



On behalf of the board of trustees and staff of the Asheville Art Museum, we share this letter with you as an expression of our gratitude for your continued support and interest. The Museum continues to strengthen our role as a place of education, exploration, and inspiration, an advocate for the arts and artists, an economic engine, and the preeminent arts resource for the city, county, and region. The Museum is a national leader in developing educational programs and outstanding exhibitions designed to engage diverse audiences of all ages in active exploration of themselves and their communities through interpretation of American art in all media since the beginning of the 20th century.

We were busy throughout the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The Museum served 85,653 participants, including 11,627 children, through on-site, off-site, and virtual exhibitions and educational programs that provided unique exposure to great works of American art beginning in the 20th century. These programs presented innovative learning experiences for people of all ages in urban and rural communities in Western North Carolina (WNC) and visitors from the United States and abroad. In addition to direct participation, the Museum audience stretched worldwide through online access. The Museum's website had 428,279 pageviews, 829,540 Facebook impressions with 35,147 engagements, 375,402 Instagram impressions with 16,870 engagements, and 42,158 YouTube impressions with 3,575 views.

The Museum's Learning & Engagement team develops and produces on-site, off-site and virtual programming. With diverse community partners, the Museum hosted four Community Days tied to special exhibitions: *American Perspectives: Stories from the American Folk Art Museum Collection*; *Border Cantos | Sonic Border*; *Rebel/ReBelle: Exploring Gender, Agency, and Identity*; and *Altruistic Genius: Buckminster Fuller's Plans to Save the Planet*. These free events brought together our diverse community and visitors to celebrate art and culture in Pack Square and inside the Museum. Community Days feature artist talks, artist-led studio projects, performances, guided tours, and demonstrations.

Student and family program highlights include Literacy Through Art, our flagship school outreach program that utilizes visual arts to explore the language arts; More Than Math, a program that integrates the visual arts into the 3rd- through 8th-grade mathematics curriculum using artworks from the Museum's Collection. Classroom teachers are invited to take part in More Than Math professional-development workshops at the Museum; Summer Art Camp, where students experiment with a variety of media and techniques taught by artist educators; Tours for Students, conversational tours where participants can choose to explore an exhibition or one of the Museum's four curriculum-based tours; and MakerSpace, a weekend drop-in studio program where students of all ages can learn and create using different materials, tools, and techniques.

Adult program highlights include: Slow Art Friday, a virtual conversation about artworks in our Collection or special exhibitions; Connections, an arts-based program serving adults with memory loss and their care takers; In Conversation, a forum for conversations with artists, experts, writers, and other special guests; Adult Studio, offering a core curriculum in drawing, painting, printmaking, and three-dimensional media; and Thursday Night Live, where local musicians perform for Museum guests of all ages. The Museum also offers professional development and networking for educators in Buncombe County and the WNC Region, focused on arts-integrated teaching for visual art and mathematics.

The Museum's Collection contains works that explore diverse and significant movements and trends in American art in the 20th and 21st century and art of importance to the Southeast. As of June 30, 2023, the Museum's Collection, the only such resource in the region, numbers more than 7,500 objects – including paintings, works on paper (including photographs, prints, drawings, pastels, collages, and watercolors), sculptures, and craft objects in glass, ceramic, metal, wood, and fiber – and 4,905 architectural drawings.

The Museum's curatorial team developed projects and negotiated dates to create an extraordinary year of Collection-based installations and special exhibitions. From July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, the Museum presented 16 onsite exhibitions and two digital exhibitions. *Too Much Is Just Right: The Legacy of Pattern and Decoration* featured more than 70 artworks drawn from the Museum's Collection and select major loans featuring pattern and decoration artists. The artworks in this exhibition demonstrate the vibrant and varied approaches to pattern and decoration in art. *Altruistic Genius: Buckminster Fuller's Plans to Save the Planet* brought the inventions and designs of Buckminster Fuller and introduced visitors to Fuller's strategies for the sustainability of humans and the planet relating to housing, transportation, mathematics, and engineering. *Sugar, Water, Lemon Squeeze*, was an exhibition of works and conversation by Asheville-born and Raleigh-Durham-based interdisciplinary artist Sherrill Roland. *Revelate*, featuring artist Luzene Hill, an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians who lives and works on the Qualla Boundary, built upon Hill's investigation of pre-contact cultures in North America.

It was also a time of innovation for the Museum as our team launched its online digital Collection in October 2022. With our Collection accessible from anywhere, the Museum can reach a much broader audience, increasing scholarship, education, access, and engagement. It also enables us to better meet our mission of transforming lives through art. This new resource allowed us to produce our first two digital exhibitions: *Dear Lorna, Love Ray* features letters written by Ray Johnson to Lorna Blaine Halper while Johnson was a student at Black Mountain College (BMC); and *Minds, Bodies, and Spirits: Black Mountain College and the Beats of the North Beach Scene 1953–1960*, which follows select artists from their time at BMC through their early years in the Beat scene of 1950s San Francisco.

The Museum continues to offer its longstanding and robust internship program, offering undergraduate through postgraduate professional development in all departments. The Museum strives to provide financial stipends for all internships to defray any barriers to participation. The Museum's inaugural digital exhibitions were curated by two of our talented interns.

The Museum received its fourth accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums in 2023—the highest national recognition afforded the nation's museums, signifying professional excellence. The Institute of Museum and Library Services took notice of and recognized the Museum's excellence, bestowing its highest honor, the 2022 National Medal for Museum and Library Services. This is truly a remarkable time as the Asheville Art Museum celebrates its 75th Anniversary, and we are excited about our future to continue our mission to engage, enlighten, and inspire individuals and enrich community through dynamic experiences in American art of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Pamela L. Myers
Executive Director