

ZANESVILLE MUSEUM of ART

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Zanesville Museum of Art Preparing to Reopen After Long Closure

ZANESVILLE, Ohio– Having been closed for over three months due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Zanesville Museum of Art is preparing to reopen to the public with comprehensive new safety precautions. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced that museums can reopen June 10, but the ZMA is taking extra preparatory steps before opening the doors. The staff is working on implementing best practices and safety procedures to ensure guest and staff safety when the time to reopen comes.

The ZMA has been active during the closure, publishing engaging online content including art classes and virtual exhibitions. Now the museum is working on how to physically separate but socially engage onsite. Several social distancing measures and a robust cleaning schedule have already been put into place at the museum. The museum plans initially to open only to members and have limited hours of operation. They also are planning special hours for at-risk populations. The museum will be running at limited capacity based on state guidelines. This “new normal” for the ZMA presents challenges and exciting opportunities.

“Our goal is to abide by State of Ohio guidelines while giving potential visitors the best possible experience,” stated ZMA Executive Director Laine Snyder. “We can only open our doors when all necessary measures have been met.”

ZMA staff will be wearing face masks at all times. Guests will also be encouraged to wear face masks. In addition, the museum will be accepting online pre-entry registrations through their website. Guests will register for a time to visit the museum. This allows the museum to maintain guest capacity and ensure contact tracing is possible.

A regular cleaning schedule will be carried out which includes frequent cleaning of high contact areas. The museum is installing a plexiglass screen at their Visitor’s Service Desk to minimize contact and protect guests and staff. A walk flow and highly visible signage will be in place to ensure social distancing between museum guests. A full list of preparations can be found on the ZMA website. The museum’s goal is to abide by State of Ohio guidelines while giving potential visitors the best possible experience.

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The financial impact of this pandemic has been significant for the museum. However, the ZMA realizes that public safety far outweighs these concerns. The reopening process will not be as simple as flicking a switch, however, as there are numerous considerations museum staff must keep in mind. Some areas of the museum, including the popular Ayers Gallery, will remain closed upon reopening. Several spaces aren't equipped to enforce social distancing rules. The museum will also not be hosting any events or educational classes throughout the summer. There are galleries that will be open right away, however, including the Shirley Gorsuch Gallery.

A full list of reopening guidelines at the ZMA will be on the ZMA website as the reopening date nears, please visit zanesvilleart.org.

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