

ZANESVILLE MUSEUM of ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Zanesville Museum of Art Awards Excellence in Art Education

ZANESVILLE, Ohio—The Zanesville Museum of Art and a seven-member committee have awarded Wilma Lawn of Zane Grey Elementary and Intermediate Schools with the Avant-Garde Award for Excellence in Art Education.

This \$1,000 award, generously sponsored by The Community Bank, is given to one local area art educator who has made considerable contributions to the field of art education and has shown willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in his or her field.

2019 marks the third year the museum has presented this award. The committee responsible for deciding the award winner is made up of regional arts and education professionals.

This prestigious award is granted to an educator working in Muskingum County who is a role model to students and who serves the community to enhance local art education.

"The ZMA recognizes the importance of art education and we take enormous pride in featuring the outstanding work being done by art educators in our school system," stated ZMA Director Laine Snyder. "Through the Avant-Garde Award, we not only honor the ingenuity and dedication of this region's art educators who inspire and guide the next generation of artists, performers, and creative thinkers, we are shining a light on the important role art plays in education and childhood development." Studies have demonstrated that art education cultivates critical and innovative thinking skills and fosters in students soft skills including persistence, motivation, tolerance, and empathy. According to the Missouri Department of Education, graduation rates were significantly improved when students were involved with arts education, raising as high as 91 percent. Moreover, the study indicates that the same is true across the nation.



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Winner, Wilma Lawn

"Wilma Lawn is a dedicated art educator who cares deeply about her students," said ZMA Education Coordinator, Misty Johnson. "A great advocate for the arts, she's a fantastic role model to her students." "She just puts in so much extra time because she cares so much about giving them an amazing art education experience."

Wilma Lawn has worked at Zanesville City Schools for over 15 years. Having taught classes through PowerHouse of Southeastern Ohio, the Zanesville Museum of Art, and the YMCA, Ms. Lawn is well-known and highly regarded in the community. She is described by her peers as a giver and someone who goes above and beyond for her students. When she told a student to save a piece of art for an art exhibition and he said that he wouldn't be able to go because his family didn't have a car, Ms. Lawn replied, "Well, I will pick you up." Her generosity, advocacy, and dedication is truly inspiring.

"Arts education is wonderful because it teaches kids how to be creative...how to problem solve, and it's one of those things they can enjoy for the rest of their lives," said Ms. Lawn. "It's just a great opportunity...they really enjoy it and appreciate it, and that makes me happy."

The 2019 Avant-Garde Award for Excellence in Art Education will be awarded during the opening of the *Muskingum County K-12 Student Art Exhibition* by Zanesville Mayor, Jeff Tilton, ZMA Executive director, Laine Snyder, and Community Bank President and CEO, Eric Holsky Sunday, April 28, at 2 pm in the museum's Great Gallery.

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The museum welcomes visitors: Wed, Fri, Sat 10 am–5 pm and Thurs 10 am–7:30 pm.
Admission: \$6 for adults; \$4 for adults 60 and older and students with valid ID; Free for children 10 and under.

Free Admission Thursday Evenings 5-7:30 pm.

Visit us at zanesvilleart.org



The Zanesville Museum of Art ignites human imagination and understanding through the visual arts.

