

Dear Friends,

We often ask our visitors and Members what inspired their most recent visit to the Museum. So many of you share that you were seeking a moment of peace—a brief respite from the chaos and distractions of the world around us. Access to art has long offered a temporary escape from the tumult of current events. The New Britain Museum of American Art has always served as a place for reflection and solace—a sanctuary where visitors can step away from the divisions and negativity of the world and immerse themselves in splendor.

As I move through our galleries, filled with visitors from all walks of life, I'm reminded of how art has the power to transcend boundaries and bring people together. The Museum offers a shared space where diverse communities unite in a collective love of beauty.



I hope you will soon have the chance to experience our handsomely re-installed first-floor galleries. With freshly painted walls and newly imagined installations, these spaces now showcase masterpieces from our permanent collection in new and exciting ways. Paired with this season's captivating special exhibitions and long-term loans, the Museum provides the very kind of refuge that many are seeking.

This season's exhibitions, including *Blue Grass, Green Skies: American Impressionism and Realism from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art*, *Lure of the Sea: Masterworks of American Coastal Art* from the Hamm Collection, and select pieces on loan from the National Gallery of Art, invite visitors to engage with the healing power of nature and art. These works, capturing fleeting moments and shifting landscapes, offer an enduring source of inspiration and reflect the resilience of the American spirit.

At the same time, the Museum is engaged in important work for the future. Our Strategic Planning Task Force has been diligently charting the course for the next five years. This process has involved reviewing past progress, identifying new opportunities and challenges, and setting a clear vision for the Museum's future. Through assessments such as the 10-year Facilities Study, financial analysis, and Campus Vision Plan, as well as valuable input from our community, we are refining our strategic goals to ensure we continue to grow, thrive, and serve our mission. The draft plan is now in the review process, and we are focused on ensuring it reflects the Museum's values and positions us for success in the years ahead.

In the context of these exhibitions and our thoughtful planning, I want to express my optimism for the future. Art is not just a reflection of the world as it is; it is a mirror of our aspirations, ingenuity, and our enduring search for meaning. With careful planning and a focus on intentionality, the New Britain Museum of American Art is poised to continue as both an essential community resource and a prestigious national center for the stewardship of American art.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us. We look forward to welcoming you and continuing to inspire moments of peace, connection, and reflection.

Warm Regards,

**BRETT ABBOTT**

Executive Director and CEO