

Dear Friends,

The New Britain Museum of American Art is in the midst of a great moment. With engagement thriving, business secure, Membership rising, and our leadership team complete, we can now begin to set our sights higher for what the future may hold.

Take a look around the galleries—gleaming with exquisite special exhibitions reflecting the most diverse lineup of artists in recent history. Awestruck visitors are capturing selfies and practicing Yoga in Anila Agha’s monumental light installation *Intersections*, history enthusiasts are traveling far and wide to learn about Susie Barstow and her contemporaries in *Women Reframe American Landscape*, and all are mesmerized by Ellen Carey’s visual achievements as we embrace the final weeks of *Struck by Light*. Whether visiting for the first time or the 1000th time, the public continues to marvel at our permanent collection installations—delighted to discover a world-class collection of American art right here in New Britain.



The NBMAA has completed the reformation of our staff leadership team and most recently welcomed key Education staff—with Emily Dunnack as Director of Learning & Engagement and Francis Estrada as Senior Manager of Community Engagement & Family Programs.

This new calendar year brings a sharpened focus on expanding public access for all. Activating a three-year \$400,000 Art Bridges Foundation’s Access for All program grant, the NBMAA will offer monthly free community days filled with engagement opportunities including live local music performances, poetry and storytelling, artmaking, and so much more. We launched Access for All in January with a joyous celebration of the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. Subscribe to our weekly email news from our website’s homepage, and follow along on social media for announcements on all upcoming Access for All days at the NBMAA.

Inside the galleries this year, we will be celebrating the rich heritage and contemporary vision of Indigenous Americans in the landmark show *The Land Carries Our Ancestors: Contemporary Art by Native Americans*, coming from the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.; we will find joy in the playful murals that Justin Favella will create for us, connecting canonical American Art history with his Latin American roots; and through a planned series of three exhibitions designed to highlight examples of the finest Shaker craftsmanship from the past 175 years, we will learn about the lives of the Shakers, and how their keen aesthetic sensibility has influenced generations of designers across America and internationally.

In addition to celebrating today’s success, we also embark on a journey to establish a vision for the next 15 years for our Museum’s campus. In order to reimagine some of the aspects of our building and grounds, we have started the conversation with staff who have an intimate understanding of the user journey, Board and supporters committed to its caretaking, and our beloved community members for

whom the Museum exists to serve. If you have already participated in these conversations—either in person or through digital surveys—I thank you for helping to shape our campus vision for the next 100 years of the NBMAA.

Finally, the NBMAA family mourns the November passing of Hank Martin, after whom the Henry and Sharon Martin Gallery is named. Hank was a dedicated supporter who exhibited true passion for art of the Hudson River School and its impact on audiences today. We will miss him and extend our most sincere condolences to Sharon and the entire Martin family.

Warm Regards,

Brett Abbott
Director and CEO