



Dear Friends,

Something special is underway at the Museum. We have long been a space where creativity inspires, community gathers, and belonging is central, but this year in particular our staff and community are feeling a renewed sense of optimism and purpose in our work.

Artists, Members, and visitors—often spanning multiple generations—are returning to the Museum as a trusted civic space: one that offers continuity with the past and connection with the present.

Corporate supporters—so deeply intertwined with the founding of the Museum of American Art and the establishment of our city—are also recognizing both an opportunity and a responsibility to re-invest in the Museum's future. These supporters recently made transformative commitments to support the Museum's major capital priorities, most notably the replacement of the historic Spanish red clay tile roof of the Landers House, while also funding additional capital, operational, and endowment initiatives critical to the Museum's long-term vitality.

Longtime individual supporters are likewise stepping forward with renewed enthusiasm and substantial pledges to ensure our vibrant future for the next generation, recognizing that the Museum is more relevant than ever before. Record-breaking visitation and earned revenue speak to this momentum, as does the Museum's recommitment to its local community while elevating its stature on the national stage.

Perhaps above all, our supporters turn to the Museum as a representation of America at its best. As we approach our nation's 250th anniversary, we recognize that the Museum continues to do what it has done for 170+ years: celebrate American ingenuity, freedom of expression, and history from all perspectives and experiences. It draws people together to share, to learn, and to leave enriched, enlightened, and inspired. When a place feels this safe, this welcoming, you return to it again and again. You bring your children. And their children. And when you are able, you give back to the place that embraced you and your family across generations.

And just as the Museum is a place where we gather to celebrate life and creativity, it is also a place where we come together to remember, to honor, and to grieve.

This year, we lost several cherished members of our Museum family—too many. Samuel Bailey, David Jepson, Dr. Theodore Johnson, and Mark Giulietti were each essential to the foundation and life of the Museum in deeply meaningful ways. Those who attended Mark's memorial reception in December experienced firsthand the profound and beautiful connection he shared with the Museum. We encourage

you to read the deeply touching memoir written by Director Emeritus Douglas Hyland honoring Sam, Dave, and Ted.

As we continue to bask in the success of the Norman Rockwell show and the remarkable impact the exhibition and its related programming had on operational performance, there is much to anticipate in the months ahead. This spring, the inaugural exhibition of our new *Puerto Rico in Focus* initiative—*The Museum of the Old Colony: An Art Installation by Pablo Delano*—opens with great dynamism and curiosity. Two installations celebrating America 250—*Faith Ringgold: Declaration of Freedom and Independence* and *Oscar Berger: Presidential Portraits*—have recently opened, and this summer we look forward to presenting an exhibition featuring beloved artists Louise Nevelson and Esphyr Slobodkina. Please make room in your calendars and register early for programs. Nearly everything is selling out.

In the end, this moment truly feels like a homecoming: a moment to gather around our shared purpose and belief in what the Museum has always been and continues to be—a place where history, creative expression, remembrance, and hope live side by side, welcoming us back. Again and again.

With gratitude,



BRETT ABBOTT

Executive Director and CEO

IN MEMORIAM

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