

Dear Friends,

This season of giving provided us an opportunity to reflect on the year and to express our gratitude for the generosity and thoughtfulness of others. I take great pride in the impact you have made on this Museum—your contributions to our Annual Fund, memberships, donated gifts of time and talent, visitation—and all who have given so generously in a multitude of ways to the Museum throughout 2021. The NBMAA is thriving in every possible way and we are all grateful for what you bring to our community.

The holiday season also offered a time of quiet contemplation and an opportunity to open up space to look ahead in a clearer way. I hope that you will join us as we launch into 2022 with brand new special exhibitions and a collection of virtual and onsite programming designed to enrich and inspire. We are thrilled to kick-off the year with the opening of our newest special exhibition, *The Poetry of Nature: Hudson River School Landscapes from the New-York Historical Society* on January 28. The show beautifully complements and expands upon our own celebrated collection of 19th-century landscape paintings. Held concurrent to the Bicentennial of Frederic Law Olmsted's birth, the exhibition will provide a timely opportunity to explore how artists and landscape architects have depicted and shaped the land throughout American history.

Alongside *The Poetry of Nature*, the NBMAA will debut an array of programming meant to boost environmental awareness and appreciation. We will be collaborating with our Community Advisory Group and a number of local partners, such as New Britain ROOTS, CCSU, Hartt School Community Division, and local businesses, to bring accessible programming to our Museum visitors.

Finally, I have some wonderful news to share with you. I am happy to announce that a new director has been elected by the Board of Trustees. Brett Abbott currently serves as Director of Collections and Exhibitions at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth and will join us in New Britain on February 15, 2022. Look forward to hearing more from Brett in the next newsletter.

Happiest New Year to you all.

Dona V. Cassella
Interim Director and Chair of the Board of Trustees