



MASSMUTM
MASSILLON MUSEUM

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

MASSMU

MASSILLON MUSEUM

121 Lincoln Way East | Massillon, Ohio 44646
330.833.4061 | MassillonMuseum.org

MASSMU & OHREGIONALITIES

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

TWILITE CAFÉ

Tuesday to Saturday: 7:00 am to 2:00 pm



CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ANNUAL REPORT

JB	Julie Botos	AM	Allan Moore
LC	Logan Carr	SP	Scot Phillips
ANC	Alexandra Nicholis Coon	AP	Alexa Polinori
CC	Christopher Craft	DR	Dove Reeher
GD	Glenn Dettman	CR	Caylan Rentsch
CD	Chris Dewald	BAR	Brandon Rohrer
TH	Ted Hercane	RR	Rick Rohrer
MRK	Mary Ruth Kamp	BR	Bob Rossiter
KK	Kelly Klein Photography	MAS	Mandy Altimus Stahl
VM	Valerie Metzger	EV	Emily Vigil
		MV	Margy Vogt



HAMMER'S SERVICE | PARADIGM SHIFT CRAFT BREWERY | ROCK-FAS | ABBOTT ELECTRIC, INC.

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BULLSEYE INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY CORPORATION | MASSILLON TIGER FOOTBALL BOOSTER CLUB | DAISY LANE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

DUNLOP & JOHNSTON, INC. | FARMERS NATIONAL BANK | DIGITAL GRAPHICS | D&A PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

The Massillon Museum strives to be fully accessible. In many cases, exhibitions include braille labels and interactive components.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ALEXANDRA NICHOLIS COON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

How do we measure success? There are numerous ways businesses—and museums are businesses—do so: attendance and enrollment, social media engagement, employee retention, membership growth, program quality, facility health, financial performance, accessibility, guest experience, innovation, and more. When I reflect on 2025 and how I measure MassMu's success, I think about every one of these facets

and can identify benchmarks we have set and surpassed. I don't believe reporting to you, our members, should look any different from a company reporting to its shareholders: each of you has invested in the Museum to help ensure its continued success and ability to deliver on promises of quality, access, and upholding public trust. And as you read through the pages of this annual report, last year's accomplishments will become apparent.

But beyond the quantitative means by which we gauge success, there are anecdotes, photographs, and feelings of belonging that get to the core of who we are as an organization. Whether it is the embodiment of pride that

consumes a child who sees their artwork on a gallery wall for the first time or that which washes over an established artist as friends, family, and strangers pour into a gallery to see their show; or a grandparent photographed by family as they stand next to a uniform once worn in service to this country; or the emotion that consumes a room when voicing the memory of a shared experience around a table; or a series of feet tapping along in rhythm to music at a concert: these are the moments that collectively represent who we are as an organization. And if these moments characterize who we are, then those individuals who give decades of their lives in service to the Museum are the true heart and soul of what defines MassMu as it is today. Perhaps those individuals have only just started their involvement with the Museum; they bring value and contribute to advancement of our mission no matter what stage of service they are in. But when those who have been affiliated with the Museum for years and years pass from this earth, the memories and legacies they leave behind still resonate in this special place because they cared enough to help write the Museum's story. They shared their talents for authoring plays or presenting lectures. They brought smiles and a feeling of warmth to visitors by greeting them at the front door or serving them coffee and cookies. They conducted research and helped secure artifacts for the collection that built the narrative of our community for generations to come. They set policies that govern our operations and involved their families in the life of the Museum. Looking back at 2025, I remember those we have lost and how deeply they enriched the lives of this place. For me, how selflessly they gave of their time to see this organization thrive, and the impact they had on MassMu's present, and future, is how I measure success.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 2025

	UNAUDITED 2025	AUDITED 2024	AUDITED 2023
Revenue	2,021,215	2,181,505	1,807,657
Expenses	1,540,896	1,593,375	1,358,856
Depreciation	<u>400,000</u>	<u>444,931</u>	<u>329,273</u>
Net Income (loss)	80,319	143,199	119,528
Cash	790,090	641,294	791,160
Investments	1,143,688	940,167	752,613
Net Fixed Assets	6,144,362	6,403,989	6,550,007
Other Assets	<u>1,173,252</u>	<u>1,178,133</u>	<u>1,177,733</u>
Total Assets	9,251,392	9,163,583	9,271,513
Liabilities	<u>106,990</u>	<u>99,500</u>	<u>350,629</u>
Net Assets	9,144,402	9,064,083	8,920,884

AM

TOP: JD Eicher performed at the November 6 Rhythms concert. GD

LEFT: Preschoolers interacted with residents of Danbury Senior Living at the October Artful Living and Learning Intergenerational Program in Gessner Hall. CR

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



ANDREW BYLER
CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A Look Back at a Remarkable Year at the Massillon Museum

As we reflect on the past year, I am proud to celebrate the creativity, community engagement, and meaningful growth that continue to define the Massillon Museum. Our galleries once again presented thought-provoking exhibitions that invited audiences to view art and our history through fresh and compelling perspectives. Two of my favorites were *Sight Unseen*, which encouraged visitors to consider visual art through the experiences of artists who are blind, while *Juxtaposed* highlighted the innovation that emerges when established and rising artists collaborate.

Programs & Initiatives Growing in Exciting Ways

This year brought meaningful developments across the Museum's programs and partnerships:

- The launch of TWiLite Café marked the beginning of a promising collaboration with TWI.
- *Gilding Northeast Ohio* earned national recognition from both the Costume Society of America and the American Association for State and Local History.
- Our newly renovated MAC classroom expanded hands-on learning opportunities for all ages.

We were also delighted to welcome seven new team members whose creativity and dedication are already enriching our work: Dove Reeher, Chiara Power, Ashley Bammerlin, Logan Carr, Morgan Wolf, Faith Emerson, and CJ Ritenour.

Looking Ahead: Momentum for the Months to Come

As we move into the next quarter, we are energized by the initiatives and exhibitions already underway. The *Play Like a Girl* exhibition shines a spotlight on the Massillon Washington

High School girls' flag football team and their groundbreaking inaugural season. Our events calendar continues to grow with workshops, educational programs, and interactive experiences for visitors of all ages—be sure to take a look so nothing passes you by.

We are also excited to introduce a refreshed Museum presence downtown with a new sign along Lincoln Way in 2026. Designed to increase visibility and strengthen community connection, it will serve as a welcoming landmark for residents and visitors alike.

Strength Through Support

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, members, volunteers, organizational partners, and supporters, the Museum remains financially strong. This stability empowers us to invest confidently in exhibitions, programs, and long-term planning that uphold our mission.

Every achievement this year was made possible by our dedicated staff and the community that surrounds us. As we look forward, we remain deeply grateful for your involvement. Whether through membership, contributions, or participation in upcoming programs, your support fuels the meaningful work we do each day.

Thank you for being an essential part of the Massillon Museum family. Your continued trust and engagement allow us to preserve our history, inspire creativity, and foster learning for all who walk through our doors. Together, we will continue shaping a vibrant and welcoming future for our community. I look forward to sharing the exciting months ahead with you.

MASSMU STAFF



Alexandra Nicholis Coon

Nicholis Coon is executive director for the Massillon Museum and 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. She has been with MassMu since 2001 and served as curator from 2003 to 2010. Coon served as board president for the Ohio Museums Association from 2017 to 2019 and is active on the boards of Aultman Hospital and Soroptimist International Midwestern Region. She has led two major capital projects for Massillon Museum, most recently a \$6.2 million expansion. In 2024, Coon was presented with the Ohio Museums Association Advocate of the Year Award, and the Downtown Massillon Association's Business Leadership Award. She is a graduate of the 37th Class of Leadership Stark County and the inaugural Creative Ohio Advocacy Leadership Institute (2025).



Scot Phillips

Scot Phillips, MassMu's operations officer, serves as membership coordinator, handles planned giving and donations, and leads the operations department. He came to the 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. He serves on the Ohio Museums Association board and was president of the Downtown Massillon Association in 2021. Phillips has completed mural commissions for the cities of Massillon, Canton, Kent, Akron, Magnolia, and more. He was co-curator and project director of MassMu's award-winning *Moniker: Identity Lost and Found* exhibition and catalog. He and his wife are the parents of twins, Klara and Cooper.



Morgan Wolf

Born and raised in the Washington DC metro area, Wolf graduated with their masters in education from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2016. After moving to Ohio, they taught at the I Promise School in Akron and helped teachers bring ebooks to their students

with Overdrive, before finding their place at Massillon Museum in 2025. In their free time, Wolf enjoys writing, playing piano, and genealogical research.



Brandon Rohrer

Brandon Rohrer joined the Museum in March 2016 and serves as guest operations manager. In this role, he acts as the Museum's security liaison, oversees guest services, provides supervision and direction for the Museum Shop (OHregionalities), and supports

the organization as a network administrator. He helped found the Museum's Accessibility Committee and currently chairs the group. Beyond the Museum, Rohrer serves as director of technology and treasurer at St. John's United Church of Christ. He previously worked as assistant facilities manager at the McKinley Presidential Library and Museum and continues to assist as a planetarium presenter. He serves on the boards of the Massillon Heritage Society, Art Possible Ohio, and the United Way Young Leaders Society. He is also a Freemason at Canton Lodge No. 60. Rohrer presented at the Ohio Museums Association annual conference in 2020 and 2023. He studied information technology and business at Kent State University and was named to the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce's Twenty Under Forty in 2025.



Ashley Bammerlin

Ashley Bammerlin is the guest operations assistant and shop coordinator. She graduated from The University of Akron with a BFA in fine art photography, dedicating most of her time to photographing the Lincoln Highway and Massillon. Her ancestors

have lived in Massillon since the 1800s, and she is looking forward to discovering more of her family's history at the Museum. She enjoys traveling, antiques, vintage fashion, and most importantly spending time with her family and her two dogs, Georgiana and Ruby.



Logan Carr

Carr joined the Massillon Museum staff in January of 2025 as curator of football heritage. He earned a BA from Ohio University in 2021 and an MA in museum studies from The University of Oklahoma in 2024. As an intern in the collections department at the Pro

Football Hall of Fame during the summer of 2024, his interest in the history of football blossomed. As curator of football heritage, Logan researches and develops exhibitions for the Paul Brown Museum gallery and maintains the Paul Brown Research Library in Memory of Bob Shiring, which houses both the Paul Brown and Massillon Tiger archives.



Christopher Craft

Christopher Craft is a graduate of the College of Wooster with a master's from The University of Akron. He taught art at Fairless Schools and was inducted into the Fairless Hall of Honor. Currently working on his twenty-second year at MassMu, Craft installs exhibits and

gives presentations for the speakers bureau, among other responsibilities. He co-developed and directed the Artful Living and Learning program and represents the Museum on the program's advisory board. He participated in hundreds of Civil War living history events, several films, and two presidential inaugurations. He commanded two national organizations, belongs to the Order of Kentucky Colonels, and served on the board of directors of Accuracy Productions for the History Channel's *Civil War Journal*. As an artist, his work is in the collections of Kent State University, The University of Akron, National First Ladies Library and Museum, and the White House. He published his first book, *The River and the Wolf*, in 2021, and is working on further publications.



Maya Demchak

Maya Demchak is the former guest operations assistant and shop coordinator. She was with the Museum beginning in April of 2022. Demchak created an accessible and welcoming environment to all who visit the Museum, working to achieve this goal by serving

on the Museum's accessibility committee. By partnering with local artists and small businesses, she worked to make the Museum gift shop a place for visitors to find new and intriguing items, while also supporting the community. Demchak enjoys attending local artist fairs and flea markets, and in her free time she likes to read and spend time with her family, including her dog, Wrigley. She is a graduate of Kent State University.



Faith Emerson

Faith Emerson was the Museum's custodian, but she preferred the title "Rick's assistant." Outside of work, she and her husband, Connor, illustrate and sell books at Comicons.



Scott Alan Evans

Scott Alan Evans, a guest operations assistant, is an artist and photographer whose work has been shown throughout Northeast Ohio. His paintings often have mythical themes while his photography focuses on nature and textures. His recent works centered

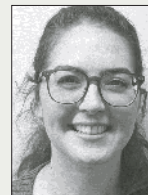
on portraits, casting friends as fantastical creatures and remembering lost friends and influences, as well as paying homage to a love of aliens, robots, and monsters. He curated the Studio 2091 *Tarot* show featuring seventy-eight artists and the installation, *Impossible Gardens*, a surreal botanical garden that was also shown in Canton and the Waterloo district. At the Massillon Museum, his work was shown in several *Stark County Artists Exhibitions* and, in 2013, in his Studio M show, *Terra Imaginara*. He received a degree in visual communications from the Art Institute of Atlanta.



Mary Ruth Kamp

Mary Ruth Kamp started in August 2022 as the Poetry Out Loud coordinator for Ohio Arts Council's Northeast Ohio Region. An artist, she drives her local public library's bookmobile. She studied fine art at Ohio Wesleyan University and worked more than twelve years as

a wilderness guide in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Northeast Minnesota. A certified spiritual director and writing circle facilitator, she loves anything outdoors. Her first poem (a collaborative piece) was published this past fall in the anthology titled, *Voice of the Moon: An Anthology of Poetry* published by Water Penny Press.



Megan Marchione

Megan Marchione, a Massillon Museum outreach ambassador, is a graduate of Kent State University. As a fan of sunshine, she spent many years in Florida as a Walt Disney World cast member before returning to Massillon. She enjoys painting, knitting, spending quality time with her family, and raising her daughter.



Susan Mentrak

Susan Mentrak was the ceramics studio manager at MassMu through 2025. She majored in illustration and graduated in 1992 from the Columbus College of Art and Design. She has had her designs in Nordstrom, *The New York Times*, Lark Books, *Inc.com*, *Little Thing*, *Stuffed*,

and *Doll Collector* magazines. In 2016 she began working primarily in ceramics. Her work incorporates narrative and graphic design. What started as a fun hobby to research her family tree developed into an unfolding vibrant drama, uncovering both patriots and underground communist leaders hiding from Nazis. This narrative, *Legacy—We Get to Give, We Give to Get*, was exhibited at the Canton Museum of Art in the fall of 2023. It explored family history—how it shapes our paradigm and in turn influences our community. Mentrak is a member of the Canton Ceramic Artists Guild and lives in Jackson Township with her husband and daughter.



Valerie Metzger

Valerie Metzger is MassMu's curator of art and artifacts. She is currently working on her master's degree in applied history and public humanities at The University of Akron, where she recently earned a certificate in museums and archives. Prior to this, she received

a BA in interior design, also from The University of Akron, and enjoyed a career in commercial interior design. She applies her experience in design and project management to the responsibility of curating exhibitions in the permanent and main galleries.



Allan Moore

Allan Moore has been the Museum's bookkeeper since November 2018. He specializes in all aspects of the Museum's accounting functions including financial statement preparation, payroll, and accounts payable. He earned an MBA from Ashland University, a bachelor of business administration

from Kent State University, and a bachelor of science in accounting from The University of Akron. He came to the Museum after retiring from Cleveland Clinic Akron General Hospital with a forty-plus-year career in healthcare accounting and finance. When not counting beans, Allan is a devoted fan of the Massillon Tigers and enjoys watching the Ohio State Buckeyes and the Cleveland Guardians. Whenever possible, he also likes to increase his knowledge of viticulture and enology. Allan resides in Massillon with his wife Donna and their three cats, Doolittle, Daniel, and Dorinda.



Alexa Polinori

Polinori has been the *Stark County Artists Exhibition* coordinator since 2022. She began working full-time as the events and volunteer coordinator in September of 2024. Polinori earned her BA in fine arts and art history, with a specialization in oil painting, through

Malone University. She is an oil painter, a colorist for a webcomic, and a curator at Silo Arts in Canton, Ohio. She resides with her husband, Avery, and their two cats, Frank and Beans.



Chiara Power

Chiara Power, collections manager and registrar, began working with the Massillon Museum in 2025. Before moving to Ohio, she lived in several cities throughout Canada including Waterloo, Montreal, Halifax, and Edmonton. She has

a BA in history and costume studies from Dalhousie University and an MA in material culture from the University of Alberta. Her research for her master's degree looked at the effects of the linen shirt and shift on colonial dynamics in 17th-century North America.



Dove Reeher

Digital Media and Office Coordinator Dove Reeher has been with MassMu since May of 2023. She served as the guest services assistant from 2023 to 2024. In 2019, she graduated from Mercer High School in Mercer in Pennsylvania. Reeher has always

had a love for the arts, specifically ceramics, music, and theatre. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her wife, visiting coffee shops, and gardening.



Jessika Raisor

Jessika Raisor is a multimedia artist with a focus on animation and paper. She has been creating works to educate—from science to history—since 2018. This experience has been excitingly used as a MassMu outreach ambassador and as chair of the Tuscarawas Arts Partnership education and outreach committee.



Caylan Rentsch

Caylan Rentsch, outreach and programs coordinator, joined the Massillon Museum in August 2022. She holds an MA and a BA in art history from Kent State University. She currently is an adjunct instructor at the same university

in the Art History Department. At MassMu, Rentsch coordinates classes and workshops, Do the Mu, outreach programs and partnerships, Speakers' Bureau inquiries, and the Art Educator of the Year Award in partnership with the Canton Museum of Art. She sits on the Museum's Accessibility Committee and presented on behalf of the Museum during the Accessible Ohio Northeast Ohio Regional Event with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities in 2025. Her master's thesis, *The Great Wall of Los Angeles: Vocalizing the Marginalized and Creating a Community Through Public Art*, explored ideas of collaboration, community, and public spaces that further showcase her passion for outreach and education in the Museum. Rentsch resides in Canton, Ohio, with her dogs—Sylvia, Santo, Gunner, and Daisy.



Rick Rohrer

Rick Rohrer, facilities manager, came to the Massillon Museum with a background in commercial and residential real estate, construction, and building operations. Within the real estate field, he focused on maintenance and emergency on-call services. In the

construction field, he was a building superintendent, helped create Canton's William R. Day Building, and helped maintain the Stern and Mann's building, also in Canton. As facilities manager of the William McKinley Presidential Library and Museum, he handled tasks from landscaping to building maintenance. As MassMu's facilities manager, he oversees maintenance-related issues, ensures the facility's safety and cleanliness, and assists staff with exhibition installation. In his spare time, Rohrer enjoys visiting museums and spending time with his five adult children.



Jeanne Semilia

Jeanne Semilia has been a museum assistant since April 2017. In addition to working part-time at the Massillon Museum, she works full-time at The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute. Semilia is a lifelong resident of Northeast Ohio and chose

to pursue degrees close to home, receiving an AAB in office administration from Cuyahoga Community College and a BA in textiles and clothing from the University of Akron. Later in life, she received an MA in educational foundations/instructional technology, also from the University of Akron. She enjoys doing volunteer work with several organizations in the area and is a second lieutenant in Civil Air Patrol.



Mandy Altimus Stahl

Archivist Mandy Altimus Stahl began her MassMu career in 2004. She graduated *summa cum laude* from Kent State University with a BA in history. Stahl has produced documentary works such as *Massillon in the Great War*, *The Legacy of Steel*, and *The Greatest*

Generation. She was the 2016 plenary speaker for the Society of Ohio Archivists, and in 2015 appeared on Travel Channel's *Mysteries at the Museum*. Stahl and her family published her grandfather's World War II POW memoir, *Forced March: From the Bulge to Berchtesgaden* by Major John J. Mohn, in 2015. Her book, *Early Massillon and Lost Kendal*, was published by Arcadia Publishing in 2017. Stahl serves as the president of the Spring Hill Historic Home and Underground Railroad Site board of trustees, as treasurer for the Charity School of Kendal Foundation, on the Massillon Historic Preservation Commission, and on the Greater Stark County Urban League board of directors. In 2018, she was inducted into the YWCA Canton Women's Hall of Fame.



Emily Vigil

Emily Vigil is Massillon Museum's Studio M and Silk Room 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. She

came to Massillon Museum in 2009, after working as gallery coordinator for the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, teaching as an adjunct at several universities, and running the Birke Art Gallery in Huntington, West Virginia. She worked as the Museum's events coordinator until from 2010 until 2016. In addition to working at Massillon Museum, she is a practicing artist and also teaches visual art to

preschoolers as part of the Artful Living and Learning program. She has two daughters, Madelyn and Gillian, ages fifteen and thirteen.



Margy Vogt

Public Relations Coordinator Margy Vogt has written local history books and leads walking tours. She chairs MassMu's Brown Bag Lunches and the Community Candlelight Walk and serves on the Massillon Public Library, Charity School of Kendal Foundation, Community

Improvement Corporation, Historic Preservation Commission, Massillon Main Street, and St. Timothy's boards. She edited the Massillon WestStark Chamber's newsletter, chaired its board, twice served as interim president, and continues to photograph Chamber events. With her Rotary Club Paul L. David Humanitarian Award, she established the Museum's Photography Endowment. *The Repository* named her one of "Stark County's Most Interesting People" and she was inducted into the Canton YWCA Women's Hall of Fame. She has received the Massillon WestStark Chamber's J.S. "Sandy" Sanders and Small Business of the Year awards. She has been presented with the K of C Humanitarian of the Year, the Mayor's Community Service, and the Massillon Distinguished Citizen awards.

ARCHIVES & COLLECTIONS

In the archives, volunteers Mark Pitocco, Mike Scheetz, Cary Coates, Angela Watkins, Tom Haas, Fred Gray, and Josiah Fox digitized 20,675 archival pages, including scrapbooks, *Independent* newspaper photographs, school class photos, pamphlets, photo albums, and more. Archivist Mandy Altimus Stahl has been adding to the online gallery for a decade, with more than 31,000 images available on our virtual archive. Over those ten years our photos have received more than 9.1 million views.

Collections Manager and Registrar Chiara Power, along with interns Sam Grontkovsky and Allison Scarpone added 4,528 new entries to the collections database, PastPerfect, and inventoried eighteen shelves and cabinets in collections storage.

The Collections Committee and Board of Directors approved more than sixty new donations to the collection, which equals approximately 450 artifacts.

In compliance with the NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) and updated regulations, MassMu staff consulted with Dr. Joe Stahlman about our collection of Indigenous artifacts. Power compiled inventories of Indigenous artifacts as a result of his report. Along with Executive Director Alex Coon, she met by Zoom call with several Indigenous nations' representatives to discuss our inventory and how to best repatriate requested artifacts. MAS



TOP: Curator of Art and Artifacts Valerie Metzger and Collections Manager and Registrar Chiara Power worked together in the Velma B. Erwin Research Room to create the *Adventures in Weather* exhibition. MAS

RIGHT: A faithful team of volunteers helps Archivist Mandy Altimus Stahl in the Velma B. Erwin Research Room every Thursday. *Massillon Steel* author Angela Watkins (center) is surrounded by (from left), Mike Scheetz, Fred Gray, Cary Coates, and Tom Haas. MAS



Donations to the Permanent Collection & Archives (January to November 2025)

Anonymous	Kenn Long
Museum Purchase	In memory of Hisayo Manweiler
Seth Bailey	Cindy Martin
Perry Ballinger	Massillon City Schools
The Earle & Jean Bruce Family	Massillon Girls Flag Football Team
Martha Busto	Major Donald O. Mauger
Eugene Chini	Steve McLain
Citizens for Park & Restoration	Dave Medure
Ken Coddling	Trisha Merchant
Alexandra Connor	Doug Miller
In memory of Mike Currence	Becca Moore
Shawn Doherty	Dwight Neederis
Susan Gessner	In memory of Alice Hammer Paul
The Greater Stark County	& Andrew A. Paul
Urban League	The Family of Robert &
Richard Gotschall	Virginia Price
Beth Haas	Bill Peach
W.G. Heckathorn	Rebecca Richert
In memory of Earl Herbruck	Patricia Robeson
Joe Herrick	Tom Treisch
Jerry Hixenbaugh	Lori Schaffner
The Jacobs family	Amy Schiefere
Steven Jenkins	The Family of John & Amelia Sparks
Nancy Jobe	In memory of Al Stedman
Frank & Ann Kehner	Shawn Tanner
The Richard Kingham Family	Gary Vogt
In memory of Mary	Jim Walker
Krantz-Mercer	Anna Wolfe
John Larson	
Frankie & Rollie Layfield	
The Layman Family	
Kevin Lehnis	

PAUL BROWN MUSEUM COLLECTION, RESEARCH LIBRARY & SPECIAL PROJECTS

Longtime volunteer Eris Moesle has been scanning the binders in the Junie and Dolores Studer Binder collection in preparation for making this collection digitally available to the public. Just before 2025 wrapped up, they completed scanning the “Individuals” portion of the collection, approximately 9,000 pages.

Earlier in the year, the Paul Brown Museum sent a nitrate film reel containing footage from the 1934 and 1936 Massillon vs. McKinley games for digitization by ARS Video in Tallmadge. We chose to digitize this film for a number of reasons, most pressing is the unstable nature of nitrate film which can lead to combustion. Now that the film is back on-site, it is safely preserved in cold storage. ARS did a phenomenal job cleaning and restoring this film by taking high-resolution photos of each frame. Today, the game film can be found playing on the Paul Brown Timeline/Massillon Tiger Football History timeline.

LC



Members of the Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club gather every Thursday afternoon to work with the football collection. Some of the faithful volunteers are (from left): Bill Porri, Don Engelhardt, Seth Bailey, Ron Prunty, Curator of Football Heritage Logan Carr, Bill Peach, Linda Sasavicz, and Keith Jarvis. ANC

MAIN GALLERY

2024–2025 Stark County Artists Exhibition

Sixty-seven artworks by forty-nine artists were displayed in the Museum's Main Gallery during the 2024 *Stark County Artists Exhibition* from November 2, 2024, through January 12, 2025. Best in Show was awarded to Sharon Frank Mazgaj, Second Place to Susan Mentrak, and Third Place to Laura Donnelly. With more than 600 votes cast, Gerald Fox won the People's Choice Award. AP

2025–2026 Stark County Artists Exhibition

The 2025 *Stark County Artists Exhibition* opened on Saturday, November 1. Several hundred guests gathered in Gessner Hall for the announcement of awards. Jurors were Kristen Cliffl, a Cleveland-based artist; Maeve Crotty, Gallery Manager for Peg's Foundation in Hudson; and Kerry Davis, executive director of the Cleveland Print Room.

From the 203 submissions received from eighty-five artists, fifty-seven artworks by thirty-seven artists were selected. Best in Show went to Steve Ehret for *The Squirrels Do Be Biting*. Second Place was awarded to Clare Murray Adams for her *Soundmark Series: Cacophony*. And, for *Near Humanity*, Emily Orsich received Third Place. Honorable Mentions and complimentary Museum memberships were presented to Romy Anderson, BZTAT, Linda J. Faulkner, Ted Lawson, and Sharon Frank Mazgaj.

The exhibition continued through January 11, 2026.

AP

Celebration in Art

The 2025 *Celebration in Art* exhibition opened on Sunday, February 2, with an in-person reception for the featured students, their art educators, and their families. The exhibition featured 337 two- and three-dimensional artworks. The young artists—from twenty-seven public and parochial schools in Western Stark County—were in kindergarten through twelfth grade: Amherst Elementary, Edison Middle, Fairless Elementary, Fairless High, Fairless Middle, Franklin Elementary, Gorrell Elementary, Jackson High, Jackson Memorial Middle, Lake Cable Elementary, Lohr Elementary, Massillon Middle, Massillon Washington High, Northwest High, Northwest Primary, Perry High, Pfeiffer Intermediate School, Sandy Valley High, Sauder Elementary School, Southway Elementary, St. Mary, Strausser Elementary, Tuslaw Elementary, Tuslaw High, Tuslaw Middle, Watson Elementary, and WS Stinson Elementary. CR



Juxtaposed:

Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future

Susan Mentrak guest curated *Juxtaposed: Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future*, exhibited June through October in the Main Gallery. *Juxtaposed* featured the work of thirteen artists connected to four regional art institutions: Cranbrook Academy of Art, Columbus College of Art & Design, Kent State University, and The University of Akron. This exhibition offered something for everyone—paintings, drawings, and sculpture in a diverse range of media and techniques.

Juxtaposed explored the nature of connection and mentorship among the multi-generational network of artists. Representing different levels of experience and different points in their careers, these artists influenced one other either directly or indirectly. Each of them learned lessons from experienced mentors, while serving as inspirational figures for the next generation. VM

Sight Unseen: International Photography by Blind Artists

Sight Unseen: International Photography by Blind Artists was exhibited in the Museum's Main Gallery from March 22 through May 18, 2025. A reception and resource fair showcasing area partners who serve the disability community took place on Saturday, April 5, in connection with the exhibition. Participants included Art Possible Ohio, The Massillon Public Library, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, The Lions Club, The Philomatheon Society, The Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and The Workshops, Inc.

The exhibition presented imagery by twelve of the world's most accomplished blind photographers who explore ideas about the nature of seeing. Curator Douglas McCulloh, who sadly passed away just before the exhibition opened in Massillon, says of the exhibition, "The artists represented span a wide spectrum of sight impairment...All of them, with photography as their medium, navigate with their other senses to visualize and represent the space around them."

Sight Unseen was originated by UCR/California Museum of Photography, an affiliate institution of ARTSblock, the University of California, Riverside, and toured by Curatorial Assistance Traveling Exhibitions, Pasadena, California.

In response to the exhibition, students in Professor David Foster's digital photojournalism course at Kent State University studied the photographers' impairments and stylistic choices, and made their own photographs with cell phone cameras referencing specific eye conditions which impact sight. These were exhibited in the Museum's lower level concurrent to *Sight Unseen*. ANC

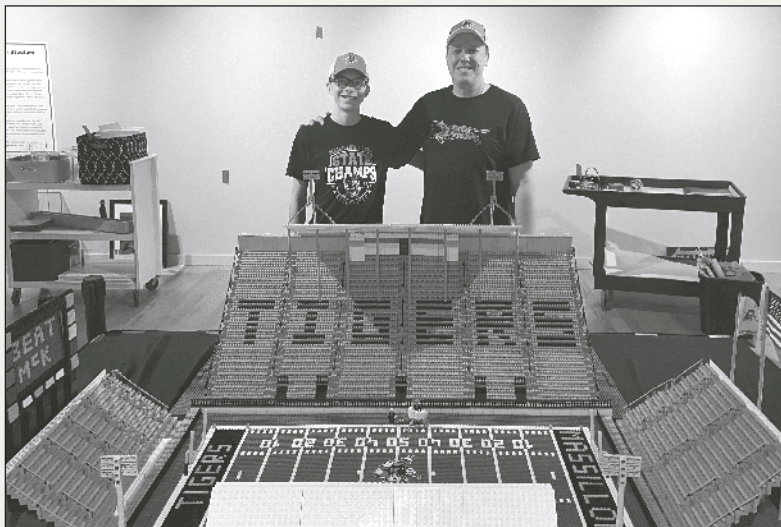
OPPOSITE: Steve Ehret, *The Squirrels Do Be Biting* (detail), Acrylic, oil, ink, and spray paint on cradled wood panel, 2025–2026
Stark County Artists Exhibition Best in Show winner.

RIGHT: Collin and Shaun Doherty, fierce Tiger fans, loaned the Paul Brown Tiger Stadium model they designed and built of Lego bricks to the Paul Brown Museum for the *Legendary Turf* exhibition. LC

PAUL BROWN MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

This year in the Paul Brown Museum was all about the Tigers. The year kicked off with *Legendary Turf: Paul Brown Tiger Stadium*, opening February 7, alongside *90 Years of Community: The Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club*, which opened in 2024 and extended its run through July 6, 2025. *Legendary Turf* celebrated the eighty-six seasons of Massillon Tiger football played at PBTS through memorable plays and performances, while featuring stadium blueprints and a recreation of the stadium built of more than 16,500 Lego bricks by Massillon father/son duo Shaun and Collin Doherty. The exhibition, *90 Years of Community*, honored the first nine decades of the Booster Club's support and projects that have contributed to a winning football program.

Titles & Claims: Cultivating a Championship Program opened on July 26, featuring Tiger helmets, jerseys, trophies, team photos, and coaches' memorabilia to spotlight the twelve coaches who have led the Tigers to state championship glory twenty-five times from 1909 to 2023. From Ralph Fugate to Nate Moore, the display highlighted what each coach brought to the Massillon Tiger Football program. Because of their leadership, strategic skills, innovations, and commitment to the team and the community, Massillon can call itself the "City of Champions." LC



CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERIES

Fred F. Silk Community Room Gallery

Fred F. Silk Community Room Gallery 2025 exhibitions resulted from collaborations with four regional organizations: the Kent Area (OH) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated; Canton Artists League; Stark Parks; and the Boys and Girls Club of Massillon. Over the year, the gallery showcased artwork by seventy-nine seasoned artists and art students.

The year began with *The Art and History of Democracy: Through the Eyes of the 21st-Century American Child*, displayed from February 2 through March 30, 2025. The student photography exhibition was sponsored by Kent Area (OH) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Next, the gallery featured artwork by members of the Canton Artists League. Their exhibition *Into the Water* took place from April 12 through July 6, 2025. *Lens on Nature: Photographing Stark Parks* was displayed from July 26 through October 12, 2025. Landscape and wildlife photographers of all ages captured images of Stark Parks through the seasons. The final exhibition of the year was the twenty-fifth annual exhibition of *Artwork by Members of the Boys and Girls Club of Massillon*. From October 25, 2025, through January 11, 2026, colorful artwork by children of all ages filled the gallery walls. The exhibition was celebrated by a reception and awards ceremony. EV

Studio M

In 2025, Studio M presented seven exhibitions, highlighting artwork by emerging and established artists from Ohio and beyond. The gallery showcased artwork in a wide variety of media—painting, printmaking, sculpture, fiber arts, mixed media, photography, and ceramics.

From February 15 through March 9, 2025, Mario Arteaga presented *Heated*, a mixed media installation including cyanotypes, steel, concrete, plywood, and silver. Next, paintings by Emily Olszewski were on display from March 22 through April 13, 2025. Olszewski's exhibition, *Playdates*, investigated aspects of girlhood that remain present into adulthood, drawing inspiration from moments of frivolity and freedom. The next exhibition was titled *Figure as Memento: New Ceramic and Mixed Media Artwork by Tom Bartel*. It was displayed in Studio M from April 26 through June 8, 2025. Bartel is widely known for his disturbing and humorous fragmented figures that take cues from a



“shotgun blast” of influences ranging from antiquity to popular culture. The fourth Studio M exhibition featured Cleveland-based painter Maxmillian Peralta, who was selected in 2022 as Massillon Museum’s CAN Triennial award exhibition winner. His exhibition, *Flat Affect*, was featured in Studio M from June 21 through August 3, 2025. From August 16 through September 28, 2025, Studio M gallery displayed *Memento Mori* by Greg Martin. Martin’s mixed media exhibition was both a meditation on the transitory nature of this world and a reflection of the inherent beauty of change, loss, and endurance. The next Studio M exhibition was an expansive installation by Eric Anthony Berdis. *Bugs That Crawl, Flowers That Bloom* was displayed from October 11 through November 30, 2025. Berdis’s mixed media artwork included community-based quilt panels, components of which were created by participants in a bug-making MassMu Do the Mu workshop on February 3, 2024. Katy Richards displayed her detailed oil paintings in the exhibition, *Fleeting Florals*, on view from December 13 through January 25, 2026. EV



SECOND-FLOOR GALLERIES

Saving Face: **Salvaged Negatives of Henry Clay Fleming**

In June, the Photography Gallery unveiled a selection of portraits by Henry Clay Fleming (1845–1942) first featured in the Museum's 2011 exhibit, *Faces of Rural America*. The new exhibit, *Saving Face*, comprises reproductions of original glass plate negatives that sustained water damage before they were donated to the Museum. Many of the plates deteriorated around the edges, unintentionally framing the faces in an artistic manner. Two tactile portraits which visitors are encouraged to touch are installed alongside the portraits. Viewers are also invited to find examples of accessories and garments from the Museum's collection on display in a nearby case on the people in the photographs. VM

OPPOSITE, FAR LEFT: Studio M
reception for Maxmillian Peralta EV

OPPOSITE, LEFT: Katelin Fields, art teacher at the
Boys and Girls Club of Massillon, posed with
members whose artwork was displayed in the Fred
F. Silk Community Room Gallery in the fall. EV

RIGHT: Henry Clay Fleming (1845–1942), *Portrait of a
woman and a collie*, c. 1920, archival pigment print
from original glass plate negative, printed 2011
Gift of Kent Vanderplas, collection of the
Massillon Museum (84.58.75)



Small but Mighty: **Big Personalities in Local Circus History**

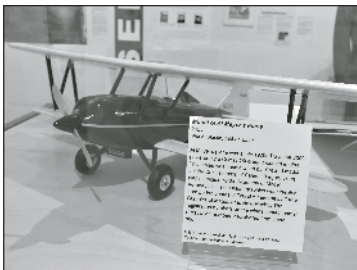
On August 16, *Small but Mighty: Big Personalities in Local Circus History* opened in the Immel Circus Gallery. While this exhibit remains centered around Dr. Immel's miniature model, new surrounding material tells the stories of circus entrepreneurs, entertainers, and enthusiasts connected to Massillon. The circus was a massively popular form of live entertainment that permeated culture in cities large and small, and Massillon was no exception. From the late nineteenth through the twentieth centuries, the city was home and host to a variety of characters passionate about the circus. *Small but Mighty* celebrates their dedication and imagination which have created a rich circus legacy. VM



FAR RIGHT: Side show sign, c. 1900s. Gift of Karl Spuhler
Estate, collection of the Massillon Museum (91.7.799).
A large graphic in the Second Floor Lobby beckons visitors
into the new exhibition in the Circus Gallery. VM

A model of Al Meyer's 1920s plane can be seen in the Local History Gallery.

MAS



Local History Gallery

This year we updated the “MOVE” section of the local history gallery on the second floor.

On August 18, 1934, Police Lieutenant John Burwell boarded the open cockpit plane of Al Meyer, a local pilot. Burwell had taken vacation from the police department to focus on learning new airplane tricks. Meyer performed an upside-down maneuver over 2,000 feet in the air when both men's seatbelts snapped at the same time, and Meyer and Burwell fell to their deaths in front of a stunned crowd, making them Massillon's first plane fatalities.

Ted V. Burwell Jr., Jack Burwell's great-nephew, commissioned a model of Al Meyer's late 1920s Travel Air 2000, powered by a Curtiss OX-5 liquid-cooled engine plane, and donated it to the Massillon Museum. This model was hand-crafted by pilot and model builder Don Thomson of Salem, Oregon, using plans supplied by the Academy of Model Aeronautics. The custom graphics were created from period photos of Travel Air aircraft by Callie Graphics of Magdalena, New Mexico.

MAS

Adventures in Weather

Guests who attended the annual Members' Holiday Open House got the first look at two new exhibits on the second floor, the first of which was *Adventures in Weather* in the Edward and Louise Mahoney Family Gallery. This exhibit was inspired by a scrapbook prepared by Ann Kehner that chronicles the history of the Akron-Canton Airport's former US Weather Bureau office, where her husband Frank worked for more than thirty years. The scrapbook provides an informative and humorous record of this local institution, where beloved TV meteorologist Dick Goddard was among the staff. For hundreds of years, people have noticed, complained about, and attempted to predict the weather. This quirky exhibit brings together artifacts from the 1770s through the 1970s, with an historic Russell & Company weathervane taking center stage.

VM



Staff photograph from Ann Kehner's scrapbook documenting the history of the US Weather Bureau when it was located in the Akron-Canton Airport.

What the Tide Brought In

The second new exhibit unveiled at the December Members' Holiday Open House was *What the Tide Brought In*, featuring shells and marine specimens from the Museum's permanent collection. Given the Massillon's land-locked location, visitors today might be surprised to see shells here. However, shell collecting was a popular hobby in the early 1900s, when Massillonian Ella O. Shoemaker built her collection. Shoemaker was an advocate for education and women's voting rights. She donated her shells to the Massillon Museum in 1938, where they were once displayed in a dedicated room. Beyond the opportunity to view over one hundred outstanding shells, the exhibit also engages visitors in the history of academic clubs, shell collecting, and nature illustration. The shells can be seen in the Judith Paquelet Gallery. VM



Shells from the Ella O. Shoemaker collection are displayed in the Judith Paquelet Gallery of the Museum's second floor. VM

LOWER LEVEL LOBBY EXHIBITIONS



An *ofrenda* displayed in the Museum's Lower Level Lobby in the fall represented beloved departed friends and family of the staff. CR

Una Ofrenda para nuestros Seres Queridos (An Offering for our Loved Ones)

The Massillon Museum's education team displayed an *ofrenda* in the Lower Level Lobby between October 14 and November 14. An *ofrenda*, or an offering, is a decorated area celebrating *Día de los Muertos*, or Day of the Dead. MassMu staff loaned photographs, trinkets, memorabilia, gifts, and other mementoes that reminded them of their ancestors. The items on the altar are intended to guide the spirits of the departed back to the world of the living for a celebration. The *Ofrenda* recalled memories of beloved board members and supporters as well as family members.

CR

Heart Gallery

The Massillon Museum hosted the Heart Gallery art exhibition in its lower level lobby from January 25 through February 16, 2025. This traveling display, organized by Stark County Job and Family Services, has long partnered with the Massillon Museum. The Heart Gallery is a series of portraits by eleven local artists paired with twelve children hoping to be adopted from foster care. Artists featured in the exhibition were Heather Bullach, Tim Carmany, Heidi Fawver, Kat Francis, David Sherrill, Maureen Magner-Sylak, Madison Miller, Alexa Polinori, Alaska Thompson, Kaley Weaver, and Andrew Wells. ANC

RIGHT: Art Educator of the Year Award presentation at a Canton Symphony Orchestra (CSO) concert—Rachel Hagemeyer (CSO), Max Barton (Canton Museum of Art), Alexandra Nicholas Coon (MassMu), Marissa Austin, Stephen Imler, Caroline Eberthard (CSO), and Caylan Rentsch (MassMu). KK

Art Educator of the Year

One artwork by each Art Educator of the Year finalist or one artwork by their students was displayed in the Museum's Lower Level Lobby from March 18 through April 6. The Canton Museum of Art displayed a complementary exhibition of artwork created by finalists or their students during the same time.

The Massillon Museum partnered with the Canton Museum of Art to present the sixth annual Art Educator of the Year Award in 2025. Nominees were licensed art educators in a K–12 public, private, or parochial classroom setting located in the region served by the Stark County Educational Service Center.

The 2025 finalists were:

- Benjamin Myers, Canton City Schools
- Candice Greene, North Canton City Schools
- Cathy Bravis, Osnaburg Local Schools
- Marissa Austin, Massillon City Schools
- Matthew Ferrell, Massillon City Schools

Congratulations to Marissa Austin, Art Teacher at Franklin Elementary School (now Massillon East Elementary School) in Massillon City Schools, who was named the 2025 Art Educator of the Year! CR



BROWN BAG LUNCHES & HISTORY DISCUSSION GROUP

Brown Bag Lunches

Felicia Zavella Stadelman introduced the 2025 Brown Bag Lunch series with “Through the Eyes of the Artist: Louis C. Tiffany.” Spring Hill Education and Outreach Coordinator Michael Weinstock presented “One Stop on the Road to Freedom: Spring Hill and the Underground Railroad.” Margy Vogt challenged the audience with Massillon history trivia and Chris Craft talked about the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the battle at Lexington and Concord. Geologist Mike Angle explained the aquifer beneath Massillon, which has been instrumental in Massillon’s industry. Guest Curator Susan Mentrak spoke about the summer exhibition, *Juxtaposed: Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future*. Storytelling was photographer Gary Harwood’s topic, and Lynette Reinert, science director at the McKinley Presidential Library and Museum, recounted tales of female bootleggers with “Honeys of the Hooch.” Wesley Bishop marked the hundredth anniversary of the crash of the airship *Shenandoah* south of Massillon, and Logan Carr, the Paul Brown Museum’s curator of football heritage, walked the audience through the *Titles and Claims: Cultivating a Championship Program* exhibition.

The free Brown Bag Lunch series meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month, January through October. MassMu provides complimentary coffee and cookies. No reservations are required. MV

History Discussion Group

History Discussion Group continues to meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. This year we focused on show-and-tell objects for each topic and were able to enjoy many attendees’ personal artifacts. Moderated by Mandy Altimus Stahl and Christopher Craft, History Discussion Group sees fifteen to thirty attendees each session. The topics covered were school days: K–12, night classes, and college; planes, trains, and automobiles; show-and-tell something you collect; favorite stores; fairs and festivals; service organizations and secret societies; sounds of the past (when we played vinyl records and CDs brought in by attendees); spooky stories and experiences; and Massillon trivia with Margy Vogt and Rudy Turkal. MAS



Wesley Bishop, PhD, associate professor of American and public history at Jacksonville State University (AL), planned an Ohio research trip to coincide with the September Brown Bag Lunch so he could tell guests about the 1925 crash of the *Shenandoah*. MAS



Emma Weisent from Stark Parks holds Pumpkin the Corn Snake at the first Littles Lunch and Learn. CR

Littles Lunch and Learn

A new program akin to the Brown Bag Lunch series was launched in 2025 that focused on topics for a younger audience: Littles Lunch and Learn. The first iteration of the program took place on June 10, with a wonderful Stark Parks group showcasing Ollie the Owl, Pumpkin the Corn Snake, and Winston the Possum. On July 8, Lynette Reinert from the McKinley Presidential Library and Museum discussed cryptids and local legends in Northeast Ohio. AP

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Education & Outreach

MassMu staff interacted with more than 26,000 children and adults in Stark County and beyond through virtual and in-person field trips and tours, classes and workshops, and outreach programs in 2025. Community members of all ages enjoyed a variety of programs, from yoga and drawing classes to writing circles and ceramics workshops. We had the pleasure of interacting with community members throughout Northeast Ohio at outreach events throughout the year, including resource fairs, Fun Fest, community open houses, and First Fridays in the Downtown Canton Arts District.

Do the Mu, a free family-friendly art activity held on the first Saturday of each month, offered opportunities for attendees to learn about puppets, paper-basket weaving, cyanotype photography, book boxes, cartooning, foam-block printing, pool-noodle monsters, egg carton animals, painting without brushes, zombie-inspired makeup, clay dragon eggs, and finger-painting.

Massillon Museum works to provide accessible educational programs to all community members in Massillon and Stark County and to engage in a wide range of events in our region. CR

Education Department Donors

Nanette Ream
Elizabeth Gessner
Bob Rossiter



Among the many who celebrated the October 1 opening of The MAC were (from left) Mandy Altimus Stahl, Joel Vogt, Alex Coon, Scot Phillips, Laurie Bomze, Brandon Rohrer, funder Nan Ream, Donovan Stahl, Margy Vogt, Scott Moore, Caylan Rentsch, Molly Moore, and Alexa Polinori. CD

The MassMu Art Center —New Education Department Space

Through the generosity of Nan Ream, the Museum's classrooms have been completely rejuvenated with flexible work spaces and seating, excellent lighting, custom storage units filled with art supplies, large wall-mounted screens, and restrooms. A 3D printer headlines the long list of new equipment. Bright colors from the ceiling, to the furnishings, to the flooring inspire creativity. MV

Artful Living & Learning Intergenerational Program

The Massillon Museum staff was thrilled to continue the Intergenerational Program in partnership with Artful Living and Learning, Massillon City Schools, and Danbury Senior Living of Massillon. Initially funded by an Arts Partnership grant from the Ohio Arts Council, the program invites Massillon preschool students and their parents and guardians to interact with senior residents from Danbury while participating in a dance/movement lesson led by an Artful Living and Learning teaching artist. CR & ANC

SPECIAL EVENTS

Rhythms

The 2025 Rhythms concert series debuted with Lauren Mascitti on May 15; Hayden Grove performed on September 18; and Josee McGee opened for JD Eicher on November 6. Each concert brought a different, but welcome vibe to the Museum. Mascitti had a wonderful, sold-out homecoming show with family and many local fans. Grove brought a jazzy nightclub atmosphere that blended classic songs and his life story. Finally, McGee warmed up the audience for the last show before Eicher brought home another mix of original music and jokes about life and his personal journey. AP

Island Party

The annual Island Party on Friday, July 18, welcomed more than 1,400 people. Longtime favorites Carlos Jones+, Divine Harmony, and the Jackson Steel Drum Band entertained guests throughout the night. The Massillon Community Arts Council provided face painting for children who attended. Guests enjoyed tropical drinks and food trucks offered island-themed food. AP

Fun Fest

MCTV, the Massillon Museum, and the Downtown Massillon Association co-hosted Fun Fest on August 9. The event spanned First Street, the municipal lot, Duncan Plaza, and the Museum's front lawn. A hundred booths offered free children's activities, make-and-takes, and giveaways. The Duncan Plaza stage showcased local performers. The Museum opened the garage door into Gessner Hall for kids to take a break from the sunshine and make a craft with MassMu staff members. AP

Tiger-Striped Ice Cream Night

The Massillon Tiger Football Team kicked off the season with a pep rally, which took place in Duncan Plaza on August 20. The Museum then opened Gessner Hall to offer its traditional orange and black striped ice cream as a festive treat. Board members and volunteers scooped and served the ice cream to the football team, band, and more than 300 family members and fans. AP

Members' Holiday Open House

MassMu's 2025 events culminated in a celebratory Holiday Open House for our members on December 6. Guests were encouraged to tour two new exhibits on the second floor and were greeted with a trio from the Canton Symphony Orchestra while touring the Main Gallery. Dishes by Design and Fromage du Monde catered delicious food to pair with hot mulled cider or an ale from Paradigm Shift Brewing Co. Gessner Hall featured soft lighting and festive, sparkling decorations to create a cozy atmosphere to enjoy the evening with friends. AP





COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Working with Our Community

MassMu as the cultural hub of the community, participated in and complemented many downtown events.

The education department provided special activities during the 720 Market and Fun Fest (which is co-sponsored by MassMu).

As always, we hosted Tiger-Striped Ice Cream Night in conjunction with the Downtown Massillon Association's annual Tiger Football Kickoff Rally, then the Museum extended its hours to welcome Tiger fans before the Beat McKinley parade in October.

Staff and volunteers walked Massillon's Holiday Parade, handing out candy, then MassMu welcomed families for holiday crafts during the city's light-up celebration following the parade.

Gessner Hall is the perfect place each December for the official refreshment and warming station for the Community Candlelight Walk. This year more than 800 walkers enjoyed a festive break at MassMu. ANC

OPPOSITE, TOP: Rhythms concert musician Lauren Mascitti GD

OPPOSITE, LEFT: NaSheka Combs-Lemon served ice cream cones for Tiger-Striped Ice Cream Night. ANC

LEFT, FROM TOP: Island Party fun—Matt and Dori Heck; Mel Hermcane, Representative Matt Kishman, and Alex Williamson; Mark Pitocco and Jean Lowry MV

RIGHT: Margaret Coffey decorated the Howard Hanna Real Estate Services tree. BSP

Tree Decorating

From late November through early January, the first-floor lobby sparkled with trees decorated by local businesses. Guests enjoyed looking at each tree to see how businesses represented themselves. A raffle tree helped the Museum raise money, and one raffle ticket holder received gifts donated by each of the tree decorators. Those shown were: Bailey Platek Group-Cutler Real Estate; Blue Nile Dental Studio; Erie Street Vinyl; Howard Hanna Real Estate Services; Luvih Yoga Studio; Massillon City Schools; Massillon Public Library; Massillon WestStark Chamber of Commerce; Paradigm Shift Brewery, LLC; Rohr's Wine Room; Shearer's Foods; Tremont Coffee; and TWiLite Café. AP



Poetry Out Loud

The Massillon Museum wrapped up its third year as the Ohio Arts Council's Northeast Ohio regional partner and quickly began working on year four. A partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, Poetry Foundation, and the state and jurisdictional arts agencies, Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition to high schools across the country.

Dallas Kohl from Aurora High School in Aurora, Ohio, was named the Northeast Ohio POL Regional Champion. He competed at the State Finals in Columbus on February 7, 2025. Learn more about the Poetry Out Loud program at MassillonMuseum.org/Poetry-Out-Loud. CR, MRK & ANC

MassMusings Podcast and Social Media

This year we recorded six podcast episodes and had 276 episode downloads. Stay tuned for new episodes in 2026!

The Museum had more than 1.5 million views on Facebook and gained 898 followers. On Instagram, we had 181.2k views and gained 675 followers. The Museum also began utilizing TikTok in September to expand our reach and social media presence. TikTok had 1,334 views and 105 followers. We have some great plans for social media in 2026! DR



Gary Vogt, Don Engelhardt, and Ruby Mathys were among the many Museum friends who attended the annual volunteer appreciation lunch. ANC

VOLUNTEERS

In September 2025, volunteers were invited to the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Staff were there to thank, highlight, and mingle with their volunteers in a relaxed setting. Several longtime volunteers were commended for their dedication and love for the Museum and the staff. Throughout 2025, 2,060 hours were devoted to the Museum by our volunteers and interns! AP

RENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

Consider the Massillon Museum as host for your next meeting or event as a way to introduce friends and family to this organization, and to have the galleries at your disposal for special ambiance and built-in entertainment. To learn more, contact Alexa Polinori, events and volunteer coordinator at 330.833.4061 x 102 or apolinori@massillonmuseum.org. AP

ACCESSIBILITY

The Accessibility Committee continued to focus on making the Massillon Museum welcoming to everyone through practical improvements that help visitors feel comfortable, supported, and included.

Advocacy is a big part of that work, both locally and across the museum field. This year, Brandon Rohrer, MassMu's guest operations manager and accessibility committee chair, represented the Museum at the LEAD Conference, a national conference hosted by the Kennedy Center, sharing what we've learned and connecting with others to advance accessibility across the country. Brandon also serves on the Ohio Museums Association's Accessibility Committee, helping push accessibility conversations and best practices forward statewide.

We were also proud to have MassMu's outreach and programs coordinator, Caylan Rentsch, speak at an Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Accessible Ohio Regional event, strengthening our relationships and visibility within the disability community. We're committed to keeping accessibility at the center of the visitor experience and building on this momentum in the year ahead. BAR

FACILITIES REPORT

This year, the Museum’s maintenance staff focused on keeping both the historic and contemporary sections of our building safe, clean, and visitor-ready every day. Through preventive maintenance, routine repairs, and quick responses to unexpected issues, the team worked behind the scenes to support exhibitions, programs, and rentals. This steady attention to detail helped protect our facility and strengthen the overall guest experience.

The instrumental in meeting the day-to-day needs of a building of this importance and in helping ensure our spaces remain clean, functional, and welcoming for everyone. BAR

TWILITE CAFÉ



The TWiLite Café opened in the Museum lobby on Deanna Kidwell, Andrew Aiegler, Matt Lauenberger, Mayor Jamie Slutz, Ryan Heckert, and Alexandra Nicholis Coon in attendance.

TH

OHREGIONALITIES

OHregionalities, the Museum shop, continues to be a fun and welcoming extension of the MassMu experience. We’re proud to highlight Ohio makers and regional artists, giving guests a chance to take home something meaningful while also supporting the Museum through earned revenue, 100% of which goes toward the stewardship of the Museum’s permanent collection. This year, we were pleased to welcome Ashley Bammerlin as our shop coordinator, bringing great energy and steady leadership to the day-to-day work of the shop. Bammerlin said, “I want to ensure that every guest is able to take a piece of MassMu home with them.” She strives to make the shop truly accessible. Whether someone is grabbing a gift, a locally made item, or a Massillon-inspired souvenir, OHregionalities helps connect people to the creativity of our region. BAR



OHregionalities in the MassMu lobby offers books related to Museum exhibitions and collections, as well as local history. Artwork and crafts by regional artists, creative gifts for children, and unique greeting cards are all available. AB



ABOVE: At its 2025 convention, the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) presented an Award of Excellence to the Massillon Museum for the 2024 exhibition, *Gilding Northeast Ohio: Fashion and Fortune 1870–1900*. From left: Christy Coleman, Alexandra Nicholis Coon, Brian Centrone, George Laurence, Dr. Tameka Ellington, Mandy Altimus Stahl, Giulietta Tripoli, and AASLH President and CEO John Dichtl.



LEFT: More than 900 parents, grandparents, teachers, and friends attended the opening of the annual *Celebration in Art* exhibition. The gallery displayed 327 artworks by students in Western Stark County schools. BR

The Massillon Museum successfully met and exceeded its 2025 financial membership goal, raising \$75,575.50 in total membership support. We concluded the year with 822 members, just fifty-three shy of our goal of 875. The campaign demonstrated a strong renewal contingent, welcomed seventy-one new members, and reaffirmed the depth of commitment within our community. Membership remains one of MassMu's most vital sources of unrestricted funding and a powerful indicator of public engagement.

This year also marked an important strategic moment for the Museum. As we enter a period of organizational strategic planning in 2025 and 2026, membership growth is being evaluated not simply by overall numbers, but by sustainability, retention, and long-term relationship building. The strength of our renewal base and the consistency of financial support position us well for thoughtful, mission-aligned growth in the years ahead.

Membership support ensures that MassMu remains free, accessible, and welcoming to all. It allows us to present meaningful exhibitions, preserve and care for the collections, and offer programs that connect generations throughout our region. We look forward to refining our membership strategy, strengthening our pet and corporate membership programs, and continuing to build a community where everyone belongs. BSP

2025 MUSEUM MEMBERS

James & Eliza Duncan Society

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gessner
Judi & Michael Krew

Director's Circle

Mary Ann, Richard, Tyler &
Caroline Lutz
Larry & Elizabeth McAllister
Gregg & Mary McMunn
Nanette Ream
David & Barb Schumacher
Ronald & Jane Sibila

Benefactors

Gary & Sherie Brown
Jeb & Susan Bucher
Tim & Margaret Cocklin
Carolyn David
Linda DeVore
Susan Gessner
Gary & Carole Harwood
Mr. & Mrs. James Laursen
Mr. & Mrs. John Snively
Bob & Nancy Thatcher
Joe W. Trotter
Thom & Vicki Voshall

Sustaining Members

Emil Alecusan
Jim & Candy Barkan
Andrew Byler
Laura Jean Conway
Ann Crock
Eddie & Margaret Elum
Phillip & Natalie Elum
Kay & Gary Feagles
Donna Gilhousen
Dave & Laura Grabowsky
Leslie Graham

Nancy Harmelink
Mark & Enita Hout
Shane Jackson
Jen & Jonathan Kessel
Rick & Kathy Kettler
Jennifer & Craig Maurer
Emil E. Miller Jr.
Allan & Donna Moore
Dennis Morgan
Joe & Charlene Paquelet
Vince & Lorie Pedro
Mary Ann & Russell Poling
Lou & Kim Poppovich
Dale & Sarah Ritchey
Ken Robinson
Mrs. Jane Schultz
Marcia Short
Benjamin Slagle
Jim & Donna Snively
James Sparks & Oliver Bowcock
Ted & Marilyn Stults
Barb & Michael Sylvestre
John Thornberry
The Vigil Family
Dr. & Mrs. George W.
Vogelgesang
Gail Wetherell-Sack & Paul Sack
LaMar & Karon Wyse

Contributing Members

Barb Abbott
James Alexander
Dave & Cathy Ammond
Pam & Rick Artzner
Nikki & Anthony Bahler
Susan Belden
Diana Belden
Jay & Laurie Bomze
Diane Boslett
Suzanne & Troy Bradshaw
Jeffery & Lori Bricker
Amy Burkett
Debbie Busby
Louis Camerato
Russell & Luana Carpenter
Bruce & Karen Christoff
Kevin & Margaret Coffey
Therese & Bob Cook
Judith A. Crone
Annette Cryder
Fred DeGordon &
Elaine Barczyk
Shaun & Jeanna Doherty
Christine Domer
Joanne Domer
Thomas & Betsy Douce
Sandra & John Dougherty
Katherine & Mike Duplay
Johnna Economou
George Elum
Donald & Marguerite Engelhardt
Michelle & David Ertle
Harriett Evans
Trace & Mary-Margaret Evans
Carol Eyster
Tom & Jayne Ferrero
Larry & Joan Finefrock
Gary Gale
Barbara & Harold Greathouse
Gene & Christina Haas
Cheryl Hamilton
Marta Hansson & David Cronin
John & Elaine Harris
Bonnie & John Hauser
Pete Heimann

Ann Hessman
Neal Hodgkiss
Jill & Randy Hutsell
Keith & Betty Jarvis
Constance Kane &
David Jentgen
Mr. & Mrs. William Kapper
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TOP: Barberton Kindercare visited the Paul Brown Museum
for a docent-led tour. CR

ABOVE: Mary Ruth Kamp leads poetry open mic sessions
and writing workshops for the Museum. CR



FRONT COVER: Stan Baltzly (1879–1951) *Wetter's World's Greatest Dog and Pony Show* (detail), c. 1894. Gift of Stan Baltzly, Collection of the Massillon Museum (BC 2312.7.24)

TOP LEFT: Many friends and fans celebrated artwork by young photographers who participated in *The Art and History of Democracy* exhibition, presented in partnership with the Kent (OH) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated. BR

BOTTOM LEFT: Artist Seuil Chung (far right) speaks with guests at the opening reception for *Juxtaposed*. JB

LEFT: *Divine Harmony* amazed Fun Fest guests with their stilt-walking skills. CR

BACK COVER: Hula dancers entertained at the Island Party. BR



MASSILLON MUSEUM—A CULTURAL HUB WHERE ART AND HISTORY COME TOGETHER