

# 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## Fort Wayne Museum of Art





# Dear Friends,

This year, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art turns 100 years old. We have worked hard, with excitement and wonder, to craft an updated strategic plan looking forward to what the next 100 years could bring.

With the economic and social turbulence in 2020, we saw museums shuttered, budgets significantly reduced, major personnel changes, and collections controversies.

FWMoA is in a fortunate position to imagine the future, as it is doing so from a position of strength, authenticity, and commitment to its mission. Together, we have held the finances steady, grown the collection, retained the museum's talented team, and innovated our programming.

Earlier this year, *The New York Times* published a special report on museums. It really put into focus how innovative the Fort Wayne Museum of Art truly is among its peers. Here are 10 ways museums can thrive in a post-pandemic world.

- 1. Collection! The permanent collection is a museum's reason for being, it has limitless potential.
- 2. Think beyond exhibition. Multi-format programming permeates beyond the museum walls.
- **3. Join together and co-produce.** When something BIG is worth doing, partner to share costs and glory.
- **4. Partner beyond the art world.** Art organizations shouldn't just partner together, branch out.
- 5. Everything is digital, not everything is high-res. Authenticity is the name of the game, not perfection.

- 6. Community is more than a marketing term. Museums must be active and present in the community.
- **7. Reboot, remake, recontextualize.** 'Old' shows can be reimagined and made new.
- 8. Education is for everyone. Educational programming must be shared across the entire team.
- **9. Build less; art can handle it.** Retrofitted spaces prove art needs functional spaces, not a shrine.
- **10.One mission, many forms.** Be clear on the mission, and put it to use in a hundred different ways.

I am so proud of the museum, how it approaches its mission, and what it brings to our community. We are so grateful to you for your membership and support, and truly couldn't do it without you. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you, and join us in imagining what the next 100 years will hold for FWMoA!

Ellen Cutter Chair, Board of Directors Charles A. Shepard III President & CEO

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# Strategic Goals 2021-2026

Expand public access to the collection. Build the strength of the collection.

### Programs

Emphasize the collection in public programming. Invest in long-term virtual programs. Forge stronger relationships with young adults

### Facility

Consider the feasibility of building expansion.

## Finance

Create a Facilities Fund of at least \$250,000 by 2022. Add \$4 million to the Endowment by 2023. Reach \$2.5 million operating budget by 2026. Maintain a Collections Fund of at least \$500,000.

## Community

Be a vital and welcoming arts institution in the community.

# Our Vision for the Future

To be the best nationally-accredited Art Museum of our size, while serving the broadest array of constituencies in northern Indiana.

## What We Value Most

Believing that art is a meaningful part of our lives, we value: INCLUSIVENESS • DIALOGUE EDUCATION • SOUND STEWARDSHIP

The Fort Wayne Museum of Art will collect, preserve, and present American and related art to engage and educate broad and diverse audiences throughout the region to add value to their lives.

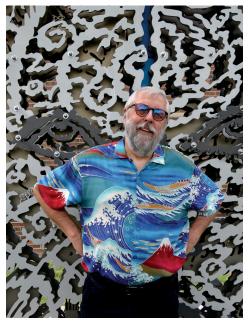
# Our Community Gift: There Are Rivers

To celebrate our 100th anniversary, FWMoA commissioned a sculpture by Bloomington-based artist Dale Enochs, entitled There Are Rivers. The anodized aluminum sculpture sits upon a carved limestone base and pays homage to the area's three rivers as foundational for the development of our community. Enochs paid special attention to the names of the rivers as given by the Miami people who first settled the area by including them in a layer of the sculpture. In late August 2021, we dedicated the sculpture with Enochs, many of his longtime friends, and supporters of FWMoA.











Clockwise from top: Dale Enochs; *There Are Rivers* sculpture; dedication attendees; CEO Charles Shepard and Collections Commitee Chair Sharon Eisbart; and Mayor Tom Henry. Photography by Michael Poorman.

## Financial Snapshot Our 2020-2021 Operating Revenue and Expenses





\* These figures are decreased from previous years as a result of COVID-19-related cancellations.

# What we're most proud of this year: Exhibitions

Posing Beauty in African American Culture August 22 - October 18, 2020

Posing Beauty in African American Culture explored the contested ways in which African and African American beauty have been represented in historical and contemporary contexts through a diverse range of media including photography, film, video, fashion, advertising, and other forms of popular culture such as music and the Internet. Throughout the Western history of art and image-making, the relationship between beauty and art has become increasingly complex within contemporary art and popular culture.

Posing Beauty in African American Culture challenged contemporary understandings of beauty by framing notions of aesthetics, race, class, and gender within art, popular culture, and politics.



Omar Victor Diop, *Jean-Baptiste Belley*, 2014, inkjet pigment print on Hahnemuhle paper.

Static Energy: Sculpture by Dale Enochs | September 5, 2020 - March 14, 2021 With support from The Edna Foundation Fund

Static Energy: Sculpture by Dale Enochs brought together work spanning the artist's decades-long career. Based in Bloomington, Indiana, Enochs has spent his career developing unique sculptural techniques that incorporate both figurative and abstract forms in stone and metal. Numerous influences including the body, the natural world, and Eastern spirituality and culture emanate from his work.

With his studio located in his backyard and his close proximity to Indiana's rich limestone quarries, Enochs is never short of materials nor inspiration. His limestone sculptures highlight the innate beauty and intricacy of a stone typically used for building. The myriad delicate details enlivening their surfaces allows the natural hues of the stone to shine, from brilliant white to creamy yellow, drawing viewers in and instilling a sense of calm.

Installation of *Static Energy: Sculpture by Dale Enochs* at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.



Installation of *Larry Burrows: Life in Vietnam* in early 2021.

### Larry Burrows: Life in Vietnam December 12, 2020 - February 28, 2021 With support from The James Foundation

Larry Burrows (1926-1971) was a photojournalist most famous for his moving images captured during the Vietnam War from 1962-1971. His photographs, many published in *LIFE* magazine, offer a searing testimony to both the horror and humanity of this destructive time of the 20th century.

This exhibition featured modern photographic reprints of some of Burrows' most indelible images of the soldiers' experiences of the Vietnam War. Burrows and fellow photojournalists were killed in 1971 when the helicopter he was flying in was shot down as they were capturing Operation Lam Son 719.

Personal to Political: Celebrating the African American Artists of Paulson Fontaine Press | May 8 - July 18, 2021 With support from PNC Bank

This exciting exhibition featured works by 14 African American artists who have helped to shape the contemporary art conversation in the Bay Area and beyond. The show included a wide range of prints, paintings, quilts, and sculptures, and an array of abstract and formal imagery.



Radcliffe Bailey, *In the Garden*, 2003, color aquatint with color photocopy chine collé and velvet.

Narratives that speak to personal experiences

and political perspectives are woven throughout. At the heart of this show was a Berkeley-based fine art print studio—Paulson Fontaine Press—which over the past two decades has developed an unparalleled roster of internationally celebrated artists: artists like Martin Puryear, Kerry James Marshall, and the Gee's Bend Quilters, who characterize the fresh perspectives that are today's avant-garde.

## American Impressionism: Treasures from the Daywood Collection

September 19, 2020 - March 14, 2021

Drawn from the collection of the Huntington Museum of Art, American Impressionism: Treasures from the Daywood Collection featured 41 elegant American paintings, originally from the private collection of Arthur Dayton and Ruth Woods Dayton. This exhibition showcased work from a transitional time in American art, approximately the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when artists abandoned the rigors of academic styles and subjects. They turned instead to intimate scenes of the cultivated countryside and figure studies of friends and neighbors that reflected the more modern influences of the Barbizon School, Impressionism, and Post-Impressionism.



Robert Henri, Kathleen, 1924, oil on board.

## What we're most proud of this year: Collection Acquisitions

This year, there were 343 objects accessioned into the permanent collection. Other purchases or donations from this year are awaiting the formal acquisition process practiced by collecting institutions. Notable acquisitions include:

- Howard Ben Tré, Column 34, 1986, cast glass. Gift of Robert and Vera Loeffler.
- 2. Latchezar Boyadjiev, *Flight*, 1997, cast glass. Gift in Memory of Sylvia Fendel, Yale Fendel, and Max Rosenbach.
- Stephen Dee Edwards, *Red Figure*, 1997, cast glass, fabricated steel. Gift of Charles and Sandra Hall.
- Samuel Levi Jones, Amalgamation, 2017, etching with flatbite and aquatint on paper. Purchase with funds from the June E. Enoch Collection Fund.
- Simon Maberley, *The Manipulator*, 1996, articulated glass, blown and molded with metal elements. Gift of Peter Debreceny and Jane Humz.
- 6. Steve Prince, *Rosa Sparks*, 2017, linocut. Purchase with funds from the June E. Enoch Collection Fund.
- 7. Preston Singletary, *Raven Catching Moon*, 2008, blown and sand carved glass.
- 8. Paul Joseph Stankard, *Golden Orb with Flowers and Apparitions*, from the *Assemblage Series*, 2003, flameworked glass. Purchase with Funds from the June E. Enoch Collection Fund.
- 9. Yvonne Thomas, *Devotion*, 1953, oil on canvas. Gift of Melveena C. Gabriel Revocable Trust in Memory of Richard C. Gabriel.
- 10. Bertil Vallien, *BE 197*, 1997, sandcast glass and steel. Purchase with Funds from the June E. Enoch Collection Fund.



Above: Steve Prince, *Rosa Sparks*, 2017, linocut. Purchase with funds from the June E. Enoch Collection Fund. Below: Bertil Vallien, *BE 197*, 1997, sandcast glass and steel. Purchase with Funds from the June E. Enoch Collection Fund.



## What we're most proud of this year: Programming and Partnerships



The 2021 Scholastic Awards were presented through a digital recording on YouTube, but the art and writing was on display in the museum's galleries.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards remains one of our most meaningful programs for creative teens to earn recognition and enjoy the exhibition of their award-winning art and writing at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art. In 2021, 2,186 works of art and writing were submitted for competition by 958 teens across Northern Indiana and Northwest Ohio, with 404 students earning an Honorable Mention, Silver Key, or Gold Key. Twenty-two national medals were

awarded to local students whose Gold Keys qualified them for competition on the national stage.

The annual **Dia de los Muertos** celebration at FWMoA was cancelled in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, though we continued with our traditional *ofrenda* (altar) display in the FWMoA galleries. Dia de los Muertos is a holiday that honors deceased loved ones November 1 and 2 and is celebrated throughout Mexico and has become a part of American culture in many ways.







When we come back together, we pack it in! The **2021 Chalk Walk** was July 10 and 11 but due to forecasted rain Saturday night, squares were judged and prizes awarded by Satuday afternoon. It was a long but exciting day, one where we were back on Main Street to fill our community with art! A combination event with some digital elements and square submissions, Chalk Walk saw its successful return to Main Street with 108 in-person squares and 41 digital submissions. Teachers Craig and Jamie Rogers from Wisconsin came to Fort Wayne to create a special commissioned square for our 100 Years Bold campaign. They created the illusory 3D artwork (left) where spectators could imagine these icons of art history celebrating FWMoA's centennial. "The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is one of the crown jewels in our community. We have chosen to financially give to this worthy arts organization by joining the Thieme Society, which allows us to support the Museum through estate planned giving. We believe strongly in the Museum's mission of cultural inclusiveness and diversity of programming, and we applaud the Museum for opening its doors to so many."



"I always feel a sense of pride when taking someone to visit the Fort Wayne Art Museum. It is a wonderful place to go to enjoy, contemplate or even celebrate art in our city. The museum is a centerpiece to our growing downtown attractions, and part of the fabric of Fort Wayne."

- Stephen L. Chapman and Howard Chapman

To honor those who are planning a future gift to FWMoA, we have created a circle of friends known as the Thieme Society. Members of the Thieme Society enjoy special recognition (or anonymity) in donor publications and are invited to exclusive events at FWMoA. Theodore Thieme was a prominent businessman who owned a weaving company in Fort Wayne. He also recognized the importance of art to the community. In 1922, Thieme donated his home at 1026 West Berry Street, a collection of paintings and a generous sum of money to the Fort Wayne Art Association, thus creating the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

Glenn and Janellyn Borden

Gifts large and small are essential to the long-term vitality of the Fort Wayne Museum of Art. If you have a gift planned to the Museum in your will or estate, please give us a call, or if you'd like to explore your options with us, please contact Ashley Stoneburner at 260.422.6467. Members of the Thieme Society enjoy exclusive, private events at FWMoA with CEO Charles Shepard, commemorative Thieme Society gifts, and donor recognition in FWMoA materials. Plus, naming rights are available at certain giving levels.

Herb and Carole Fuller

## Thieme Society for Planned Giving

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Striking Gold + + 100 Years Bold

On Tuesday, August 31, we celebrated our 100th anniversary with a gourmet dinner in the FWMoA galleries. Friends old and new enjoyed a fabulous meal, warm company, and décor inspired by the sunsets of Indiana. The 2021 Theodore Thieme Award was given to Nancy P. Stewart for her decades of tireless service to the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.



# Our Donors Make It Happen

Gifts received July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

## Corporate, Foundation, and Government Support

\$250,000+ Arts United Resilience Fund

## \$100,000+

English, Bonter, Mitchell Foundation

### \$75,000

Foellinger Foundation, Inc.

### \$30,000-\$50,000

Chapman Arts Fund Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne Edward M. and Mary McCrea Wilson Foundation Lincoln Financial Foundation Steel Dynamics, Inc.

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## Bequests, Underwriting, and Other Gifts

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Ms. Carol J. Shedd in Memorial of Hans Mehr Mr. and Mrs. David Stewart Mr. Curt Witcher Ms. Sheila Wyss Mr. Alfred Zacher in Memory of Dave Silletto Ms. Virginia Zimmerman \*Denotes deceased individuals

Weeks before everything shut down in March 2020, teachers began calling to cancel their scheduled field trips. The most important role of museum education is getting kids in the door to experience art in-person, but it quickly became clear that would not be possible for an indeterminate amount of time. By the start of the 2020-21 school year, we knew how to run our programs from Zoom, but also realized we would need to be flexible to meet the needs of schools that, at any point in time, could at



A screenshot from a Zoom Gallery on Wheels.

least be partially learning from home. Along with offering all of our programs in a live, virtual format, adjusted whether students were joining as a class at school or from their own devices at home, we focused greater attention on digital resources. Self-guided virtual tours attempt to replicate docent-led visits to the museum with tour stop videos led by the friendly faces of the volunteers who would ordinarily greet school groups, while collection resources provide in-depth looks at individual artists from the FWMoA collection. Both are designed for students to explore independently, or as building blocks for more structured lessons and classroom discussions. Even as we return to our normal slate of offerings, virtual programs continue to provide those who can't visit with an accessible way to integrate the Museum into their classroom. Continuing to offer distance learning options broadens our reach geographically and ensures we can continue our educational mission no matter what.

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The **2021 ArtRageous event** was an online-only auction and fundraising campaign that engaged donors to support FWMoA even in the absence of our popular and well-loved gala event. Dozens of donors supported the event with generous gifts and participated in the online auction. In all, \$201,675 was raised in support of the Fort Wayne Museum of Art during the ArtRageous campaign.



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\*Denotes deceased individuals

## **Docent Spotlight**

The past year has required us all to adapt and learn new skills, and FWMoA's Volunteer Docents were no exception. Even as few schools were able to visit the Museum in-person during the 2020-21 year, the docents remained an active community, pivoting from their highly visible role as gallery educators to more behind-the-scenes efforts. As the education department sought to strengthen the Museum's digital resources during this era of distance learning, the docents were eager to help.

They began recording video "tour stops" for our self-guided, online tours, requiring them to research a single artist in-depth and lead a



Volunteer Docent Sue Dumire shows off her 1-5 year docent pin during the inaugural Docent Pinning ceremony.

discussion on them during a regular meeting. Docents volunteer for myriad reasons, but among the most important for many of them is the face-to-face interaction with the children who visit, often for the first time. It speaks volumes to the docents' dedication that they have remained to help produce this content, learning new skills in the process.

In May, the docent corps reunited in-person for an end-of-year celebration. As part of our continuing efforts to recognize the integral role docents play in our educational programming, they received pins signifying their years of service to the Museum.

