

ZANESVILLE MUSEUM of ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Zanesville Museum of Art is Exploring a New Location to Better Serve this Community

ZANESVILLE, Ohio—On Tuesday, May 2, 2023, The Zanesville Museum of Art Board of Directors met and discussed the Location Strategy and Scenario Analysis final report issued by the Cleveland-based consulting firm Allegro Real Estate Brokers & Advisors.

This final report concluded an eight-month, data-driven study, which was generously funded by three local foundations including the J.W. and M.H. Straker Charitable Foundation, the Cora E. Rogge Memorial Foundation, and the Robert E. Fellers and Leona L. Fellers Foundation Trust.

This three-phase study sought input from over 1,000 community members regarding the ZMA, its location, programming, and the museum's future. One hundred and seven people divided into nineteen stakeholder groups were interviewed onsite and in South Zanesville, while 937 people responded to a survey. This information helped Allegro, the ZMA Board, and the museum's executive director create a profile of what needs to change at the museum.

The final report examined how the museum can improve to enhance our community's quality of life, become an economic driver in the arts and cultural sector in our region, increase tourism, and partner with the city of Zanesville in its revival. The study also projected and compared the expense of 1.) building a 52,000 square foot museum in downtown Zanesville near Interstate 70, 2.) building or repurposing a downtown site for a museum annex and remodeling its current facility on Military Road, or 3.) staying in its current location and expanding its current facility by an additional 16,000 square feet,

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creating a destination museum that better utilizes its five-acre green space by creating a sculpture park, walking paths, and an amphitheater.

After careful deliberation, the Zanesville Museum of Art Board of Directors voted unanimously to explore a new location for the eighty-six-year-old art organization. “One of the most significant factors in the Board’s decision to further investigate a move,” stated ZMA Board of Directors President Kristy Szemetylo, “is the museum’s desire to have a more accessible location that offers an inclusive, interactive, and fun experience for people of all ages. The museum should serve as a community gathering place for the region, offering educational and artistic opportunities that bring together people from all walks of life.”

The ZMA Board concluded that the Zanesville Museum of Art facility and its current location would not provide the greatest opportunity to meet these goals, nor the ZMA’s mission.

“This is a time of aspiration, exploration, and enterprise for the Zanesville Museum of Art. The ZMA will celebrate its hundred-year anniversary in 13 years,” stated Board President Kristy Szemetylo. The Board is focused on the future. “It felt empowered by the final report and the museum’s recent growth to make the decision to investigate new locations and funding opportunities.” stated Szemetylo.

It is an exciting time for the museum. The Board wants to ensure the ZMA’s long-term sustainability and strengthen the organization’s value to this community. “The ZMA means so much to so many people”, stated ZMA Executive Director Laine Snyder. “This community has enriched this museum in so many ways. Donors, volunteers, museum members, and the broader community are deeply invested in and committed to this organization. The Board’s unanimous decision to investigate a move, honors their legacy by investing in the museum’s future,” stated Snyder.

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Next Steps

In June, the Zanesville Museum of Art will undertake a funding feasibility study and hire a Building Representative to assist the Board of Directors make timely decisions about the museum's future. For now, the ZMA, located at 620 Military Road, is business as usual. The ZMA opened the Muskingum County K–12 Student Art Exhibition this month, the organization will open the Ohio Annual juried contemporary art exhibition and children's summer camp in June 2023.

The ZMA Board of Directors

The ZMA Board of Directors is made up of fifteen Zanesville residents. The Executive Committee includes Kristy Szemetylo, President of the Board of Directors, John Matesich, Vice President of the Board of Directors, Tom Selock Treasurer, and Deidra Corbett-Ihlenfeld, Secretary. Life Members of the Board of Directors include Alice Graham, Don Wietmarschen, Carl Minning, and Fred Grant. Standing members of the Board of Directors include Jody Ballas, Susan Stubbins, Ray Ramos, Pat Nash, Melanie Klotzbach, Danielle Knox, and Eleanor Bailey.

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The Zanesville Museum of Art is an arts and cultural cornerstone of Zanesville, Muskingum County, and Appalachian Ohio. Over the last nine years, the museum has grown, and it is poised to further increase visibility, visitors, tourism, event programming, staff, and its collection as it positions itself as a nationally recognized regional museum specializing in American art pottery, Zanesville's cultural legacy.

Visit us at zanesvilleart.org

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The ZMA is generously supported by the



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