

MASSILLON MUSEUM



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

MASSMU

MASSILLON MUSEUM

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



MASSMU & OHREGIONALITIES

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

ANDERSON'S IN THE CITY

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

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ANNUAL REPORT

KB	Kathleen Bachtel
HB	Heather Bullach
ANC	Alexandra Nicholas Coon
CC	Chris Craft
MEF	Megan Fitze
NJ	Nancy Jobe
MP	Michelle Persons
SP	Sandi Phillips
BSP	Scot Phillips
BR	Brandon Rohrer
MAS	Mandy Altimus Stahl
ST	Stephanie Toole
EV	Emily Vigil
MV	Margy Vogt
BY	Bailey Yoder



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



FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPHS, LEFT TO RIGHT

The Falke Block stood on the Main Street (Lincoln Way) site of the current MassMu building (1866 to 1929), c. 1900, gift of the Karl Spuhler Estate, collection of the Massillon Museum (91.7.3198)

The 1931 building constructed by the Swanson Brothers, later known as the Giltz Building, until 1957 housed Stark Dry Goods, c. 1940 gift of the Massillon Area Chamber of Commerce, collection of the Massillon Museum (92.98.336)

The Massillon Museum occupied just the Giltz Building until the current expansion project. MV



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Report from the Executive Director



Alexandra Nicholis Coon
Executive Director

"Every wise man started out by asking many questions." Having just read this message in a fortune cookie, I was reminded of how we operate here at MassMu.

Particularly with regard to the expansion project, not a day went by the past three years we did not extend questions to our architects, contractors, or vendors. The entire staff assumed responsibility for the spaces we knew would be managed

in the public trust for the community's shared benefit, now and well into the future. We collectively take pride in our knowledge of the Museum's infrastructure and are working hard to understand how all the new systems operate. Getting to know our building and its potential fully will take time; but we look to you, our supporters, to help explore the new MassMu with us as we discover its capacity to integrate art and history, inspire, spark dialogue, and create new partnerships.

I photograph the Massillon Museum building often. Ask any of my fellow MassMu team members. I am in awe of this beautiful, special place, with its elegant 1931 Art Deco building—removed a dozen or more times from its original function as a dry goods store—now merged with a purpose-built museum space, thanks to the generosity of so many supporters. The American Institute of Architects presented a Merit Award to DLR Group/Westlake Reed Leskosky, designers of our new space, for the Massillon Museum project last fall. And our story of community support was shared in a recent blog post by the American Alliance of Museums' Center for the Future of Museums. I could not be more proud of this **cultural hub where art and history come together.**

That last sentence represents what we have installed as our new mission statement, solidified during the most recent strategic planning process. I hope you would agree this fits both the form and function of the Massillon Museum, referencing who we are and aspire to be, as well as recognizing our role as a community anchor and caretaker of our shared, ever-evolving story.

I hope you will join us in celebrating the expansion and help usher MassMu into this new decade and well beyond at a dedication Saturday, March 14, 2020—coincidentally, Pi Day! This family-friendly event will showcase new and revitalized spaces, acknowledge contributors who brought the project to fruition, and honor the hard work of all individuals whose vision and hard work made it happen.

Financial Summary for 2019

	UNAUDITED	AUDITED	AUDITED		Unaudited Actual YTD Nov 2019	Budget and Additional Items MTD Dec 2019	Projected Unaudited 2019
	2019	2018	2017				
Revenue	1,582,291	2,871,010	1,267,686		1,566,034	16,257	1,582,291
Expenses	970,292	935,922	936,231		890,616	79,676	970,292
Depreciation	<u>199,794</u>	<u>89,651</u>	<u>108,393</u>		<u>164,070</u>	<u>35,724</u>	<u>199,794</u>
Net Income	412,205	1,845,437	223,062		511,348	(99,143)	412,205
Cash	441,725	142,278	786,359		464,294	(22,569)	441,725
Investments	7,233	7,084	348,362		7,233	0	7,233
Net Fixed Assets	6,937,595	5,920,237	2,655,495		6,711,886	225,709	6,937,595
Other Assets	<u>1,516,977</u>	<u>1,822,193</u>	<u>1,429,335</u>		<u>1,559,260</u>	<u>(42,283)</u>	<u>1,516,977</u>
Total Assets	8,903,530	7,891,792	5,219,551		8,742,673	160,857	8,903,530
Liabilities	<u>1,514,522</u>	<u>914,992</u>	<u>88,188</u>		<u>1,254,522</u>	<u>260,000</u>	<u>1,514,522</u>
Net Assets	7,389,008	6,976,800	5,131,363		7,488,151	(99,143)	7,389,008

STEWAR DING OUR ASSETS



Message from the Board Chair



Heather Pennington

Chair of the Board

What an incredible year the Massillon Museum has had! It brought a lot of changes and exciting exhibits, shows, and new experiences to the community.

With construction wrapping up on the new spaces, it was wonderful to see the opening of the Paul Brown Museum within MassMu's new footprint. New artists' works displayed in Studio M and the Fred F. Silk Community Room Gallery were phenomenal. I hope you had a chance to see some of the exhibits that were displayed during the year.

I'm most excited about what 2020 will bring to the Museum. Prepare yourself with a review of the quarterly calendar or a visit to the website—you are in for some amazing events over the coming year! Watch for dedications, a photography gallery, the new ceramics studio, Do the Mu, and some fantastic parties. So many things are planned, I can't possibly cover them all. I hope to see you at the Museum enjoying all that is to come.

None of what happens at MassMu would be possible without the generous support of our volunteers, members, and community. We thank you for helping us be a cultural hub where art and history come together.

We are looking forward to an amazing year at MassMu with all of you, our family and supporters.

LEFT: John Kiste performed in Our Town, directed by David Harding in November at the Museum. KB

MassMu Staff



Alexandra Nicholis Coon

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

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



Scot Phillips

Scot Phillips, MassMu's operations officer, also serves as membership coordinator, organizes bulk mailings, and works on the Capital Campaign steering committee. He came to the Massillon Museum as an intern in January of 2008. Phillips graduated

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



Mandy Altimus Stahl

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

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

DEDICATING OUR TALENTS



Stephanie Toole

Stephanie Toole, education and outreach manager, joined the Massillon Museum staff in June. She coordinates and generates educational programming for exhibitions; art and history classes and workshops; docent tours; outreach; and special events.

Toole is responsible for organizing the *Celebration in Art K–12* student art exhibition and the NEA Big Read program. She is co-chair of the Museum's accessibility committee and is an Artful Living and Learning advisory 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. Prior to joining the Massillon Museum team, Toole was the assistant site director of Historic Zoar Village in Zoar, Ohio, for nearly three years, where she trained and coordinated volunteers, and planned all group tours, public programs, and outreach events. Toole has also previously served as an intern at the Cincinnati Museum Center and the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland and as a volunteer for various other museums and organizations.



Bailey Yoder

Bailey Yoder joined the Massillon Museum staff in April 2018 as the curator of football heritage for the Paul Brown Museum. She holds a BA in history and adolescent to young adult education from the University of Mount Union (2013), and an MA in

history and applied history from Youngstown State University (2017). She oversees research and design of exhibitions

in the Paul Brown gallery and manages the extensive Paul Brown and Massillon Tigers archives and collections. Yoder has coordinated and helped design the Paul Brown Museum and curated four exhibits—*Paul Brown: Lessons from the Bench*, *Loyal to the Lot*, *125 Years of the Greatest High School Rivalry*, and *Evolution of the Football Jersey*. With Classic Interactions, she developed an interactive app for the Paul Brown Museum. Yoder previously served as a graduate student intern at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor in Youngstown, Ohio, and as a graduate intern at the Suttiff Museum in Warren, Ohio, and the Niles McKinley Birthplace Memorial Library and Museum in Niles, Ohio. She assists as a coach for the University of Mount Union cheerleading squad in her spare time.



Brandon Rohrer

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

Rohrer helped to found and currently co-chairs the accessibility committee. He is the staff liaison and treasurer of the activities committee. He is the webmaster and social media contact for the Downtown Massillon Association and the director of technology at St. John's United Church of Christ. He previously worked for three years as assistant facilities manager at the McKinley Presidential Library and Museum and continues to share his astronomy knowledge as a planetarium presenter for the McKinley Museum.



Nancy Jobe

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

licensed independent social worker with supervision designation and an Ohio adoption assessor, she retired—as program administrator of the adoption, family resources, independent living, and placement units—from Stark County Job and Family Services, Children Services Division, in January 2016. In addition to her duties at MassMu, Jobe is currently working for Redie Psychological Services as a clinical social worker. Jobe is a board member of the Washington High School Alumni Association, the church liaison on the Community Candlelight Walk committee, and a member of the Massillon Woman's Club. She and her husband, Jim, have two adult children and two very spoiled cats.

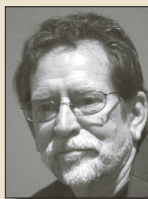


Emily Vigil

Emily Vigil is the Massillon Museum's Studio M coordinator. She earned a BFA degree in painting from Marshall University in 2000 and an MFA degree in painting and drawing from Louisiana State University

in 2003. She worked as the Museum's events coordinator from 2010 until 2016. Her past experience in the arts has included curatorial work for the West Virginia State Museum, a position as gallery director for Marshall University's Birke Art Gallery, and art

teaching positions from pre-k to college level. In addition to working at the Massillon Museum, she currently teaches art to preschoolers as part of the Artful Living and Learning program.



Christopher Craft

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

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



Michelle Persons

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

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



Heather Bullach

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

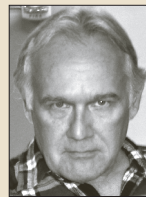
primarily in oils, her style ranges from hyper-realism to expressive impressionism. She earned her bachelor's degree in art at Malone University (Canton, Ohio) in 2011. Her work is widely exhibited in Northeast Ohio, including four solo exhibitions since 2011. Her awards include The Canton Arts District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



Anna Young

Anna Young joined the MassMu staff in December 2019 as administrative assistant. She holds an MFA in photography from Cranbrook Academy of Art and a BFA from The University of Akron. In March, she and her

partners opened KINK Contemporary, an experimental exhibition space in the 78th Street Studios in Cleveland. Young creates artwork involving anxiety, mortality, and social issues, and she curates shows with her partners at KINK Contemporary.



Rick Rohrer

Rick Rohrer, facilities manager, came to the Massillon Museum with a varied background in commercial and residential real estate, construction, and building operations. During his time within the real estate field, he focused on

maintenance and emergency on-call services. While in the construction field in Canton, he was a building superintendent, helped create the William R. Day Building, and helped maintain the Stern and Mann's building. During Rohrer's time as facilities manager of the William McKinley Presidential Library and Museum, he was responsible for a wide scope of tasks from grounds upkeep and landscaping to building maintenance. As the Massillon Museum's facilities manager, he oversees maintenance-related issues, ensures the facility's safety and cleanliness, monitors the environment of storage spaces, and played an

active role in the construction of the expanded facility. In his spare time, Rohrer enjoys visiting museums and spending time with his five adult children.



Allan Moore

The Massillon Museum's bookkeeper, Allan Moore, is a lifelong resident of Massillon and a graduate of Massillon Washington High School. He holds a bachelor of business administration from Kent State

University, a bachelor of science in accounting from the University of Akron, and a master of business administration from Ashland University. He came to the Museum after retiring from Cleveland Clinic Akron General Hospital with a forty-plus-year career in healthcare accounting and finance, most recently holding the position of corporate controller and director of corporate payroll. In his spare time, he is a rabid football fan of the Massillon Tigers and The Ohio State University Buckeyes. Also considered an oenophile, he continues to expand his knowledge of viticulture and oenology whenever possible, both in the making and consumption of wines. Moore lives in Massillon with his wife, Donna, and their two cats, Doolittle and Danielle.



Margy Vogt

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

Community Candlelight Walk. She serves on the Massillon Public Library, Charity School of Kendal Foundation, and Community Improvement Corporation boards; the Massillon Historic Preservation Commission; and the St. Timothy's history committee. Since 1984, she has edited the Massillon WestStark Chamber of Commerce newsletter, chaired the board, and twice served as interim president. When she received the Rotary Club of Massillon's Paul L. David Humanitarian Award, she designated the accompanying charitable contribution to establish the Museum's Margy Vogt Photography Endowment Fund. She encourages others to contribute in support of the photography collection and exhibitions. *The Repository* recognized her as one of "Stark County's Most Interesting People;" she was inducted into the Canton YWCA Women's Hall of Fame; she received the Massillon WestStark Chamber of Commerce J.S. "Sandy" Sanders Award, the Knights of Columbus Humanitarian of the Year, and the Mayor's Community Service Award; and she was honored as a Massillon Distinguished Citizen.



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 Kent State University. 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.



Liam Sutphin

Liam Sutphin started as museum technician in July of 2019, working under the facilities manager to conduct routine maintenance. He has helped staff Museum events such as the Island Party and has assisted with exhibition installation

and deinstallation. Sutphin was born in Massillon, but spent his childhood in North Carolina before returning to Ohio, where he attended Muskingum University. He graduated in May of 2019 with a bachelor's degree in history. Sutphin's goal after college—to work for a museum—led him to the Massillon Museum, where he hopes to further develop his skills and experience.



Megan Fitze

Megan Fitze, MassMu education and outreach manager through June 2019, helped establish MassMu's accessibility committee. She holds an MA in art education with a specialization in museum education and administration

from The Ohio State University (2016) and a BS in sociology from Manchester College (2004). She collaborated with VSA Ohio for MassMu's *Accessible Expressions Ohio* exhibit, and now works for VSA in Columbus, where she lives with her husband, Josh, and son, Wesley.



ABOVE: Austin Witmer moved the Museum's 1916 Russell steam engine into the new green space on City Hall Street, where it will reside every summer. *MV*

TOP RIGHT: A photograph of Massillon City Hospital School of Nursing graduation exercises, c. 1970, is among recent donations. Gift of Massillon City Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, collection of the Massillon Museum (2019.43)

RIGHT: Clara Lidderdale and Norma Cole, sisters of World War II soldier Lewis Billman, visited the exhibit of their brother's artifacts on November 11, 2019. *MAS*

BOTTOM RIGHT: Former mayors Mark Ross and Skip Demmer worked together to present the FAME music festival. Mayor Ross kept extensive scrapbooks of his time in office. Gift of Mark Ross, collection of the Massillon Museum, (96.112.5).



Velma B. Erwin Research Room and Archives/ Permanent Collections

During 2019, the Massillon Museum added 728 total objects to the permanent collection—688 history-related artifacts and forty works of art.

Our archives and collection staff and volunteers have been hard at work behind the scenes this year. Dedicated volunteers Lois McHugh and Mark Pitocco contributed more than 800 hours toward digitizing the collection in 2019.

Thousands of photographs, albums, and scrapbooks were scanned and many of them are available online. Our Virtual Archives now feature 18,000 images by category. These include Massillon newspapers from the 1830s to 1900s; family photo albums; and photographs from the 1840s through the 1980s featuring homes, businesses, Washington High School activities, portraits, the canal, and more. Visit the website: massillonmuseum.org/virtual-archives to view our galleries.

In the near future we will be compiling mini-documentaries about the most popular research topics, such as the Massillon State Hospital, Russell and Company, and the Ohio and Erie Canal. *MAS*

2019 Donors to the Permanent Collection

Anonymous
Bates Printing Inc.
Sandra Benny
Donald W. Berwald
Sue Bingle Boswell, Class of 1970
Cheryl L. Shaw in memory of the Boerngen family
Carson family in memory of Lewis and Edna Billman
Fred and Shirley Decker
Domokos family
Phillip Elum
Lucinda and Pat J. Frailly, Jr.
in memory of our mother, Ann
Susan and Richard Gessner
Ken and Cindy Giltz
Bernie Green, Class of 1946
Dick and Sherry Hardgrove in honor of Pat Ripple
Don Haverstock
Joe and Dana Herrick
James Higdon family
Cheryl Jamerson in memory of Hobart M. Scott
Jane Keydel and family in memory of Edwina Pratt
Roy and Mary Jo Klick
E.A. Mahoney family
Tom Matthews in memory of Arthur Matthews
Michael L. Marceric in memory of
Florence Marceric Bernhardt
Massillon City Hospital School of Nursing
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Massillon Community Hospital Women's Auxiliary
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Lois McHugh in memory of Ed McHugh
and the Henry Sonnhalter family
Jacquie McLain
Mary Sparks McMunn
Jack Miller
Museum Purchase
Nation Land Company, LLC in honor of the
great City of Massillon and the American steel industry
Jaqueline Ollom in honor of her mother,
Ruth Bonnie Popa
Susan Scheetz in memory of Betty Raisner
Bill Reid
Robert J. Dervin II in memory of Wanda Riffée
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Mike and Sue Scheetz
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Rudy Turkal
Richard Vaux
Joel Vogt
Margy Vogt
George Wagner
Jill and Matt Wickham and family
Michael Witt
Zepp family in memory of Dr. Carl William Zepp DDS,
Carl Dewey Zepp, and Ruth Genet Zepp Vogt

Paul Brown Museum and Library

The Paul Brown Museum collections storage area has been completed, and Bailey Yoder, curator of football heritage, has been working with Walsh University intern Noah Ancil to rehouse artifacts and archives. The storage space contains rolling racks able to house a large number of artifacts safely in a small space as well as provide easy access to the collections. Yoder has also started migrating the Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club collections to this space, including 1,500 16mm game films. Museum volunteers Erin Elder and Amanda Sisler have been hard at work helping to assemble the Paul Brown Research Library in Memory of Bob Shiring, preparing for its debut in 2020. Their projects include unframing, cataloging, and organizing nearly 300 large and panoramic team photos to be stored within the new flat-file cabinets. Once this project is completed, the Library will be fitted with bookshelves to house the Junie and Dolores Studer Library, which contains dozens of binders documenting the history of the Massillon Tigers. Library hours will be set later in the spring of 2020. BY

PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

Education and Outreach

In 2019, the Massillon Museum's education and outreach endeavors reached more than 8,500 people in Stark County and beyond through tours, field trips, classes, workshops, fairs, career days, community events, and the Museum's speakers' bureau.

More than 500 schoolchildren participated in guided tours of the summer exhibition, *A Heritage of Harvest*, and completed an agriculture-related art activity in the new classrooms. A children's book, *The New Barn*, written and illustrated by author Walter Tyler was placed on the lower level, along with original artwork and a vinyl cling wall depicting a scene from the book. Tyler based this book on a glass plate negative from the Massillon Museum collection that was featured in the exhibit. It depicts his ancestors raising a barn in nineteenth-century Stark County.

Do the Mu continued to be a popular monthly outing for guests of all ages. Activities included no-sew pioneer rag dolls in connection with the Big Read; fruit and veggie prints; personalized footballs honoring Paul Brown's birthday; and string art snowflake ornaments.

The Museum was fortunate to receive the NEA Big Read grant for the twelfth consecutive year. This year's selection was *Burning Bright*, a collection of twelve stories by Ron Rash about life in Appalachia spanning decades from the Civil War to present day.

MassMu and numerous community partners—including the Massillon Public Library, The Wilderness Center, Walsh University, Kent Stark, Kozmo's Grille, StarkFresh, and John Strauss Furniture—collaborated to offer programming related to Rash's stories of Appalachian life that ranged from book discussions and film screenings to one-act plays and photography workshops.

MassMu hosted Roger May's crowd-sourced digital photography exhibition, *Looking at Appalachia*, in conjunction with the Big Read. This exhibit inspired MassMu's *Looking at Massillon* exhibition in the Fred F. Silk Community Room Gallery. May presented a curator's talk and led two digital photography workshops. The Museum welcomed author Ron Rash as the keynote speaker on April 25. Rash also spoke to more than 130 Washington High School students who read his work in their English classes. These students had the opportunity to interact with the author and to tour the Museum.

This year presented opportunities to continue former partnerships and build new ones in order to provide high-quality programming to the public. The Museum looks forward to furthering its education and outreach initiatives and fostering an appreciation for art and history among visitors of all ages in the next decade.

ST

CENTER: The new ceramics studio made its debut on December 28 as part of Massillon's Last Saturday. Tyler Lutz demonstrated use of the pottery wheel and guests tried handbuilding small pottery projects. ANC

RIGHT: Art instructor Diane Boslett and Do the Mu guests enjoy working in the new classroom. ANC



Mercy Lojo was among the participants at MassMu's April Do the Mu, when Gary Spangler led a no-sew rag doll workshop. ANC



Artful Living and Learning

Artful Living and Learning is a preschool arts immersion program providing classroom lessons in the arts once each day for twenty-five weeks. Children gain experiences in music, drama, dance, visual art, and literature that expand their creativity and improve their academic achievement. The program was founded at the Massillon Museum twelve years ago by Wilbur Arnold and Christopher Craft to improve learning outcomes and to interrupt the cycle of intergenerational poverty. The program has expanded each year to include more schools and impact more children. During school year 2019–20, the program employs thirty-two teaching artists who provide lessons to more than 1,800 children in fifteen school districts throughout Stark and Carroll Counties. Preschool children are also being served in Canton's JRC (formerly called the J.R. Coleman Center) and YWCA and in the Head Start sites in Canton, Alliance, and Massillon.

The Massillon Museum maintains an active role in Artful Living and Learning by providing continued publicity and serving as a site for Program Advisory Board meetings. Two staff members serve on the program's advisory board, and another is a teaching artist for the program. [cc](#)

History Discussion Group

Massillon Museum's History Discussion Group completed another fine year of interesting, enlightening, and enjoyable discussions. Topics included everything from "Things Our Children Got Us Into" through "Massillon Stone Quarries and Stone Buildings" to our annual December "Show and Tell" topic. We averaged twenty-seven attendees during the twelve meetings, with the highest number (forty-four) discussing "Great Homes and Houses of Massillon" in May.

Margy Vogt hosted "Tigertown Trivia" in November, and both Vogt and Mandy Stahl assist in several discussions about historic and important locations in Massillon.

Massillon Museum's History Discussion Group meets the first Tuesday of every month in the Museum's Fred F. Silk Community Room. Attendance is free and everyone is welcome. Doughnuts and coffee are available for a donation. [cc](#)

Brown Bag Lunches

The Brown Bag Lunch series entered an exponentially more professional phase in 2019 with ample seating for the audience that usually exceeds seventy-five people, clear sight-lines, and an excellent sound system as guests gathered in the Museum's new Gessner Hall. The sponsorship of the Fernandez Hillibish History Fund at the Stark Community Foundation made it possible—for the first time in the sixteen-year history of the program—for presenters to project images to illustrate their talks.

Diverse programs included Christopher Kenney—"The McKinley Monument: Tribute to a Fallen President;" Doug Remley—"Ohio's Connection to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture;" John Kiste and Gwendolyn Kiste—"Comparisons of Regional Gothic;" "Appalachia and the Civil War" by Chris Craft; "Zoar" by Kathy Fernandez; Rudy Turkal—"Welcome to America; Now What?;" Walter Tyler—"Let's Build a Barn;" Bailey Yoder—"The War between Paul Brown and Art Modell;" David Harding—"History of Board Games;" and Conrade Hinds—"Lost Circuses of Ohio." [mv](#)

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY

Exhibitions

Ohio,
Lauren
Pond,
part of the
Looking at
Appalachia
spring 2019
exhibition



Celebration in Art

The 2019 *Celebration in Art* exhibit opened on Sunday, February 3, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., with a reception for young artists from public and parochial schools throughout Western Stark County. It included roughly 250 entries of two- and three-dimensional student artworks. Art teachers from twenty schools participated: Amherst Elementary, Edison Middle School, Genoa Elementary, Jackson High School, Jackson Memorial Middle School, Lake Cable Elementary, Lohr Elementary, Northwest Primary, Pfeiffer Intermediate School, Sauder Elementary, St. Mary's School (Massillon), Strausser Elementary, TC Knapp Elementary, Tuslaw Middle School, Tuslaw Elementary School, Tuslaw High School, Washington High School, Watson Elementary School, and Whipple Heights Elementary. At the opening reception, Dawn Tekler demonstrated encaustic (wax) painting, as her Studio M exhibition, *Mental Structures*, was featured in Studio M. MEF

Looking at Appalachia

The Massillon Museum exhibited *Looking at Appalachia* from March 23 through June 2, 2019. Designed and curated by photographer and writer, Roger May, the exhibition of sixty-eight photographers complemented MassMu's twelfth-annual NEA Big Read program and its sister exhibition in the Fred F. Silk Community Room Gallery, *Looking at Massillon*. Both reflected the theme of the 2019 book selection, *Burning Bright* by Ron Rash. Drawing from a diverse population of photographers within the Appalachian region, which encompasses counties in West Virginia, southern and eastern Ohio, and parts of eleven other states, as identified by the Appalachian Regional Commission's map, this crowd-sourced image archive serves as a reference defined by its people rather than political legislation. The five-year-old project welcomes new submissions each calendar year. This exhibit was the second iteration of this photography project and made its Ohio debut at the Massillon Museum. ANC

Corn in the Ear on the Fourth of July,

July 3, 1951,
Jack
Worthington
(1921–2009),
gift of the
Evening
Independent
(91.47.4093)



A Heritage of Harvest

A Heritage of Harvest: The Industry of Agriculture in Western Stark County provided an overview of how agriculture shaped the physical, cultural, and economic landscape of Western Stark County, Ohio, from its early days of inhabitation by American Indians and pioneer settlers, through the Industrial Revolution, to present day. The exhibit connected to other food- and agricultural-themed programs throughout the county, developed under the banner of ProjectEAT!, a celebration of food culture.

A Heritage of Harvest was on view from June 22 through October 13, 2019. Photographs, farm equipment and tools, interactive components, and other artifacts were assembled to reflect the rich history of agriculture's role in our community. The exhibit coincided with the debut of the Museum's new green space and the 1916 Russell and Company traction steam engine housed there. Educational programming for all ages was paired with special events like Celebrity Chef Showdown. Funding for *A Heritage of Harvest* and its complementary programming was provided by the Fernandez Hillibish History Fund, The William J. Lemmon Charitable Fund, The Dan M. and Julia B. Belden Charitable Fund, The Edward J. and Helen L. Harhager Donor Advised Fund, The John S. and Jodine S. Duerr Charitable Fund, and The William E. Shanafelt Philanthropic Fund at Stark Community Foundation. ANC



Heather Bullach, SCAE Coordinator (back row, right) announced the winners of the Stark County Artists Exhibition awards at the opening reception on November 7.

BACK: Judith Krew, Alex Strader, Steve Ehret, Heather Bullach
FRONT: Sally Lytle, Sharon Frank Mazgaj, Tom Wachunas, Coty J. Giannelli MV

Stark County Artists Exhibition

This year's *Stark County Artists Exhibition* opened on November 2, showcasing sixty-six works by forty-seven artists selected from 189 works submitted. Best in Show was awarded to Oxana Dallas for her piece *Born From Stardust*. Second place was awarded to Steve Ehret for *Grey Matter*, and third place was presented to Alex Strader for *Fishbeck*. Coty J. Gianelli, Judi Krew, Priscilla Sally Lytle, Sharon Frank Mazgaj, and Tom Wachunas earned Honorable Mentions. HB

Kendal Tigers football team, c. 1908, gelatin silver print, gift of Karl Spuhler estate, collection of the Massillon Museum (91.7.3936)

Paul Brown Museum

The Paul Brown Museum has been bustling with activity again this year as two new exhibitions debuted in the space. To boost excitement for the football season and to document a monumental season for the Massillon Tigers, *125 Years of the Greatest High School Rivalry* opened in May. This exhibition combined art and history to document 125 years of football games between Massillon and Canton McKinley—one of the oldest ongoing high school football rivalries—using more than one hundred game programs and various photographs, including images of the coaches from both schools dating back to 1891. Just in time for the Pro Football Hall of Fame enshrinement weekend, *The Evolution of the Football Jersey* opened in late July. From safety equipment to materials used to make jerseys, uniforms improved as rules changed to better protect the players on the field. BY



Studio M

Studio M is the Massillon Museum's designated space for celebrating contemporary art, designed to exhibit artwork in all media. This was the first full year of exhibitions in the Museum's new Studio M space on the second floor. We featured encaustic (wax) painting by Dawn Tekler, landscape painting by Eileen Dorsey and Chuck Basham, fantastical figures by Donna Coleman, sculpture by Treacy Ziegler, layered renderings of light by Richard Vaux, colored pencil drawings by Sandra Benny, and abstract interpretations of Massillon history by Carole d'Inverno.

In 2020, we have added the opportunity for two exhibitions by students from universities in Northeast Ohio. The 2020 exhibit schedule features: prints by Deborah Pinter, photographs by Alana Cartwright (a Cleveland State University student), paintings by Andrea Palagiano (a student at The University of Akron), drawings by Paul Flippen, photographs by Adam Bernard, sculpture by Eileen Woods, and mixed media artwork by Corrie Slawson. EV



Fred F. Silk Community Room Gallery

The Fred F. Silk Community Room Gallery is dedicated to collaboration with area partners. In 2019, we displayed: *My Community: Through the Eyes of the 21st-Century African American Child* (sponsored by the Kent Area Chapter of The Links, Incorporated), *Looking at Massillon* (photographs of the area to complement the NEA Big Read theme), *A Century of Sisterhood: A History of Massillon Woman's Club*, *Accessible Expressions Ohio* (VSA Ohio's statewide exhibition of visual art by artists with disabilities), *Photography by Supporters of Relay for Life*, *Artwork by Members of the Boys and Girls Club of Massillon*, and *Image to Image: Photography by Walsh University Digital Photojournalism Students*. EV



ABOVE: The Massillon Woman's Club Holiday Ball has always been touted as a generational event. This 1975 image—on loan for the Century of Sisterhood exhibit—shows Dr. Robert and Tobe Immel; Jack Luckner and his great-granddaughter, Leslie Muhlbach; and her parents Bobbie and John Muhlbach. Collector of Massillon Woman's Club.

CENTER: Studio M Coordinator Emily Vigil; Museum Board Chair Heather Pennington; Executive Director Alexandra Nicholis Coon; and Links members—Deborah Gordon, chapter president, and arts facet co-chairs Diane Stevens Robinson and Gloria Pope (who is also a Museum board member) at the opening of the *My Community: Through the Eyes of the 21st-Century African American Child* exhibition.

LEFT: Carole d'Inverno presented a gallery talk during the December 13 opening of her Studio M exhibition, *Transumanza: Massillon, Ohio*. ANC



TOP: Museum volunteer Katie Gall led a beachy craft for children at the Island Party. ST



ABOVE: Scott Suarez, Sutherland Singenstreu, Kathleen Moore, and Estefany Marroquin were among 150 guests at the Members' Holiday Party. MV

Special Events

Just like new homeowners, we are settling into our new and newly renovated spaces at MassMu.

Gessner Hall was bustling with activity throughout the year as we hosted gallery openings, special events, parties, and rentals. For the first time, guests were treated to the indoor/outdoor living feature of the new glass door in Gessner Hall during our summer events.

Always a crowd-pleaser, the *Celebration in Art* exhibition, featuring many forms of art created by Western Stark County students, brought hundreds of children and families to MassMu to enjoy the opening reception.

Looking at Appalachia in the Aultman Health Foundation Gallery celebrated the rich cultural heritage of Appalachia. Guests sampled bean soup and cornbread and were provided with a copy of the NEA Big Read book, *Burning Bright* by Ron Rash. MassMu welcomed Rash for a keynote address in Gessner Hall in April, when he enthralled guests with anecdotes and readings from his book.

In June, Celebrity Chef Showdown stirred up a lot of fun and good eats in Gessner Hall. MassMu, in collaboration with StarkFresh and compliments of ProjectEAT!, hosted a "Chopped"-style cooking competition in which three local chefs and celebrities were paired together to raise awareness about food deserts and poverty in our community.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Island Party ushered in a new era for this very popular summer

event. With the ability to open the glass garage door in Gessner Hall, guests could easily access food lines inside without missing a beat of the reggae music performed by Carlos Jones & the P.L.U.S. Band. The Jackson High School Steel Drum Band also performed for the crowd of about 2,500 people seated on the lawn of MassMu and First Street. The menu included pulled pork, MassMu salsa, and island drinks. The limbo, dancing, children's crafts, and blowing bubbles rounded out this fun, family-friendly event.

The Massillon Tiger Swing Band, Obie, and hundreds of adoring fans joined us for Tiger-Striped Ice Cream Night. Orange and black chocolate ice cream created for MassMu and the Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club was served on the lawn to kick off the Massillon Tiger Football season.

Five little pumpkins sitting on a fence were front and center during the annual children's Pumpkin Patch Party. MassMu's littlest members were treated to games, music, special treats, and tricks during this fall-favorite event.

The parties continued into November and December as the Nutcracker marched into Gessner Hall to participate in Light-Up Massillon and the Community Candlelight Walk. Both events offered opportunities for our community to see the beautiful holiday trees decorated by downtown businesses in the Museum lobby. Celtic music filled the air as the Clash of the Tartans performed to a packed audience. The Members' Holiday Party and Children's Party with a visit from Santa, rounded out a very full year of entertainment, art, and history-in-the-making. NJ

Facilities Report

There is always a facilities project underway. Whether looking after a near-century-old building or integrating new controls systems, maintenance of the building and our grounds keeps us busy. In 2019, we completed the bulk of our construction and renovations, successfully creating and occupying several new spaces like the conference room, offices, and garden space on our east side. This required we reorganize maintenance to make way for storage of new equipment that serves the new spaces. We operated the building for a full year with new heating and cooling systems, and can now move forward with analyzing utility usage to work toward greater efficiency and cost reductions. Plans for 2020 include updating the Emergency Preparedness Plan to account for the new building configuration and safety systems. ANC



Accessibility

The year 2019 has been one of growth for the accessibility committee. The Massillon Museum has been fortunate to welcome additional community liaisons to the committee. This year, with generous support from Puffin Foundation West, Ltd., we held two new sensory-friendly “Artful Evenings.” These programs allowed guests to tour modified galleries and complete art activities in a quieter and more inviting environment. Prior to these events, Family Disability Services provided a sensory training for Museum staff and volunteers, and Silo Arts and Meadow Studio assisted staff in creating event programming. The Artful Evenings were well-received, and the Museum plans to hold additional events in the future.

The Museum’s Sensory Room remains popular with guests of all ages. Responses from visitor surveys are used to make regular adjustments and additions to the space.

Through Museums for All, MassMu continues to offer reduced membership rates to individuals and families receiving food assistance, furthering the Museum’s accessibility mission to make art and history accessible to everyone. ST & BR

LEFT: Participants from Echoing Hills enjoyed the Artful Evening on September 17. ST

RIGHT: Nannette Radel, a regular desk volunteer, also serves on the activities committee and assists Events Coordinator Nancy Jobe. MV

Volunteers

This has been a great year for the volunteer department. On April 1, we held our annual volunteer recognition breakfast. Various staff members spoke about how the volunteers impacted their respective departments. We also highlighted the volunteer career of past board president, David Schultz.

The Island Party was a success with more than one hundred volunteers filling positions from security to bartending, and food preparation to souvenir sales. When you are at a MassMu event, you can expect to find a kind volunteer ready to help!

If you are interested in giving back to your MassMu, call Brandon Rohrer, 330.833.4061 x114 and volunteer today! BR



2019 Massillon Museum Members



A very special "Thank You" to all the volunteers who helped to make this membership drive successful. Your time and commitment helped our Museum reach its goals. We reached 803 members and raised 75K—an awesome achievement. It's exciting to see art and history come alive each time we visit and to anticipate what memories will be created. —Bonnie and Mike Fall

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Martha McLachlan attends events regularly, sometimes arriving by bicycle. MV

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*TOP: Kennedy White, a
 Jackson High School
 student, participated in
 a printmaking event on
 December 6. ANC*

*RIGHT: Jim Jobe grilled
 dozens of hot dogs during
 the Island Party. MV*



Capital Campaign Contributors

As we near our official dedication date of March 14, 2020, we reflect upon the past five years of fundraising for the expansion through the Museum's Capital Campaign, chaired by Bob and Nancy Gessner. While we have raised nearly 85% of the funding for this six-million-dollar project, we are still actively pursuing support to complete it. Honoring the memory of a loved one or establishing a path for authoring your own legacy are just a few of the ways you can support the Massillon Museum and be recognized in perpetuity as a campaign supporter. Gifts to the Campaign can be recognized in a number of ways, depending on your level of commitment. For more information about how you can forever impact the Museum's presence in the community, please contact Scot Phillips. ANC

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The name "Gessner Hall" was revealed at the Museum's May housewarming event. Nancy and Bob Gessner, Susan Gessner, and Liz Gessner McAllister celebrated with Executive Director Alexandra Nicholis Coon.

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TOP: Family and friends of Dawn Tekler posed for a photo at her Studio M opening on January 12, 2019. ANC

ABOVE: Jillian Decker, a MassMu assistant and Walsh University student, joined Alex Coon and Scot Phillips at Museums Advocacy Day in Washington DC on February 25 and 26, 2019. SP



ABOVE: Jessica Watkins, the Massillon Public Library's adult services manager, staffed the Library's table at the NEA Big Read kickoff in March, spotlighting some of the Appalachian-themed books available for loan. The Library has partnered with MassMu every year to present the Big Read.

MV

MASSILLON MUSEUM

The Massillon Museum unveiled its new Gessner Hall during a housewarming event on May 21, 2019. Since completion of the event space, it has been the site of Brown Bag Lunches, the NEA Big Read kickoff, the Island Party food service, the official Community Candlelight Walk refreshment and warming station, a performance of Our Town, members' holiday parties, meetings for statewide organizations, a celebrity chef competition, trivia night, and many smaller Museum events.

In this photograph, the hall was filled to capacity for a free Celtic Christmas concert by Clash of the Tartans, co-hosted by ORMACO on December 15, 2019. ANC



THE MASSILLON MUSEUM COLLECTS, PRESERVES, AND EXHIBITS ART AND ARTIFACTS TO ENRICH OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE.