many innovations to the game, including the playbook, film study, the passer’s pocket, and the face mask.

The year concluded with the annual Stark County Artists Exhibition, including fifty-five artworks by forty artists, selected from 189 entries. Elizabeth Carney, Steven Mastroianni, and Susan Yingling were the 2018 jurors. All artworks eligible for the exhibition have been completed within the past two years, making this exhibition a true snapshot of the wealth of established and emerging artistic talent from the county.
**STUDIO M EXHIBITS**

Studio M featured nine exhibitions in 2017. The gallery displayed a blend of solo and group exhibitions in a wide variety of media, including photography, painting, jewelry, weaving, digital illustration, and mixed media. The year began with narrative photography by Joe Albert, which relayed the state-of-the-art restoration of St. Mary’s Church. In March and April, Michael Weiss enchanted viewers with his imaginative digital prints. Next, Katherine Butler displayed abstract paintings, as her senior exhibition for a bachelor of fine arts degree from The University of Akron. Cleveland artist John W. Carlson’s paintings graced the gallery walls in June. The Massillon Museum acquired Carlson’s painting, *Visitation*, from the exhibit for the permanent collection.

Annual group exhibitions featured artwork by the Boys and Girls Club of Massillon; the Relay for Life exhibit; and *Image to Image*, a collaboration with Walsh University photojournalism students. Unique group exhibitions included *Sparking Creativity: An Art Teacher Invitational*, and *Caught Off Guard* by members of the Canton Art League.

In 2018, Studio M will be in a new, second-floor gallery space. The debut exhibition, *Art as Journal*, will open in the fall, featuring photography by Shari Wilkins and Laura Ruth Bidwell.

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**TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS**

*Imagining A Better World: The Artwork of Nelly Toll* traveled to three locations in 2017. In the spring, the exhibit opened at Alvernia University in Reading and the Hanover Art Guild in conjunction with Hanover High School in Hanover, both in Pennsylvania. In October, the exhibit went international! It opened at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, where it will remain on display through March 30, 2018. Executive Director Alexandra Nicholis Coon, Traveling Exhibits Coordinator Heather Bullach, and Diane Estelle Vicari of DOCdance Productions joined Dr. Toll and her husband, Ervin, at the university as she presented a special lecture in conjunction with the exhibition.

Heather Bullach and Alexandra Nicholis Coon of the Massillon Museum and Diane Vicari of DOCdance Productions (standing) and Ervin and Nelly Toll (seated) attended the opening of *Imagining a Better World in Edmonton.*
The Massillon Museum is committed to its community members through rich educational programming on every level. In 2017, the Museum Education and Outreach Department engaged more than 14,500 people via tours and field trips, special events, programs such as the NEA Big Read and Artful Living and Learning, on-site classes, career days, community events, and more. Docents—Rick Arztner, Bev Denholm, Don Englehart, Marsha Calhoun, Bob Ohling, and Dawn Rohrer—led 968 visitors of all ages on tours of the groundbreaking exhibitions, *Blind Spot: A Matter of Perception* and *Stark County in the Great War*.

Celebrating its ninth year, the free, intergenerational workshop series, *Do the Mu!*, welcomed 328 participants. Additionally, a variety of community instructors led numerous art classes on-site—teaching art forms such as acrylic painting, graphic design, and storytelling. Off-site, outreach programs engaged almost 10,000 people, promoting Massillon Museum exhibitions and programs, as well as engaging folks with hands-on artmaking through events such as Canton’s First Fridays, SmArtSplash, career days at Stark County Schools, and a variety of Massillon’s community festivals.

In fulfillment of the generous ArtsinStark SmArts grant to fund the Traveling Treasures outreach program, educators debuted “Native Americans in Ohio” to first and fourth grade students in Stark County elementary schools. The development of a new the Traveling Treasure, “Life in Massillon, Ohio, during the Civil War” is currently underway and will be ready to present in early 2018. A Nelly Toll Traveling Treasure, based on the Museum’s exhibition, *Imagining a Better World: the Artwork of Nelly Toll*, will be developed and available to schools next fall.

In an uninterrupted ten years, the Museum, in collaboration with the Massillon Public Library, received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts to host the Big Read, featuring the book *True Grit* by Charles Portis. The Massillon/North Canton Elks Lodge #2029, the Rotary Club of Massillon, and the ArtsinStark SmArts grant also generously supported the 2017 NEA Big Read programs. The Museum distributed 1,600 free books to Massillon and its surrounding communities. Nearly 3,000 people attended the thirty Big Read events created by diverse community partners, engaging the public in a wide range of programming spanning the themes of cinema, fashion, visual arts, literature, nature, and more.

The Big Read keynote speaker, Bobi Garland, previous director of the Research and Costume Archive at Western Costume Company in Hollywood, highlighted the historical research for the film’s costume design process. Book discussions garnered strong participation. More than one hundred people attended the Massillon Public Library’s family event, “Wild West, Whistles, and Wheels,” which hosted the Massillon Railroad Club’s model trains, along with a Western-themed craft and stories. Other events included a campfire and Western music event held at Stark County parks, art projects held at the Museum and partner organizations, film screenings, horseback riding, community lectures, and a historic downtown walking tour. The Museum’s *True Grit* costume exhibit served as a springboard from which to explore the Museum’s American Indian collection in connection with the setting of the Big Read book.

The Massillon Museum Education Department wishes to recognize the contributions of its 2017 interns, Demi Edwards, Shauna Lachendro, Ariana Parry, and Maeggie Herman-Lawrence. The education department also underwent a staff transition. In September, Megan Fitze joined the Museum team as the new education and outreach manager, when her predecessor, April Olsen, moved back to Chicago for new life endeavors.
This year marks the tenth year of in-class operations for The Artful Living Program, now Artful Living and Learning. This program has been statistically proven to stimulate creativity and improve academic achievement in preschool children by immersing them in the arts for an extended period of time. Created at the Massillon Museum by Wilbur Arnold and Christopher Craft, the program has grown significantly over the years. In 2017–18, Artful Living and Learning will provide 225 arts lessons weekly, for twenty-five weeks, in thirteen school districts in Stark and Carroll Counties—improving the lives of more than 1,300 preschool children.

Funding for the program for school year 2017–18 is being provided by: ArtsinStark, the Paul and Carol David Foundation, the Deuble Foundation, the Gessner Family Foundation, the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, MCTV, the Ohio Arts Council, the Stark Community Foundation, and the Stark County Educational Service Center. Additional funding is provided by participating school districts.

The arts describe and define our culture. They are the manifestation of our communal aesthetic, the passionate expression of our collective soul, the mark of humanity. Among the greatest powers of the earth is human creativity; among the greatest tragedies, a child who has not been introduced to his/her creative potential. Artful Living and Learning is introducing children to their creative potential.

ARTFUL LIVING
AND LEARNING

FACILITIES

Keeping a close eye on budget, Facilities Manager Rick Rohrer worked during the first part of the year to restructure the Maintenance Department, targeting efficiency and safety, while attending to the upkeep, safety, and cleanliness of the building and grounds.

Several of the year’s major projects included adding a maintenance department shelving system, upgrading lighting within the building, researching an expanded security system, and deep cleaning the hardwood flooring.

Once the expansion project started in the fall, much of the focus has turned to liaising with the contractors.

Construction trades students from R.G. Drage Career Technical Center, under the supervision of instructor Brad Richardson, helped the Museum prepare for the groundbreaking ceremony, then they returned to watch the demolition of the Knox Building.
Completing its fifteenth season, the Museum’s Brown Bag Lunch series continues to draw crowds that fill the lobby once a month from January through October. Guests bring lunch or purchase lunch from Anderson’s in the City. The Museum provides complementary cookies and coffee.

During the first half of the year, Meghan Reed talked about American Indians of Northeast Ohio and Ed McHugh presented “How Massillon Steel Built the World’s First Streamline Diesel Train.” To accent the NEA Big Read, Mark Dawidziak performed his “Roughing It” monologue and Jean Druesedow spoke about Katherine Hepburn. A panel discussion with Heather Haden, Barry Stirbens, and David McDowell added understanding to the Blind Spot exhibition.

Doug Scheetz commemorated the 175th anniversary of The Russell and Company with “The Horsepower behind Massillon’s Growth and Prosperity.” Dr. Leslie Heaphy talked about women’s roles in World War I and David Harding’s topic was the history of television game shows. Mandy Altimus Stahl talked about her new book, Early Massillon and Lost Kendal, and John Burke wrapped up the year in full historic regalia as he depicted Captain Wolfe of the Delaware.

Brown Bag Lunchees will be held at the Massillon Salvation Army during the first several months of 2018 to make way for reconfiguration of the lobby.

Brown Bag Lunchees are free and open to everyone with no reservations necessary.

History Discussion Group has been meeting monthly since 1995. Participants contribute their experience and knowledge concerning pre-selected topics of local history or special interest. The most popular discussion of 2017—attended by sixty people in February—was “Diners, Dives, and Drive-ins.” Other popular topics included: favorite TV westerns and films, fires and firemen, and streetcars and buses. Participating in History Discussion Group is like taking a course in local history...but more fun.

The group meets at 10:00 a.m. the first Tuesday of each month. Attendance is free; coffee and doughnuts are offered for a donation. All are welcome to contribute their memories and their knowledge or to just sit and listen.

St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church has graciously offered to host History Discussion Group during construction and renovation at Museum.
Reflecting on the major events of 2017 one word comes to mind: successful. The number-one goal for all MassMu events is to educate, entertain, and inspire our guests. If guests have these experiences while attending our events, we have been successful!

Engaging our guests in the total experience of the NEA Big Read kick-off, exhibition openings, or special events is very important. That is why MassMu rolled through the True Grit Big Read kick-off in a Conestoga wagon, listened to the Canton Symphony perform music inspired by works of art in the Blind Spot exhibition, and joined the Community Candlelight Walk with special guests from VOCl to add to the community’s holiday cheer.

In addition, thousands of guests attended our signature summer events, Relics and Refabs Roadshow and the ever-popular annual Island Party. Relics and Refabs featured vendors of antiques and collectibles 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 and the P.L.U.S. Band to entertain more than 2,600 guests at the annual Island Party! Pulled pork, MassMu salsa, island drinks, and steel drum music provided by the Jackson High School Band had guests dancing on the lawn and blowing bubbles in the children’s activity area.

No start to a Massillon Tiger football season would be complete without the MassMu Tiger-Striped Ice Cream Night with the Massillon football team, Massillon Tiger Swing Band, and Obie! Custom-created orange and black ice cream is served to all who attend.

Rounding out the year of successful events were the Pumpkin Patch Party for our younger members and the children’s and adults’ holiday parties for members, complete with music, good cheer, and a visit from Santa.
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The Island Party is a perpetually popular family event.
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2017 MassMu Membership Campaign

With the close of 2017, the Massillon Museum is officially celebrating the ninth consecutive year of membership growth. Our goals for the 2017 membership campaign were to raise $60,000 in membership and have 775 members by the close of the year. Each fall we increase our goals and continue to break records. Our 2017 membership totals are astounding with $64,319.63 raised and 790 members! To give you an idea of the amount of growth the Museum has seen, in 2009, the Museum had approximately 320 members and raised just over $14,000 in membership dollars. This major growth is a testament to the impact we make within our community. Membership has become a significant source of unrestricted operational support for MassMu, allowing us to maintain a vital, fun, and free Museum for our community and the region!

Our success with this year’s campaign wouldn’t have been possible without our supporters, volunteers, MassMu board and staff, and the professional guidance and hard work of our membership campaign co-chairs Kathy and Bill Malinowski. As extremely active chairs with both insight and ideas for new prospects, their involvement was paramount in developing a strategy that once again pushes MassMu beyond its goals!

In fewer than ten years, the Massillon Museum has gained more than 650 members and increased member dollars more than four-fold. These are numbers our entire community can celebrate!

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![RIGHT: Bill and Kathy Malinowski chaired the successful 2017 membership campaign.]

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Jim & Gail Mauger
Jennifer & Craig Maurer
Gary & Lynn May
John & Ann McGrath
Lois & Ed McHugh
Jeff M. McMahan
Trisha Merchant
Richard Miller
Muffy & Will Miller
Allan & Donna Moore
Dennis Morgan
Stephanie Mottice
Edward Murray
Myers Family
Kendra Nasvadi
Bob & Di Ohling
Matthew & Kelly Onest
Kristin & John Paquelet
Charles & Judy Paquelet
Anthony Perry &
Katherine Catazaro-Perry
Al & Lori Perry
Christopher, Sarah & John Pfendler
Roger & Donise Pick
Alicia & John Pieper
Nannette & Thomas Radel
Judy & Jim Radel
Mrs. Giles B. Raisner Jr.
William & Ruth Reid
Sue & Robert Reid
Rich & Flo Rhodes
Brad, Melinda, Alex,
& Sydney Richardson
Jim & Cathy Rieder
Jack & Cheryl Robinson
Sandy & Ed Robitz
Theodore & Camille Roehlig
Julie & Bill Rohr
Bob & Patty Rohrer
Ms. Catherine Romans
Robert L. & Mary Evelyn Rudy
Bruce & Brenda Sampsell
Doug & Kris Scheetz
Linda & Denny Schlegel
Rachel Schneider
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Seesan
Jim & Sue Seifert
Steve & Sarah Shumaker
Shirley A. Sibila
Larry & Maude Slagle
Steve & Dawn Slagle
Mr. William Slater
Julie & David Smith
Debora & Dale Smith
Virginia R. Snyder
Gary & Donna Spangler
Bryan & Mandy Attimus Stahl
Jim & Barb Starrett
Paul & Miletsa Stergios
Dan & Phyllis Stipe
Leslie Stuck
Ron & Tig Swartz
Mark & May Sweany
Barbara L. Thomas
Jeffrey W. & Adriann Thornberry
Thouvenin Family
Lana & Tom Tully
Sandra, Benny & Richard Vaux
Joel & Margy Vogt
Jerry & Nick Vrotsos
Anne & Tim Wadian
Dale & Jo Walterhouse
Mickey & Mary Ann Warren
Robert & Rita Watkins
Jennifer & Jon Watson
Bernice & Bruce Weick
Marshall Weinberg
Joe & Pat Weisgarber
Dan & Jane Wickerham
Joan & Karl Willms
Norm Woods
Patricia Zinsmeister-Parker
Individual
Lynzee Abel
Seth Adam
Clare Murray Adams
Henry Aegerter
Ms. Sue Ambrosic
Sharon Anderson
Maureena Arner
Mr. William Barrow
Rose Bartholomew
Susan Belden
Diane Belfiglio
Theresa Bembnister
Jeffrey S. Benson
Adam Bernard
Lonnie Boatright
M. Susanne Bourquin
Pat Bratton
Bob Bratton
Heather Bullach
Donna M. Burau
Rosemary Burkhart
Marjorie J. Burkhart
Sharon Burnley
Frances Butts
Marsha Calhoun
Denise Campbell
Cynthia Capestrain
John Carlson
Cheryl Carter
Jeannae Chovan
Joanie Christoff
Carrie A. Clemens
Betty Covert
Jill Creamer
Richard E. Croasdaile Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. R.J. Crofut
Judith A. Crone
Dennis Cutlip
Glenn Dettman
Diane Dickerson
Regina Donovan
Frances J. Dougherty
Nancy Dressler
Zachary Dunne
Kimberly Edwards
Lorraine Ellison
Thomas Elum
Norma Engelhardt
Jane Erickson
Paul A. Esway
Harriett Evans
Jean Ferguson
Cindy Fichter
Rebecca Finley
Laurie G. Fife Harbert
Julie Fisher
Megan Fitz
Susan M. Fox
Lucinda Frailly
Wanda Frease
Thomas L. Friedman
Mary Frances Furlow
Glenn Gamber
Lewis S. Garrett
Laverne Geyer
Rachel Giltz
Bree Givens
Pamela Glover Wadsworth
Sally Grant
Pam Grant
Connie Guist
Michelle Gullion
Rocky Halter
Katherine Hamel
Janet Hamel
Ann Marie Hank
Debi Hannum
James Hannum
Kari Hansbarger
John Harris III
Mary Harris
Vicki Hatheway
Peggy Haunty
Beverly Hay
Rosemary Hayne
Leslie Hayphey
Karen Hemsley
Aaron Hernandez
Ted Herncane
Marjorie Hill
Judy Hoffner
Alyson Holland
Bob Hopp
Sherri Hornbrook
Judy Huber
Dawn Huntsman
Carolyn Husted
Jean C. Ilg
Barbara Jackson
Benjamin Jobe
Marjorie Johnson
Vicki Johnson
Jan Jordan
James Kallmyer
Gail Keener
Aaron J. Keener
Jon Keppel
Nancy Kerr
Gail Kincaid
Elaine Koontz
Shauna Lachendro
Ted Lawson
Scott Lehman
Sharon R. Leib
Nancy Letcavits
Edward W. Lewis
Mercedes Lojo
Kimberly Lowe
Martha MacLachlan
Mike Malinowski
Peggy Mang
Celeste A. Martin
Nancy Stewart Matin
Bob Maurer
Richard K. Mautz
Craig May
Sandra Mazon
Beverly A. McCall
Leilani A. McHenry
Dan F. McMasters
Ken McPeek
Tom Migge
Gloria & Gary Miller
Joanne Muntan
Paul Muchler
Alyssa Myers
Nick Nicholis
Sheila Niezgoada-Oakes
Judith Oberlin
Ms. Doris Oberlin
Rita Palaski
Janet Palmer
Lorna Patt
Brad Petratis
Robert Pfendler
Mitzi Phillips
Devyn Phillips
Kelsey Phillips
Mark Pitocco
Rex Poling
Joan Pratt
Nancy Putt
David Ranki
Anna B. Rather
Deborah Redmond
Malynda Reed
Irene T. Rodriguez
Carol Roger
Priscilla Roggenkamp
Craig K. Rohr
Susan Rooney
Foster A. Rose II
Mary Ellen Runser
Linda Sasavicz
Connie Schram
Robin Schumacher
Leo & Patricia Scully
Julie Sellers
Sylvia Kane Seymour
Isin Sezer
Nancy Shankle
Elizabeth Sims
Judith Singer
Amanda Sisler
Benjamin Slagle
Joann Smith
Michelle L. Smith
Patricia Smith
Dan & Jody Snively
Wendell Snodgrass
Mr. Herbert E. Snowden
Stephanie Span
Laria Sponseller
Susan Straughn
Erin Sullivan
Lynn M. Talbott
Gayle Theiss
Harriet Thornberry
Michele Tokos
Shirley Tope
Sylvia Triesel
Terrell Tripp
Cathy Truemper
Angelina Verginis
Emily Vigil
Donna Viles
Gary Vogt
Michele Waalkes
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Enriching our community through education and experience
TOP ROW: Bill Gill from The Kiko Company generously volunteered his appraisal services for the Museum’s Relics and Refabs Roadshow Capital Campaign fundraiser. MV

Fr. George Baum and his wife, Cristin, investigated all the sensory opportunities of the Blind Spot exhibition during the opening. MV

Carol Valentine and Vicki Hatheway, who have served in major Museum volunteer roles, continue to support the Museum and enjoy MassMu events such as the MAPS luncheon. MV

CENTER ROW: Elley Gilson, a second-grader at Northwest Primary School, proudly displays her mask at the Celebration in Art exhibition opening. MV

Twins dressed in matching Caribbean dresses and colorful leis attended the Island Party. MV

BOTTOM ROW: Bryan Stahl provided acoustic guitar music for Relics and Refabs and the Members’ Holiday Party. MV

Rick and Patty Dalsky were anxious to see the Joe Albert Studio M photography show documenting the restoration of their home church, St. Mary. MV

BACK COVER: At the ceremonial groundbreaking, Randolph Spencer, Dunlop and Johnston; Steve Berecek, Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club president; Senator Scott Oelslager; Capital Campaign Co-Chair Nancy Gessner; MassMu Executive Director Alexandra Nicholis Coon; Capital Campaign Co-Chair Bob Gessner; Paul Siemborski, DLR Group/WRL; and Museum Board Chairman David Schultz, were among the dignitaries who signed the special I-beam. MAS