



Dear Friends,

As we begin to set our sights higher on the future of the New Britain Museum of American Art, we must take great care to protect and preserve the buildings that create spaces for learning and sharing dialogue today. You will soon notice construction activity over by Landers House, where we are initiating an urgent roof replacement for this architectural treasure. For more than 120 years, the building's red clay tile roof has provided a protective canopy over the original home of our beloved collection. To ensure the beauty and history of the nationally-registered historic landmark remain uncompromised, it is required that we install the same style as the original tiles.

Would you believe the original manufacturer of the handmade custom tiles from 1901 is still in operation today?

I would like to take this opportunity to give you an update on the Campus Vision Plan—our journey to establish a vision for the next 15 years for our Museum's campus. All community, Member, Trustee, and staff surveys were completed this past winter and spring. If you were able to participate in these conversations—either in person or through digital surveys—I thank you for helping shape the narrative. If you have not yet participated, there will be more opportunity to do so in the years ahead! Initial ideas are now working their way through a conceptual design process, which is an exciting stage of the project. We are visualizing all options for transforming certain areas of our buildings and grounds to improve visitor experience with new opportunities for engagement, while elevating the Museum's national reputation. It has been an honor to witness the entire process thus far unfold like pieces of a symphony coming together in harmony.

The Museum has also found its rhythm with our monthly free Access for All community days. Thanks to a three-year \$400,000 Art Bridges Foundation Access for All grant, the NBMAA has been able to offer themed engagement opportunities to over 2,000 people since January. We are preparing to present the Museum's 23rd Juneteenth Celebration on June 15. This important event is orchestrated by a partnership between the Museum's Education team and a Community Advisory Group comprised of New Britain's cultural leaders and influencers. We acknowledge the legacy of Juneteenth leadership on page 15 with a conversation with Paulette Fox, founder and leader of our Juneteenth Celebration for 20 years, and longtime Member and supporter of the New Britain Museum of American Art.

Finally, the exhibition highlight of the summer is a celebration of the rich heritage and contemporary vision of Indigenous Americans in the landmark show *The Land Carries Our Ancestors: Contemporary Art by Native Americans*. If you have not yet had the opportunity to view the show, I urge you to plan a visit this summer to immerse yourself in the stunning colors and poignant storytelling of nearly 50 living Native artists.

I look forward to seeing you and your family in the galleries this summer.

Warm Regards,

Brett Abbott

Director and CEO