



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

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



CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ANNUAL REPORT

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-----|---------------------|
| ANC | Alexandra Nicholis Coon | CR | Caylan Rentsch |
| LC | Logan Carr | BAR | Brandon Rohrer |
| CC | Christopher Craft | RR | Rick Rohrer |
| MD | Maya Demchak | BR | Bob Rossiter |
| MRK | Mary Ruth Kamp | MAS | Mandy Altimus Stahl |
| AM | Allan Moore | SLT | Stephanie Toole |
| BSP | Scot Phillips | EV | Emily Vigil |
| AP | Alexa Polinori | MV | Margy Vogt |



HAMMER'S SERVICE | PARADIGM SHIFT CRAFT BREWERY | ROCK-FAS | ABBOTT ELECTRIC, INC.
A.A. HAMMERSMITH INSURANCE, INC. | STARK GLASS ENTERPRISES, INC. | OHIO AUDIOLOGY ASSOCIATES
SLAGLE & KOTNICK, LLC | KRUGLIAK, WILKINS, GRIFFITHS & DOUGHERTY CO., LPA | SEIFERT TECHNOLOGIES | KOZMO'S GRILLE
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 IS A CULTURAL HUB WHERE ART AND HISTORY COME TOGETHER.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



ALEXANDRA NICHOLIS COON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This has been a year of many accomplishments. Our staff traveled collections to Washington DC and overseas, we welcomed a visiting artist from South Africa, we focused energy on endowment growth, and we developed an exhibition that yielded what we believe is the highest number of visitors to date, accounting for half of the entire year's attendance numbers in just four months. We recorded 9,624 visitors from 32 states between June 7 and October 13 during the run of *Gilding Northeast Ohio: Fashion and Fortune 1870–1900*. 47% of MassMu's visitors hailed from outside of Stark County, Ohio. Stark County partner attendees totaled 1,668, bringing the in-person visitor grand total to 11,292, which translated to \$861,793 of economic impact on our community.

I hope it will make all our members proud to learn that Massillon Museum retained its accreditation in 2024, a distinction it has held now 53 years, the highest benchmark of success awarded to museums in the United States by the American Alliance of Museums. I could not be prouder of our staff, board, core of supporters, and our community for collectively having secured this recognition. The self-study was conducted over the course of 2023, the peer review completed in spring 2024, and the award announced in July—the result of fifteen years of hard work completed by MassMu staff, through board leadership, member support, volunteer time, and collaborating partners who helped maintain best practices, elevate visibility, and strengthen our capacity to serve the community. This achievement of accreditation is held by only 1,112 museums nationwide, and Massillon Museum is one of three located in Stark County, Ohio.

Finally, I want to use this space for acknowledgement of tremendous advocacy champions we lost in 2024. Former board members David Harding, Wendy Little, and Brad

Richardson passed away, each of them having contributed numerous years of service to the Massillon Museum. Through their investment in the organization, it transformed—all saw MassMu through its expansion project and participated on committees focused on accessibility, education, facilities, and the permanent collections. David Harding, a retired English teacher from Massillon Washington High School, was a volunteer before engaging in board service from 2016 to 2022. Former librarian Wendy Little was a longtime member and had been engaged in the life of the Museum for decades when she joined the board (2011 to 2017). Brad Richardson taught construction at RG Drage during his board tenure, which consisted of two six-year terms (2011 to 2017, 2018 to 2024).

Just as these board members left their mark on the Museum, so did State Senator Kirk Schuring (1952–2024) leave a lasting legacy. Alongside his colleague Representative Scott Oelslager, Senator Schuring's support of Massillon Museum manifested in our facility nearly doubling in size, state-of-the-art collections storage, the creation of a permanent home for the Paul Brown Museum, buildout of a seasonal home for the Russell Steam Engine, replacement of two rooftop HVAC units, overhaul and upgrade of the building's fire safety systems, and future creation of another climate-controlled storage space. Senator Schuring believed in the power of art and history to inform our understanding of the world, to impact the economy in a positive way, and to improve the quality of life in a community. He was a visionary who knew the power of placemaking, and his investment in arts and culture will resonate throughout the Massillon Museum, Stark County, and Ohio for generations to come.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 2024

| | UNAUDITED 2024 | AUDITED 2023 | AUDITED 2022 |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Revenue | 2,182,710 | 1,807,657 | 1,322,657 |
| Expenses | 1,606,383 | 1,358,856 | 1,176,208 |
| Depreciation | <u>398,670</u> | <u>329,273</u> | <u>325,454</u> |
| Net Income (loss) | 177,657 | 119,528 | (179,005) |
| Cash | 638,843 | 791,160 | 1,079,287 |
| Investments | 940,167 | 752,613 | 539,747 |
| Net Fixed Assets | 6,450,250 | 6,550,007 | 6,352,377 |
| Other Assets | <u>1,162,778</u> | <u>1,177,733</u> | <u>890,018</u> |
| Total Assets | 9,192,038 | 9,271,513 | 8,861,429 |
| Liabilities | <u>93,497</u> | <u>350,629</u> | <u>60,073</u> |
| Net Assets | 9,098,541 | 8,920,884 | 8,801,356 |

AM



TOP: Ceramics Studio Manager Susan Mentrak welcomed a new kiln purchased for the Museum by MassMu member and artist Nan Ream. Ream's generosity inspired an application to the Massillon Community Charitable Fund at the Stark Community Foundation, which resulted in acquisition of a second kiln. Ceramics classes, workshops, and open studio times are among the Museum's most popular education department programs. ANC

BOTTOM: Greatness Cafe offered food, beverages, and affirmation before closing in mid-2024. Owner Cyrus Ausar and Museum Executive Director Alex Coon as seen at the advent of their service.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert Garner, Chair
Andrew Byler, Vice Chair
Phillip Elum, Treasurer
Margaret Cocklin, Secretary

Rob Braholli
Sherie Brown
NaSheka Combs-Lemon
Marta Hansson
Jeff McMahan
David Schultz
Maude Slagle

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



ROBERT GARNER
CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

When I think of the Massillon Museum in 2024, I think of the word *growth*. The Massillon Museum, like many institutions, must make sure we are as relevant today as we were ninety-two years ago. The Massillon Museum board wants to maintain our treasures and traditions, but also never wants to be complacent, nor satisfied, as we grow into the future.

In 2024, the staff was challenged to develop new and creative exhibits, with the biggest being *Gilding Northeast Ohio*. After the recent success of the Massillon football team, the Paul Brown Museum's permanent timeline exhibit was updated and expanded. The *Missing History of Massillon* project, which documents the unheard African American stories of the community, continues to garner more attention and stories. Our website has been updated with an interactive view of the Museum. We have new amenities in the education department, including newly renovated classrooms soon to be unveiled for more engaging programs, and two new kilns for pottery classes. Lastly, our membership campaign grew to a new record of members supporting the Museum.

With all this growth, the Museum is also in a better financial position than ever. The record numbers of members and visitors have grown our general fund and our endowment to new levels. This financial security creates stability for future growth as we look forward.

To punctuate the year in review, MassMu went international for the first time with components of the *Moniker: Identity Lost and Found* exhibition. Museum staff were able to travel to Amsterdam to be there for the opening, having helped curate the amazing work.

As we grow into 2025, I hope you are feeling the excitement and momentum of 2024's growth. Keep watching for this year's exhibitions, workshops, members-only parties, and festivities thoughtfully created for you. If you want to be more involved, please reach out to see how you can grow with us!

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 2004 to 2010. Coon served as board president for the Ohio Museums Association from 2017 to 2019 and is active on boards of the Cleveland Print Room and Aultman Hospital. 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 Outstanding Service Award. She is a graduate of the 37th Class of Leadership Stark County.



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 *Mbniker: Identity Lost and Found* exhibition and catalog. He and his wife are the parents of twins, Klara and Cooper.



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. Mohr*, in 2015. Her book, *Early Massillon and Lost Kendal*, was published by Arcadia Publishing in 2017. Stahl serves as the secretary 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.



Brandon Rohrer

Brandon Rohrer, who joined the Museum in 2016, is guest operations manager—working as the security liaison; guest services manager; manager of the Museum's shop, OHregionalities; and network administrator. He helped found and currently co-chairs the accessibility

committee. He 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 has served on the boards of the Massillon Heritage Foundation, Art Possible Ohio, and United Way Young Leaders Society. Rohrer spoke at the Ohio Museums Association 2020 and 2023 annual conferences. He studies information technology and business at Kent State University.



Valerie Metzger

Valerie Metzger is MassMu's new 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 is eager to apply her experience in design and project management to the responsibility of reimagining the Museum's permanent collection galleries.



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-first year at MassMu, Craft installs exhibits and

gives presentations for the speakers' bureau, among several 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.



Emily Vigil

Emily Vigil is Massillon Museum's Studio M Gallery and Fred F. Silk Community Room Gallery 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 fourteen and twelve.



Caylan Rentsch

Caylan Rentsch, education and outreach assistant, joined the Massillon Museum in August 2022. She previously held the positions of outreach ambassador and tour coordinator before beginning in her

current role in July 2023. She earned an MA and a BA in art history from Kent State University. Her 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 translate directly to her role in outreach. Rentsch sits on the Museum's Accessibility Committee and is passionate about maintaining a Museum that is truly open to all. She resides in Canton, Ohio, with her three dogs—*Sylvia*, *Santo*, and *Gunner*.



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,

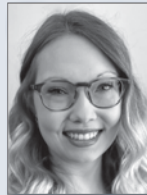
a bachelor of business administration from Kent State University, and a bachelor of science in accounting from the University of Akron. He came to the Museum after retiring from Cleveland Clinic Akron General Hospital with a forty-plus-year career in healthcare accounting and finance. When not counting 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.



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.



Bailey Yoder

Bailey Yoder was the curator of football heritage for the Paul Brown Museum from April 2018 to January 2025. She holds a BA from the University of Mount Union and an MA from Youngstown State University. She oversaw research and design of exhibitions in the Paul

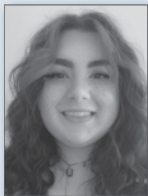
Brown gallery and managed the Paul Brown Research Library in Memory of Bob Shiring, which houses the extensive Paul Brown and Massillon Tigers archives. Yoder coordinated and designed the Paul Brown Museum, curated numerous exhibitions, and collaborated with outside institutions and private collectors on multiple projects. She serves on the Ohio Local History Alliance executive board and the Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club Junior Board.



Stephanie Toole

Stephanie Toole, director of education and community partnerships, joined the Massillon Museum staff in June 2019 and remained on staff until January 2025. She coordinated and generated educational programming for exhibitions; art and history classes and workshops;

outreach; and special events. Toole was responsible for organizing the Celebration in Art K-12 student art exhibition and leading the NEA Big Read program and committee. She supported the Poetry Out Loud program and coordinator and helped manage the Museum's involvement in the Artful Living and Learning Intergenerational Program. She was co-chair of the Museum's accessibility committee, an Artful Living and Learning advisory board member, and an Ohio Alliance for Arts Education board member. Toole earned a BA in history and psychology from Ohio Wesleyan University and an MA in history with a concentration in public history from the University of Cincinnati.



Maya Demchak

Maya Demchak is the guest operations assistant and shop coordinator. She has been with the Museum since April of 2022. Demchak strives to create 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 works 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.



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.



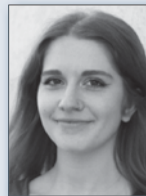
Susan Mentrak

Susan Mentrak is the ceramics studio manager at MassMu. 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.



Logan Abbott

Logan Abbott started as the assistant to the facilities manager at MassMu in December 2023. He is a 2019 graduate of RG Drage, where he studied graphic design. His experience working for Cinemark provided him the foundation for helping maintain a clean building and multitasking as well as interfacing with the public. A lifelong Massillon resident, Logan grew up with a love of history, art, and museums, and looks forward to leveraging these interests and his love of reading and research to supporting the Museum's mission. In his free time, he enjoys reading comics and spending time with friends and his cat, Kevin.



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.



Dove Reeher

Dove Reeher, digital media and office coordinator, has been with the Massillon Museum since May of 2023. She was a MassMu guest services assistant from 2023 to 2024. In 2019, she graduated from Mercer High School in Mercer, 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 fiancée, visiting coffee shops, and gardening.



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 OSU ATI. 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.



Anna Young

Anna E. Young was administrative assistant and social media manager from 2019 through 2024. She holds an MFA in photography from Cranbrook Academy of Art and a BFA in photography with a minor in printmaking, art history, and professional photography from

the University of Akron. She is the co-founder of KINK Contemporary, an artist-run art gallery in Cleveland's Waterloo Arts District. Young is also an assistant lecturer at the University of Akron, Myers School of Art, in the 2D Design department. In her free time, she creates fine art photographs, graphic prints, and silicone sculptures revolving around anxiety, social issues, body dysmorphia, and mortality.



Kathryn Applegate

Kathryn Applegate was the MassMu collections manager and registrar from May 2023 to October 2024. She managed new acquisitions to the permanent collections; facilitated domestic and international loans and requests; maintained the Museum's fine

arts insurance policy; and advised on proper object handling, documentation, environmental monitoring, and collections care. She sat on the Museum's collections committee and is a member of the Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists, actively participating in their mentorship program. She has held collections management positions in several museums including Toledo Museum of Art and Zanesville Museum of Art. Applegate graduated *summa cum laude* from Kent State University with a BA in art history, minoring in photo-illustration. She earned an MA in history of art from the University of Birmingham, England.



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.



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. 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.



Gregory Guarneri

Former Outreach Ambassador Gregory Guarneri holds a BFA degree with a concentration in sculpture. He is an active artist, musician, and public servant. Gregory enjoys meeting new people and doing fun activities with families during local events. He

currently works a full-time position as the director of a community outreach center in Akron's Summit Lake neighborhood. He moved to Massillon about two years ago and has become very interested in being involved with the community through arts and culture.



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.



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.

VELMA B. ERWIN RESEARCH ROOM & ARCHIVES/ PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

This year many archives were digitized including Russell and Company ledgers, community scrapbooks, Dr. T.J. Reed's 1870s birth records, photo albums, and *Independent* newspaper photographs.

Gilding Northeast Ohio provided an opportunity to research hundreds of artifacts and the people associated with them. Several descendants of the families visited the exhibit.

In May, we hosted the Local History and Genealogy Fair, co-sponsored by the Stark County District Library and Massillon Public Library. Attendees could visit booths from many local historical societies, museums, and genealogy societies from Stark and surrounding counties. Next year it will be hosted at the Stark County District Library's main branch.

Our virtual archives now feature 29,500 photos! We began loading galleries of photos onto Flickr in 2018. Since that time, more than 8,700,000 virtual visitors have viewed the images.

A special thank you to collection intern Jess Ickes and volunteers Mary Jane Corvin, Tom Grove, Tom Haas, Mark Pitocco, and Scott Sandbrink. We wish former Collections Manager and Registrar Kathrynne Applegate the best in her new adventure. MAS



LEFT: James E. Hamlin posed with his daughter-in-law Doris June Hamlin at Crystal Springs, with 1935 Graham Coupe, c. 1946. Gift of Doris Hamlin Collection of the Massillon Museum (96.106.1a)

BELOW: Scott Sandbrink and intern Jess Ickes piece together a circus photograph. MAS



2023–2024 Donations to the Permanent Collection and Archives

Richard Alex
In memory of Edward Allman
Bob & Terry Argent
Roy Bair
Ron & Elsie Balder
Liz Weekes Billman
Dan Bowers
Rebekah Casper
In memory of Joan M. Cheney
Suzanne Chapanar-Colby
Marcianne David
Timothy Frey
In memory of Ed Grier
In memory of Billy Ann Guffy
In memory of Lee Hammock
Evan Hannon Family
Lynn Hill
Dick Jacobs Family
Michael P. James Sr.,
son of Tommy James
In honor of John Kalagides,
who served in WWII
Phyllis Knight
Family of Paul J. Liebermann
The Longheier Family
Louise Mahoney
Massillon Tiger Football
Booster Club
Jacqueline McLain Estate
McLain Family
Carol Meyers
Moore Family, Nate & Becca

This year's local History and
Genealogy Fair, co-sponsored by
the Massillon Museum, Stark
County District Library, and
Massillon Public Library, was held in
Gessner Hall. MAS

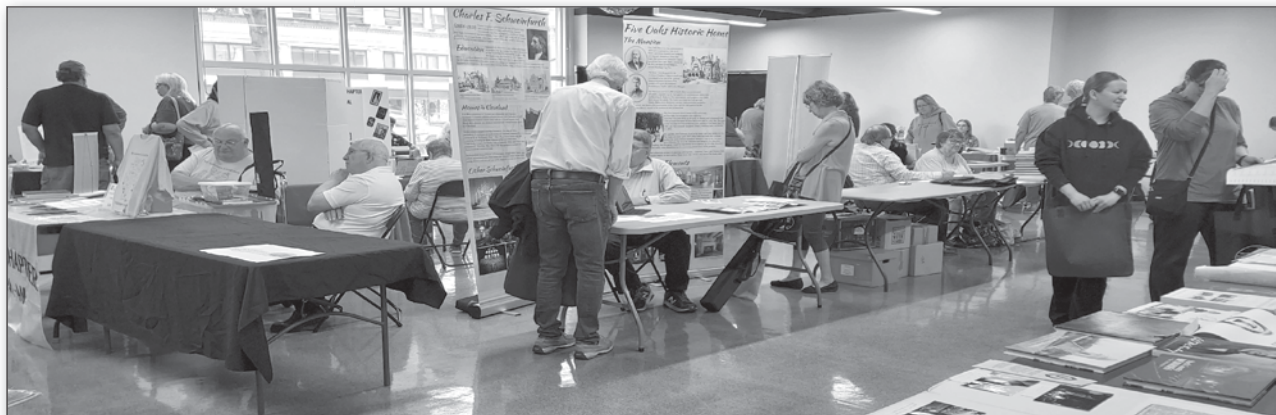
Museum Purchase
Town of Ogden, NY
William Reid
Andrew & Alice Hammer Paul,
class of 1947
Andrew & Alice Paul Estate
Bill Peach
Anthony Perry Jr. & Kathy Catazaro-Perry
Bonnie L. Popa
David Price
Family of M.A.W. Pratt
Samantha Rohrer
Marilyn DeGeorge Schartiger
Schiro Family
Michael Slinger
In memory of Tom Straughn
William & Marjorie McQueen Stoner
Mona Lemmon Warstler
Washington High School
Alumni Association
Earle E. Wise Jr. MAS

PAUL BROWN MUSEUM COLLECTION, RESEARCH LIBRARY AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

Much work has been done in the Paul Brown football heritage collections over the past year. Volunteer Essam Farrah has scanned nearly 1,000 35mm slides and rehoused them in protective sleeves. He has worked on a catalog inventory project of the *Open Storage* exhibit located on the Museum's second floor. Farrah has also inventoried and deaccessioned duplicate game programs in the collection; they will be used by the Booster Club and the Washington High School Alumni Association. Eris Moesle continues to scan the binders in the Junie and Dolores Studer Library, with only a few binders remaining to be scanned. Moesle has also started a scrapbook rehousing project to protect the fragile pages and newspaper articles for future research use. The history committee of the Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club continues to volunteer every Thursday afternoon, researching former players for articles on their website and updates to the Studer Library. They enjoy talking about current events and the upcoming football season. Hundreds of reel-to-reel audio tapes, S-VHS tapes, DV tapes, and DVDs of interviews, community events, and football-related events have been added to the Paul Brown Museum collection.

We wish former Curator of Football Heritage Bailey Yoder the best in her new museum career.

LC



MAIN GALLERY

Home Again:

The Embodiment of Africa through Art and Fabric

Home Again opened Saturday, March 23, and continued through Sunday, May 19; an artists' reception was held on April 6 alongside the NEA Big Read kickoff event. Contemporary paintings, head wraps, mixed media artwork, and sculpture complemented MassMu's 2024 NEA Big Read book selection, *Homemaking* by Yaa Gyasi. Chesley Antoinette of Texas, Khehla Chepape Makgato of South Africa, Woodrow Nash and Francine Murphy-Terry of Ohio, and artists from Gee's Bend Collaborative were represented in the exhibition, which was guest-curated by Dr. Tameka Ellington. Ellington is a fashion designer, educator, author, and CEO and Founder of Dr. Tameka Ellington Enterprises, as well as the curator of Black history at the William McKinley Presidential Library and Museum. Ellington's vision and expertise resulted in a beautiful presentation of fabric's narrative power which complemented themes in Gyasi's novel. ANC

RIGHT: Chepape Makgato, *Queen Mankhatsi*, 2019, acrylic, painting, and textile on canvas, *Home Again*

FAR RIGHT: Introductory vignette, *Gilding Northeast Ohio*, a project funded with major support from Visit Canton and ArtsInStark BR

Gilding Northeast Ohio: Fashion and Fortune 1870-1900

Gilding Northeast Ohio was guest-curated by New York fashion historian, educator, and author Brian Centrone. The exhibition, seen by nearly 9,700 people, explored the region's forgotten glittering prominence during the Gilded Age, using fashion to reflect the era's class, political, and social complexities.

It featured garments from Massillon Museum and Western Reserve Historical Society, alongside loans from regional institutions like the Kent State University Museum, the McKinley Presidential Library and Museum, and Spring Hill Historic Home and Underground Railroad Site. A highlight was inclusion of costumes from HBO's *The Gilded Age* series, paired with original garments to showcase the lasting influence of fashion from this period. Leveraging MassMu's extensive collection, Centrone was able to construct a narrative that told Northeast Ohio's story during the Gilded Age, connecting it to that of the rest of the country and the world.

Gilding was the most ambitious project in MassMu's recent history in terms of design and production, budget, marketing, research, and regional collaboration. The project assembled a team of museum and marketing professionals, historians, fashion and costume designers, an experience designer, carpenters, artists, actors, fabricators, interns, volunteers, and more to establish a regional benchmark for excellence through collaboration.

ANC



Stark County Artists Exhibition

The 2023 Stark County Artists Exhibition was on display from November 30, 2023 through January 14, 2024, showcasing seventy-four artworks by fifty-two artists. Best in Show was awarded to Jessica Morton, second to Judi Krevy and third to Bruce Stebner. Of 675 votes cast, the People's Choice Award was given to Brian Robinson for his pastel, *First Morning*.

The 2024 Stark County Artists Exhibition debuted November 2, 2024, and concluded January 12, 2025. The show was created by three jurors—Autumn Bland, Orlando Caraballo, and Colleen George Suich. From 215 entries by eighty-six artists, sixty-seven artworks by forty-nine artists were selected and displayed in the Museum's Main Gallery. The show was a fantastic blend of 2D and 3D works, including oil paintings, collages, and textile works. Best in show was awarded to Sharon Frank Mazgaj for her drawing, *Dorothy and Ethel*. For her sculpture, *Death of General Wolfe Lidded Casserole*, Susan Mentrak was awarded second place, and Laura Donnelly was given third place for *Savannah in Flight*. Honorable mentions were given to Lou Camerato, Gerald Fox, Judith Girscht Huber, David Jentgen, Susan Kurtz, and Miranda Marsh. Gerald Fox earned the People's Choice Award for his painting, *Gaelic Majesty*.

AP

RIGHT
Susan Kurtz
Vessel of a Loved Life, three-dimensional collage, sculpture,
Stark County Artists Exhibition



Celebration in Art

The 2024 Celebration in Art exhibition opened on Sunday, February 4, with an in-person reception for the featured students, their art educators, and their families. The young artists all attended public and parochial schools in Western Stark County and were in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The exhibition featured nearly 300 two- and three-dimensional artworks.

Twenty-eight schools participated: Amherst Elementary, Edison Middle, Fairless Elementary, Fairless High, Fairless Middle, Franklin Elementary, Genoa Elementary, Gorrell Elementary, Jackson High, Jackson Memorial Middle, Lake Cable Elementary, Lohr Elementary, Massillon Intermediate, Massillon Junior High, Massillon Washington High, Northwest High, Perry High, Pfeiffer Intermediate, Sandy Valley High, Sauder Elementary, Strausser Elementary, St. Mary School, TC Knapp Elementary, Tuslaw Elementary, Tuslaw High, Tuslaw Middle, Watson Elementary, and Whipple Elementary. CR

ABOVE:
Lou Camerato,
Time Well Served, mixed media,
Stark County Artists Exhibition

LEFT:
Celebration in Art
reception BR

CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERIES

Studio M

Studio M is Massillon Museum's designated space for celebrating contemporary art in all media. In 2024, MassMu presented six new exhibitions, including a student exhibition. All of the artists were interviewed for the Museum's podcast, *MassMusings*, which can be found on the Museum's website and other podcast sites.

Until January 26, Studio M displayed ink drawings and watercolor paintings by Elena Masrour. The first full-length exhibition in 2024 featured large-scale narrative paintings by recent Kent State University graduate Maria McDonald. Her exhibition, *In Another Life: A Tale of Love, Loss, and Living*, was on display from January 27 through March 17. Next, Monica Jane Frisell and Adam Scher presented *Portrait of US*, an evolving audiovisual archive of intimate stories told by ordinary people. Their Studio M exhibition included silver gelatin prints and audio recordings of Stark County residents, along with other portraits from many communities across the country. *Portrait of US* was held in conjunction with



MassMu's 2024 NEA Big Read. From June 1 through July 14, Studio M featured mixed media artwork by Katie Davis. Her exhibition, *RawMaterial*, explored themes of feminism and domesticity. Emily Bartolone's exhibition, *On Its Head*, followed. It featured paintings merging figuration with geometric abstraction. *On Its Head* was displayed from July 27 through September 8. In *Through the Looking Glass*, porcelain sculptor Kimberly Chapman portrayed the lives of fiercely independent women who lived on the fringes of society. The exhibition included portraits of circus sideshow performers including Kittie Smith, Myrtle Corbin, and tiger trainer Mabel Stark. *Through the Looking Glass* was exhibited from September 21 through November 3. Finally, textile artist Stephen Tornero joined ceramicist Grant Ederer to create the *A Fair Trade*, which was on display from November 16, 2024 through January 5, 2025. The exhibition showcased dynamic visual and thematic connections initially inspired by trading artworks. EV



Fred F. Silk Community Room Gallery

In the Fred F. Silk Community Room Gallery, which is dedicated to collaboration with area partners, 2024 began with *The Art and History of the Black Family: Through the Eyes of the 21st-Century African American Child*. This award-winning program and photography exhibition by students in Stark, Summit, Portage, and Medina counties was sponsored by The Kent Area (OH) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated.

The next exhibition, *Family Means to Me*, was part of the Museum's NEA Big Read programming. It featured K-12 student artwork in diverse media from throughout the region interpreting the theme of family, and was displayed from April 6 through June 9.

Then, the gallery showcased *Accessible Expressions Ohio*, an adjudicated, statewide exhibition of art by Ohio artists with disabilities. Ohio artists of any age with a disability entered in the youth, emerging, or professional categories. The annual exhibition, presented by Art Possible Ohio, was featured in the gallery from June 22 through August 18.

The Museum collaborated with the Massillon Public Library Vinyl Club to present *On the Record*, which showcased album covers belonging to club members and local record collectors and a vintage 1950s jukebox loaned by Phil Elum. Mary Jane Corwin, Vinyl Club member and MassMu volunteer, curated the exhibition.

Finally, the exhibition season concluded with *Artwork by Members of the Boys and Girls Club of Massillon* from November 9, 2024 through January 7, 2025. This annual exhibition was celebrated with an awards ceremony during which students were recognized by their friends and families. EV



PAUL BROWN MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

The Paul Brown Museum hosted four exhibitions this year. Kicking the year off with *Jerry Kalback, Deadball Era Series: An Illustrator's Process* and *Massillon's Baseball Pros: An Inning in History* from February 3 to August 4, these exhibits discussed the Deadball era of Major League Baseball through the lens of accomplished illustrator Jerry Kalback (1950-2021), while also highlighting the roles Massillonians have played throughout the history of the big leagues.

August 19 saw the opening of two additional exhibitions. *Brown's Town: Art Inspired by Ohio's Football Heritage*, a juried art exhibition, featured fourteen works by eleven artists

from across the state offering a contemporary look at the legendary coach's impact throughout Ohio and on the sport itself. Other themes included the Massillon Tigers, Ohio State Buckeye football, the Cleveland Browns, the Cincinnati Bengals, Miami University—Oxford/Cradle of Coaches, the Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club/Commitment to community, early professional football in Northeast Ohio, Paul Brown Tiger Stadium, the Massillon Tiger Swing Band, the Massillon/Canton McKinley Rivalry, and Paul Brown's coaching tree. The exhibit concluded on January 6, 2025. Opening alongside *Brown's Town*, was *90 Years of Community: The Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club*. It honors the first nine decades of the organization's support and projects that have contributed to a winning football program. *90 Years of Community* will be displayed through July 6, 2025.

The end panel of The Paul Brown and Massillon Tigers History Timeline has been updated to include the last four years of events, including Nate Moore's breaking Paul Brown's all-time win record and the unveiling of the Obie statue at First Street and Lincoln Way East. Newly featured on the timeline is a Massillon Tiger Swing Band recording, which will be featured in a forthcoming Sammy Nestico documentary film. LC

SECOND-FLOOR GALLERIES

Photography Gallery Exhibitions

Precarious Legacies: Exposures of a Fleeting Landscape opened in 2023 and remained on view through July 2024. The exhibition, featuring fine art photography from the Museum's permanent collection, focused on environmental preservation through images by Ansel Adams and Nell Dorr. Some of the Dorr images had never been exhibited at MassMu previously. The exhibition showcased the natural landscape's beauty to initiate dialogue about climate change and what actions can be taken to ensure the scenery pictured within the photos is preserved.

Following *Precarious Legacies* was an exhibition featuring the Museum's collection of thirty black and white, gelatin silver prints created by Aaron Siskind (1903-1991). From October 22 until spring 2025, *Aaron Siskind: A Survey of Life in Harlem during the Great Depression* is on view in the second-floor photography gallery. Siskind, who made enormous contributions to the history and development of modern photography, created the *Harlem Document* to provide an intimate glimpse into the social environment and widespread economic hardships that affected New York City's Harlem neighborhood as well as Americans across the nation. Richard and Susan Gessner donated the collection, helping enhance one of MassMu's main collecting areas. ANC

FAR LEFT: Maria McDonald at the opening reception for her Studio M student exhibition, *In Another Life: A Tale of Love, Loss, and Living*, on January 27, 2024 EV

LEFT: The *On the Record* exhibition in the Fred F. Silk Community Room Gallery (August 31 through October 27, 2024) included vintage album covers and a 1950s juke box. EV

THIS PAGE: Diane Pribojan, *Portrait of Paul Brown*, acrylic on panel, 2024, *Brown's Town: Art Inspired by Ohio's Football Heritage* exhibition (August 21, 2024 through January 6, 2025)



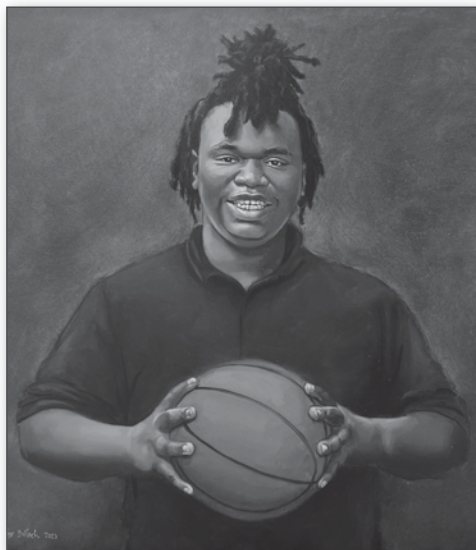
ABOVE: Studio M artist Katie Davis poses with her mixed media installation. Visitors enjoying her exhibition, *RawMaterial*, were also invited to sit. EV

RIGHT:
Heather Bullach, *Isaac*, 2024, *Heart Gallery*

LOWER LEVEL LOBBY EXHIBITIONS

Heart Gallery

The *Heart Gallery*, organized by Stark County Job and Family Services, was exhibited in the Massillon Museum's Lower Level Lobby from January 9 to February 11, 2024. The *Heart Gallery* pairs local artists with children waiting to be adopted from foster care. Last year's portraits featured twelve youth portrayed by nine artists. They included: Abigail, by Alaska Thompson; Ahna, by Madison Miller; Alexander and Jaramiah, by Kat Francis; Brendon, by Alexa Polinori; Collyn, by Kaley Weaver; Hayli, by David Sherrill; Isaac, by Heather Bullach; Jennifer and Jamespeter, by Tim Carmany; Kylie, by William Keomany; and Lexianna, by Alaska Thompson. ANC



Art Educator of the Year

The Massillon Museum partnered with the Canton Museum of Art to present the fifth annual Art Educator of the Year Award in 2024. 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.

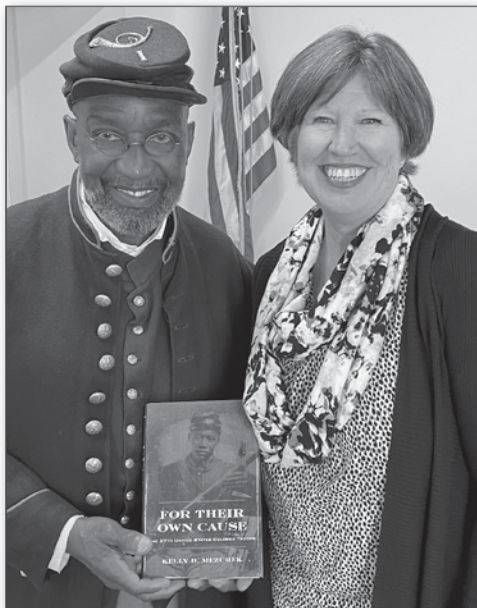
Each finalist for the 2024 Art Educator of the Year Award submitted two artworks created either by themselves or their students for the *Art Educator of the Year Award Finalists Exhibition*. One artwork representing each finalist was displayed in the Museum's Lower Level Lobby from March 15 through March 30. The Canton Museum of Art displayed a complementary exhibition of artwork created by finalists or their students during the same time.

The five finalists were recognized during a joint ceremony on March 23 with the Canton Museum of Art and Canton Symphony Orchestra, which presents the Music Educator of the Year Award:

Brian Robinson, Tuslaw Local Schools
Jill Balderson, Plain Local Schools
Macy McAdams, Massillon City Schools
Matthew J. Ferrell, Massillon City Schools
Sara Snyder, North Canton City Schools

Congratulations to Sara Snyder, visual art teacher at North Canton Intermediate School in North Canton City Schools, who was named the 2024 Art Educator of the Year. CR

BROWN BAG LUNCHES AND HISTORY DISCUSSION GROUP



ABOVE: In an authentic Civil War uniform, Frederick Smith attended Kelly Mezurek's February Brown Bag Lunch program about African Americans who served in the Union Army during the American Civil War, the subject of her book, *For Their Own Cause*. MV

RIGHT: Local historians Rudy Turkal and Margo Vogt stumped November History Discussion Group attendees with Massillon history questions, rewarding answers with "fabulous prizes." MAS

Brown Bag Lunches

Doug Bort introduced the 2024 Brown Bag Lunch series by intriguing the audience with "Fakes and Forgeries: Discover How an Art Detective Unravels the Truth." In February, Kelly D. Mezurek, Ph.D presented "Black Men in Blue: The Civil War, Ohioans, and the United States Colored Troops." The March topic—"The History of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic"—celebrated Women's History Month. Willis Gordon presented "A Legacy of Progress" in April. Richard Haldi talked about "The 130th Anniversary of Coxey's March." David Dingwell displayed stunning nighttime photography—"Beauty in Our Own Backyard." To complement MassMu's summer exhibition, Patricia Edmonson presented "Fashion after Dark: How Gaslight and Early Electricity Illuminated the Gilded Age." Nick Diamont's program, "Stark Record and Tape Service (My Life in Camelot)," previewed the Fred F. Silk Community Room Gallery exhibition, *On the Record*. Scott Ryan and Becca Moore tag-teamed a talk about their football book, *Massillon Against the World*. Ally Carlson capped the 2024 series in October with "McKinley Monument: A Tribute to a Fallen President."

Free Brown Bag Lunches meet the fourth Tuesday of the month, January through October. MassMu provides complimentary coffee and cookies. No reservations are required. MV

History Discussion Group

Chris Craft and Mandy Allimus Stahl moderated twelve Museum History Discussion Group sessions in 2024. Initiated in 1995, the conversation continues to be a popular time to reminisce and renew friendships. The topic varies monthly. Attendance is free and open to everyone with no reservations required.

The 2024 discussions included old cars, dealerships, and gas stations; favorite childhood toys; retail establishments; the family dinner table; parades; local attractions and one-day trips; Massillon and Stark County restaurants; back to school; fall songs to remember; and famous or colorful relatives. The November program is traditionally Tigertown Trivia, and December is always show-and-tell time. MV



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Education and Outreach

MassMu staff interacted with more than 85,000 children and adults in Stark County and beyond through virtual and in-person field trips and tours, classes, workshops, and outreach programs in 2024. Community members of all ages enjoyed a variety of programs, from yoga and drawing classes to writing circles and ceramics workshops. We interacted with people throughout Northeast Ohio at events including resource fairs, Fun Fest, community open houses, and First Fridays in the Downtown Canton Arts District.

At Do the Mu, a free, family-friendly art activity on the first Saturday of each month, attendees created dream catchers, craft bugs, woven paper baskets, neurographic drawings, Gee's Bend-inspired collages, frog puppets, pen and ink drawings, paper dolls, coffee filter candy corn crafts, zombie makeup, gratitude flags, and screen prints.

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

RIGHT: Education and Outreach Assistant Caylan Rentsch led art activities for children at the city's Fall into Wellness event at Duncan Plaza. SLT

NEA Big Read

The Massillon Museum was honored to receive the NEA Big Read grant for the seventeenth consecutive year. The community read *Homegoing* by author Yaa Gyasi, a historical fiction novel. The Massillon Museum and Massillon Public Library partnered with community organizations, schools, and businesses, including Massillon City Schools, Lions Lincoln Theatre, Massillon Community Arts Council, Strauss Studios, Soroptimist International of Canton/Stark County, PBS Western Reserve, Stark County District Library, BeYoutiful Weirdo, and Women's Impact, to host in-person and virtual programming related to Gyasi's book. People of all ages participated in programs such as book discussions, a sit-and-sketch with Massillon Community Arts Council, One-Act Plays, an artist panel, and two film screenings.

The Museum's complementary exhibition, *Home Again: The Embodiment of African through Art and Fabric*, guest-curated by Dr. Tameka Ellington, in the Main Gallery was a highlight of the Big Read. CR



The original exhibition, *Family Means to Me*, in the Fred F. Silk Community Room Gallery from April 6 through June 9, featured artwork from students in kindergarten through twelfth grade in Northeast Ohio. The Museum invited current private, parochial, and homeschool students to submit their original artwork inspired by what family means to them.

Monica Jane Frisell and Adam Scher exhibited *Portrait of US* in the Studio M Gallery from April 6 through May 19, also accenting the Big Read. *Portrait of US* is an evolving audiovisual archive of intimate stories told by ordinary people. The artists create the audiovisual portraits in their Nomadic Photo Ark, a roaming black and white darkroom and art studio, as they weave their way across the United States. Frisell and Scher visited Massillon with the Nomadic Photo Ark from September 25 through October 6, 2023. Their Studio M exhibition included audiovisual portraits of Stark County residents whom they interviewed, along with other portraits from the project.

MassMu hosted author Yaa Gyasi as the live virtual keynote speaker on May 2. Gyasi also spoke with Honors English students at the Museum during a question-and-answer session earlier that day. More than one hundred Washington High School students read her work in their English classes. Younger students read complementary titles as part of the Little Read sponsored by One Tiger, Inc. and Rotary Club of Massillon. CR

Artful Living and Learning

Four times a week from October through April, Artful Living and Learning (ALL) teaching artists provide arts lessons to 3,000 preschool children in nineteen school districts in Stark, Tuscarawas, and Carroll counties, as well as the three Stark County Head Start sites.

ALL was designed and developed through the Massillon Museum beginning in 2006. The program is now operated through the Stark County Educational Service Center. Funding for the preschool arts classes is provided by the individual school districts. More than 20,000 children have benefited from the program throughout its history. ALL classes are designed to meet early learning standards, stimulate creativity, and improve academic achievement.

Massillon Museum maintains two seats on the program's advisory board and is presently hosting an intergenerational class that brings together preschool children from Massillon City Schools with senior citizens from the Danbury Senior Living Center. The children and seniors develop relationships among one another and grow in an understanding of needs and characteristics of the different generations. CC



Artful Living and Learning Intergenerational Program

The Massillon Museum was thrilled to continue the Intergenerational Program in partnership with Artful Living and Learning (ALL), Massillon City Schools, and Danbury Senior Living of Massillon. 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 ALL teaching artist. The first year of the program concluded in April 2024, and the second year began in October 2024. CR

ABOVE: The Artful Living and Learning Intergenerational Program enriches the lives of participating seniors and preschoolers. CR

FAR LEFT: Rev. LeCounte Nedab III of St. James AME Zion Church was the master of ceremonies at Massillon's Black History Program in February 2024. BR

LEFT: The Massillon Museum co-sponsors the annual Fun Fest, which offers a wide array of free educational, entertaining, and health-related activities and information for all ages. MV

SPECIAL EVENTS

Rhythms

MassMu's Rhythms series hosted three separate concerts during the year: Reverend Robert Jones Sr. in April; Don Dixon in September; and Blue Hour and Bethany Joy in November.

Island Party

Carlos Jones+ headlined the Massillon Museum's annual Island Party on July 12, 2024. This year, food trucks provided island-themed meals and beverages. Though a significant change, it allowed the Museum to extend partnerships with local businesses and offered variety to guests.

Fun Fest

On Saturday, August 10, more than one hundred participating organizations transformed downtown Massillon into a resource fair, educational and amusement park, performance venue, and more. Hundreds of guests explored fourteen trucks and vehicles in the municipal lot, from the Library's bookmobile to a fire truck. Churches, nonprofits, arts organizations, and businesses distributed literature and fun takeaways. Costumed characters, stilt walkers, magicians, and dancers enlivened Duncan Plaza and adjacent areas, from the municipal parking lot to the Museum. Performances by the Tiger Swing Band and an Irish Step Dance group were just two of several acts to take the stage. Organized by the Downtown Massillon Association, Massillon Museum, and MCTV, Inc., Fun Fest is accessible to all ages and has been a community tradition for nearly thirty years. We thank a host of sponsors and participants for making the festivities possible.

Tiger-Striped Ice Cream Night

On Monday, August 19, the Massillon Museum helped celebrate the beginning of the 2024 Tiger football season by serving nearly 500 free orange-and-black ice cream cones following the Tiger Kickoff Pep Rally at Duncan Plaza. Tiger-Striped Ice Cream Night, co-hosted by the Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club and the Massillon Museum, has become a Massillon's football tradition. Two new Paul Brown Museum exhibitions—*Brown's Town*, and *90 Years of Community*—opened concurrently with the special event.

An Evening with Carrie Coon

To complement the *Gilding Northeast Ohio: Fashion and Fortune 1870–1900* exhibition, HBO's *The Gilded Age* actress Carrie Coon toured the gallery with guest curator Brian Centrone and posed for photographs with each guest at a VIP event on September 7.

Member's Holiday Open House

At the annual Members' Holiday Open House on December 7, members enjoyed delicious food from Dishes by Design, a Canton Symphony Orchestra trio performing music from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, and a fun photo opportunity with a donated five-foot nutcracker. AP & ANC



TOP: The annual Island Party is fun for all ages! BR

ABOVE: Carrie Coon, star of HBO's *The Gilded Age*, and Brian Centrone, guest curator of MassMu's *Gilding Northeast Ohio* exhibition, shared a laugh at An Evening with Carrie Coon at the Massillon Museum. BR

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Working with Our Community

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

The education department provided special activities during the 720Market 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.

Board member David Schultz, accompanied by Tom Midgley, drove his antique Lincoln automobile, while staff and volunteers walked Massillon's Holiday Parade route handing out candy. MassMu welcomed families for a holiday craft 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

RIGHT: Erie Street Vinyl was one of the businesses that participated in MassMu's tree decorating project. AP

FAR RIGHT: Dallas Kohl won the Poetry Out Loud semifinal competition at the Massillon Museum. BR

Tree Decorating

Fourteen local businesses decorated and displayed holiday trees in the Massillon Museum's lobby throughout the festive season. Among them were the Bailey Platek Group-Cutler Real Estate; Blue Nile Dental Studio; Danbury Senior Living; Erie Street Vinyl; Howard Hanna Real Estate Services; Luvih Yoga Studio; Massillon City Schools; Massillon Public Library; Massillon WestStark Chamber of Commerce; Old Carolina Barbecue Co.; Paradigm Shift Brewing, LLC; Rohr's Wine Room; Shearer's; and Tremont Coffee. Each business showcased its charm through fun and bright decorations. AP



Poetry Out Loud

The Massillon Museum wrapped up its second year as the Ohio Arts Council's Northeast Ohio regional partner and quickly began working on year three. A partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, Poetry Foundation, and state and jurisdictional arts agencies, Poetry Out Loud (POL) 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 school students across the country.

Tamia Christian from Cleveland Heights High School was named 2023-24 Northeast Ohio POL Regional Semifinalist. She competed at the State Finals in Columbus on February 9, 2024.

The Northeast Ohio Regional Semifinals for 2024-25 were held at the Museum on November 10, 2024. Dallas Kohl from Aurora High School was named Northeast Ohio POL Regional Semifinalist. MassMu Poetry Out Loud Coordinator Mary Ruth Kamp helped him prepare for the state finals. Learn more about the Poetry Out Loud program at www.MassillonMuseum.org/Poetry-Out-Loud. CR, MRK & ANC



Volunteer
Jean Mummertz
(left) celebrated
her 90th birthday
by serving
Brown Bag Lunch
cookies—as
always—with
fellow volunteer
Kathy
Malinowski.

MAS



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer help was invaluable throughout the year, especially with the *Gilding Northeast Ohio: Fashion and Fortune 1870–1900* exhibition. From research to dressing mannequins to mailing postcards, our volunteers poured more than 1,600 combined hours of help into the Museum. Longtime volunteer, Jean Mummertz, celebrated her 90th birthday as she served cookies at October's Brown Bag Lunch. To volunteer, contact Alexa Polinori, events and volunteer coordinator, at 330.833.4061 x 102 or apolinori@massillonmuseum.org. 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

FACILITIES REPORT

Two new rooftop HVAC units were installed to serve the 1931 building, which replaced HVAC units originally installed in 1995 when the Museum began renovations of that portion of the building. This was funded in part by an Ohio Facilities Construction Commission grant (\$200,000). Fire safety systems across the 1931 and 2018 expansion were joined together, funded in part by an Ohio Facilities Construction Commission grant (\$68,000). Additional security cameras have been installed. The classrooms are being renovated and are projected to be open this spring. RR



ACCESSIBILITY

Dedicated to inclusivity, the dynamic accessibility committee channels its passion and expertise into improving the Museum. Committed to ensuring that everyone feels welcome and accommodated regardless of abilities, the committee is diligently working to craft a Sensory Room that caters to a diverse range of sensory needs. With meticulous attention to detail, they have selected soothing textures, calming colors, and innovative sensory equipment to provide a comfortable haven for individuals with varying sensitivities. The committee also offers a 3D tour of the Museum including gallery, event, and educational spaces. This year, members attended the inaugural Accessible Ohio Conference presented by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities.

The committee seeks input from the community, embracing diverse perspectives to make the space genuinely inclusive. Through its unwavering dedication, this accessibility committee is not merely maintaining a Sensory Room; it is constantly bettering a symbol of empowerment, where everyone can experience a sense of belonging and comfort in a world designed for all. CR & BR

Scott Urban is designing custom cabinetry and work spaces for the colorful classroom renovations generously funded by Nan Ream. MV



ABOVE: Pottery pieces by Suzi Nolt-Banks in OHregionalities MD

BELOW: OHregionalities stocks unique books and gifts for all ages. BR

OHREGIONALITIES

The Museum shop, OHregionalities, strives to celebrate local artists and small businesses. Here, you'll find unique items like handmade ceramics; an array of candy from a local chocolatier; a wide variety of art that reflects the area's creative spirit; and books related to local history, football, and exhibitions. Shop Coordinator Maya Demchak fosters relationships with local artists through consignment. In 2024, the Museum proudly featured artwork and handmade goods from more than twenty different artists and carried goods from five different locally owned businesses. MD



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

MassMu representatives—Alexandra Nicholis Coon, Scot Phillips, and Kathryn Applegate—traveled to Amsterdam, The Netherlands, for the opening of the opening of *Moniker: The Origins*, an exhibition organized by Tina Ziegler from the Moniker Foundation at the STRAAT Museum. It featured artifacts and artwork from MassMu's permanent collection that appeared in the original exhibition, *Moniker: Identity Lost and Found*, at the Massillon Museum in 2018. The Amsterdam exhibition served in part as a memorial exhibition to buZ blurr, a father of the modern moniker tradition. BSP



ABOVE: MassMu representatives Scot Phillips and Alexandra Nicholis Coon (left); four Moniker Foundation and STRAAT Museum staff; and Kathryn Applegate, formerly of MassMu, in the *Moniker: The Origins* exhibition

2024 MUSEUM MEMBERS

The 2024 MassMu Membership campaign achieved both of its goals for the year. Through the hard work of our campaign volunteers, Museum board and staff, MassMu raised \$750,360.00 in membership dollars and concluded the year with 865 members. This was a return to our membership growth both in members and dollars raised. This is officially the most members that the Museum has had in its recent history.

The campaign itself included member workshops and weekly membership perks for renewing or signing up for membership. We also established some new corporate supporters and reconnected with others we had relationships with in the past. We look forward to fostering these new relationships while continuing to celebrate our current supporters. Please watch for more member events and perks in the near future!

BSP

James & Eliza Duncan Society

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gessner
Judi & Michael Krew
Ronald & Jane Sibila
Amy Whitehouse
Benjamin Young

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Mandy, Bryan & Donovan Stahl
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Nikki & Anthony Bahler
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Sylvester Morgan
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 Brittany Lourie
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 Brian Hollinger
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 Stephen Tornero
 Chad Troyer
 Cathy Truemper
 Sandra Benny &
 Richard Vaux
 Angelina Verginis
 Michele Waalkes
 Jo Walterhouse
 Simon Wærstler
 James Watens
 Robert & Rita Watkins
 Jennifer & Jon Watson
 Joe & Pat Weisgarber
 Bonnie Wiggins
 Joan Yoder
 Rachel Yost
 David & Diane Zerby
 Patricia Zinsmeister-Parker

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 Kathryn Adkins
 Henry Aegerter
 Ms. Sue Ambrosic
 Rosemary Anderson
 Sharon Anderson
 Lizzi Aronhalt
 Mario Arteaga
 Elly Arvizu
 Alexia Avdelas
 Holly Badarnza
 Perry Ballinger
 Tom Barr
 Rose Bartholomev

Emily Bartolone
 Susan Belden
 Stephen Bennefield
 Lois Berriker
 McKenzie Beynon
 Laura Bidva
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 Michelle Droll
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 Gabriel El-Hage
 Brenda Ellcessor
 Dr. Tameka Ellington
 Louis Elliott
 Norma Engelhardt
 Vivian Evans
 Norma Jean Evans
 Tiffany Fichter
 Gerald Fox
 Lucinda Frailly



RIGHT: Island Party guests Nick and Marcia Diamant, Mary Jane Corwin, and Mary Ann Poling



ABOVE: 1,015 people attended the *Celebration in Art* opening. This group—some of them with artwork in the show—dressed up special for the occasion. MV

RIGHT: MassMu board member Sherie Brown donned a period costume for the opening of *Gilding Northeast Ohio*. MV



FRONT COVER:
P&S Firmin & Sons (London, England)
Dress Uniform, c. 1875-1900
cotton, wool, and silk with metal adornments
Courtesy of Western Reserve Historical Society,
Cleveland, Ohio (2001.44.71a-c)

Maison Felix (Paris, France)
Afternoon Dress, satin and taffeta, 1880
Gift of Francis Marling Harris (92.59.1 a-c)
Courtesy of Western Reserve Historical Society,
Cleveland, Ohio

Tiffany & Co. Opera Glasses, c. 1890
Enamel and mother-of-pearl
Collection of the Massillon Museum

ABOVE: Divine Harmony entertained on the Duncan Plaza stage and throughout the grounds during the Island Party. BR

BACK COVER: It is exciting to see guests walking through downtown toward the Museum and funneling through the front door to visit popular exhibitions. MV



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