



NEW BRITAIN

**MUSEUM OF
AMERICAN ART**

SPRING 2026

Member Newsletter



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

Samuel Bailey, Jr. / Former Premier Member and Donor, Trustee Emeritus

Jane P. Carpenter / Former Member and Donor

Virginia Charnick / Former Member

Fred A. Damiani / Longtime Member and Donor

Arthur C. DeGraff / Longtime Member and Donor

Mark A. Giuliotti / Longtime Premier Member and Donor, Heritage Society Member, and Volunteer

Paul J. Halovatch / Heritage Society Member

David G. Jepson / Longtime Premier Member and Donor, Heritage Society Member, Trustee Emeritus

Theodore H. Johnson / Longtime Premier Member and Donor, Former Trustee

Dorothy Bosch Keller / Former Member and Donor

Mary J. Krenn / Former Premier Member, Donor, and Volunteer

Robert Natrass / Longtime Member and Donor

Louis G. Salvio / Former Member and Volunteer

Philip C. Sayres, Jr. / Longtime Member and Donor

David Sherman / Longtime Member and Donor

Rhoda Steinberg / Longtime Member

Jonathan E. Stone / Longtime Premier Member and Donor

Janusz Stygares / Member

Mildred K. Unfried / Longtime Member and Donor

Marie Claire Van Rooy / Former Member and Donor

Marianne Z. Wainwright / Member and Volunteer

ON THE COVER: Previous Installation of *The Museum of the Old Colony: An Art Installation by Pablo Delano*

Our thanks to the following NBMAA supporters



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THE MUSEUM OF THE OLD COLONY

AN ART INSTALLATION BY — UNA INSTALACIÓN DE
PABLO DELANO

MARCH 14–JULY 5, 2026

The Stitzer Family Gallery and
Robert & Dorothy Vance Gallery

The Museum of the Old Colony: An Art Installation by Pablo Delano is a conceptual, site-specific, and continually evolving project that confronts the complex legacies of U.S. colonial rule in Puerto Rico since the occupation of 1898.

Unlike conventional exhibitions, the installation functions as a single immersive work of art. Referencing the conventions of traditional historical or anthropological museums, Delano's fictional institution incorporates and re-contextualizes a dense assemblage of appropriated archival photographs, books, artworks, objects, and moving

pictures such as newsreels and documentaries. Infused with sardonic humor and incisive critique, the installation exposes the mechanisms by which museums—and by extension, empires—construct authority, shaping how history is seen, remembered, and believed.

First colonized by Spain in 1493, Puerto Rico became a U.S. territory in 1898. While Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens, the unincorporated U.S. territory is widely considered to be the world's oldest colony. Thus, the title of *The Museum of the Old Colony* has an ironically playful double meaning, referring both to Puerto Rico's political status and to a popular soft drink brand made and sold in Puerto Rico since the 1940s called Old Colony. The project is also deeply personal for Delano; a means to grapple and reckon



with his lived experiences and the complex history of the land where he was born and raised.

At the New Britain Museum of American Art, Delano's installation transforms the Robert & Dorothy Vance Gallery and the Stitzer Family Gallery, incorporating new material specific to the Puerto Rican diaspora in Connecticut and evoking regional histories such as the 1983 Wells Fargo robbery by Puerto Rican Nationalists in West Hartford and the growth of Puerto Rican communities across New England, including the city of New Britain.

Presented nationally and internationally—most recently as part of the 60th International Art Exhibition of the 2024 Venice Biennale—*The Museum of the Old Colony* at the New Britain

Museum of American Art is the largest version to date and the first to specifically include Connecticut-based references. *The Museum of the Old Colony* was cited as one of the “Defining Artworks of 2024” by the editors of *ARTnews* Magazine.

This exhibition inaugurates *Puerto Rico In Focus*, a multiyear initiative at the New Britain Museum of American Art that centers Puerto Rican art and histories within the context of an American art museum.

This presentation of *The Museum of the Old Colony: An Art Installation* by Pablo Delano is made possible through generous support from the Mellon Foundation.

Additional support has been provided by The Saunders Foundation, Arbella Insurance Foundation, and Joan and Charles Leach and family. Support for this exhibition is provided by CT Humanities as part of its America 250 | CT program, as well as Lee Goldstein and Charles Dockter, the Bailey Family Fund for Special Exhibitions, and The Howard Fromson Fund for Emerging Artists.

OPENING RECEPTION

Thursday, March 12, 5:30–7 p.m.

Preview the exhibition before it opens to the public, accompanied by a poetry reading by Magdalena Gómez and musical accompaniment by Lorena Garay.



OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, May 15, 5:30-7 p.m.

Join us for the Members Opening Reception, featuring remarks by the artist and a musical performance by The Stolen Sea.

JOHN HITCHCOCK

We Are Defined by the Beat

MAY 16-NOVEMBER 29, 2026

The Helen T. and Philip B. Stanley Gallery, Mary & George Cheney Gallery, The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection & Insurance Company Gallery, and Alix W. Stanley Gallery

“What’s on the land? What’s above the land and what’s below the land? This work is related to the ancestral memory of land and to the idea of how sound affects us, in particular, the relationship between the history of warfare that’s gone on around Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and the descendants of the Indigenous people who grew up there, and how this relates to our mindset.”

—JOHN HITCHCOCK

Home to artist, educator, and musician John Hitchcock (b. 1967), the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache tribal lands of Medicine Park, Oklahoma, lie between the sacred Wichita Mountains and Wildlife Reserve—a refuge for buffalo, deer, and elk—and Fort Sill, a United States Army post and artillery range established in 1869 during the Indian Wars.

Within this environment, the sounds of cicadas, birds, and wildlife mingle with the percussion of artillery and helicopters, while the songs of Kiowa and Comanche people echo in counterpoint to military anthems. This coexistence of harmony and dissonance—of nature, culture, and conflict—is central to Hitchcock’s evocative work.

For over three decades, Hitchcock has transformed the sonic and cultural rhythms of his homeland into a distinct visual language. An enrolled member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma with Comanche and Northern European ancestry, Hitchcock merges personal expression with references to intertribal powwows, the Wichita Mountain landscape of his youth, and the symbols and languages of Great Plains Native populations. Working across printmaking, neon, textiles, sound, and video, he merges traditional and contemporary art forms to pay homage to his ancestors, confront histories of Indigenous displacement and trauma, and celebrate community, resilience, and survival.

Marking the artist’s first career survey, *John Hitchcock: We Are Defined by the Beat* traces Hitchcock’s evolving integration of visual and sonic forms. Important series—including *Flatlander* (2011-18), *Bury the Hatchet* (2019-2020), *Blanket Songs* (2022-2023), *Soundscapes* (2021-2024), and *Celebration* (2025)—synchronize sound and image, ritual and resistance. In the exhibition, the “beat” becomes both metaphor and structure—signifying the rhythms of nature, bombs, heartbeats, and life cycles, and the persistence of culture and tradition across generations, through which Indigenous presence endures.

At the New Britain Museum of American Art, Hitchcock’s powerful imagery invites a deeper understanding of identity, land, and belonging in America.

John Hitchcock: We Are Defined by the Beat is made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts with additional support provided by the Roberts Foundation for the Arts, Susan and John Alston, and Claudia I. Thesing.

Below: John Hitchcock, *Longhorn Mountain*, 2025, Acrylic paint, screenprint, Courtesy of the Artist

Left: John Hitchcock, *Blanket Songs*, 2023, Screenprint, lithography, dye on paper, ribbons, grommets, Naugahyde Powwow Drum (Kevin Sovo), video projection, Courtesy of the Artist



Community Engagement and Family Programs

For more information on pricing and to register for programs, please visit our website

We encourage you to register in advance for all lectures and gallery talks. These programs can sell out before the day of the event.



Guided Gallery Conversations



WALK-IN TOUR

American Canvas

Saturdays and Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

WALK-IN TOUR

Special Exhibition

Sundays at 1 p.m.

Private Guided Gallery Conversations

Experience the beauty and wonder of the Museum together! One of our Docents will lead your group through engaging conversations on works of art throughout the Museum. We invite you to browse our menu of themes to align with your group's interests. You can also pair a Docent-led tour with a hands-on art studio activity. No art experience required!

REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Visit our website to book your own private gallery conversation:
<https://nbmaa.org/adult-university-tours>

These experiences are available for a minimum of 8 participants and must be booked at least two weeks in advance, as our schedule fills rapidly and ample time is needed to schedule Docent volunteers.

The New Britain Museum of American Art, the first museum dedicated to American art in the nation, is celebrating our country's 250th anniversary with year-long themed programs and tours. Look for the 250 logo throughout the year!



Lectures & Gallery Talks

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

“Exchanging Glances: Photography as a Decolonial Weapon” with Dr. Laura Bravo López

Friday, March 13, 5:30 p.m.

Join Dr. Laura Bravo López in a conversation discussing her catalogue essay, written in connection to Pablo Delano’s special exhibition *The Museum of the Old Colony*. The lecture will be followed by a conversation between Dr. Bravo and artist Pablo Delano.

Support for this program is provided by CT Humanities as part of its America 250 | CT program.

GALLERY TALK

Robert Duncanson with Mona Cappuccio

Tuesday, March 17, 1 p.m.

This Docent-led Gallery Talk will explore the life and work of Robert S. Duncanson, one of the most important African American artists of the 19th century, widely known in his lifetime as “the best landscape painter in the West.”

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

“Becoming Roy Lichtenstein: The Path to Pop” with Avis Berman

Saturday, April 11, 2 p.m.

SULLIVAN LECTURE FUND

Avis Berman is a writer, curator, and historian of American art, architecture, and culture. Since 2001, Avis Berman has overseen the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation’s oral history project.



INSIDE THE GALLERY

With Hartford Art School Fellow Maiya Cannon

Friday, April 24, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Join us for a Gallery Talk that will explore the Museum’s permanent collection through in-depth conversation and close looking.

INSIDE THE GALLERY

With Hartford Art School Fellow Sabine Carey

Wednesday, April 29, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

This Gallery Talk will explore the Museum’s permanent collection through in-depth conversation and close looking.

GALLERY TALK

The Eight with Joan Kennedy

Tuesday, May 5 and June 9, 1–2:15 p.m.

Join Docent Joan Kennedy for a tour of paintings by The Eight from the Museum’s permanent collection. These eight friends and colleagues drew artistic inspiration from each other; nevertheless, each artist’s style was unique.

GALLERY TALK

“Puerto Rico Through Artists’ Lenses” with Francis Estrada

Wednesday, May 20, 1 p.m.

Engage in a gallery conversation while looking at how contemporary artists Rogelio Báez Vega and Pablo Delano reference and incorporate Puerto Rican history in their art practices.

GALLERY TALK

“Winslow Homer: From Battlefield to Beaches” with Phoebe Cos

Wednesday, June 24, 1 p.m.

Winslow Homer reflected on the American experience throughout his career as an artist. Learn more about Homer’s metamorphosis from wartime reporter to Reconstruction romanticist with highlights from the Museum’s permanent collection and the National Gallery of Art’s “Across the Nation” loan.

LECTURE

“From Puerto Rico to Connecticut: Migration, Memory, and Place” with Dr. Elena Rosario

Sunday, June 28, 2 p.m.

In this lecture, Dr. Rosario will explore the intersections of U.S. empire and local history to reveal the deep transitional connections between Puerto Rico and Connecticut, focusing on the history of Puerto Rican migration and settlement in Central Connecticut.

ARTISTS AND WRITERS SPRING READING

The Great Gatsby as a Work of Art



10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 23 and 30

Wednesday, May 20 and 27

Join Docent Carol Lacoss for a guided reading and discussion to learn why *The Great Gatsby* is considered to be one of the most beautifully written novels of the 20th century.

ARTISTS AND WRITERS SUMMER READING

The Red Badge of Courage as a Work of Art



10:30 a.m.–12:30p.m.

Wednesday, June 3 and 10

Thursday, July 23 and 30

Join Docent Carol Lacoss for a guided reading and discussion of Stephen Crane’s 1895 novel *The Red Badge of Courage*, known for its realistic portrayal of combat through the eyes of a young Union soldier in the Civil War.

Pop-Up Printmaking Studios

From February through June 2026, the Museum will host a pop-up printmaking workshop on the first Saturday of the month, led by a local printmaking artist. Each session will focus on the process of an artist whose work is currently on view in *Pop! American Art in the 1960s*.

\$25 per person; FREE for New Britain residents who show ID upon arrival and Bank of America card holders (for Bank of America Museums on US weekend)

For ages 16 and up. Capacity is limited, so registration is required.

March 7, 1–3 p.m.

Led by Lindsay Behrens.

April 4, 1–3 p.m.

Led by Lichen Balay.

May 2, 1–3 p.m.

Led by Samuel Swap.

June 6, 1–3 p.m.

Led by Marcus Zilliox.

Generous support provided by Art Bridges Foundation



Adult Classes

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

ADULT STUDIO CLASS

Experimenting with Watercolor

Selected Wednesdays, 1–3 p.m.

March 4, 11, 18, and 25

April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29

May 6, 13, 20, and 27

Do you pale at the sight of a blank sheet of watercolor paper? Do you mix colors and wonder why it looks like mud? This class is intended to help take the fear out of working with watercolor.

ADULT STUDIO CLASS

Felting with Robin McCahill

Selected Thursdays, 1–3 p.m.

April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

June 4, 11, 18, and 25

Learn the basics of needle-felting. All supplies will be provided.

ADULT STUDIO WORKSHOP

Experimental Drawing

Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Sunday, May 31, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Join artist Mona Cappuccio for a playful, hands-on drawing workshop using traditional materials alongside found objects from the yard and garden.

ADULT STUDIO WORKSHOP

Tree of Life Workshop with Amy Ordonez

Sunday, April 19, 1–4 p.m.

Drawing inspiration from *Altered States: The Etchings of Richard Pousette-Dart*, this hands-on wellness workshop features an in-gallery sound bath and neurographic art studio activity.

ADULT STUDIO WORKSHOP

Beauty from the Ashes of Our Sorrow: A Creative Uprising Poetry Workshop with Magdalena Gómez

Saturday, June 6, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Join Magdalena Gómez in an interactive workshop using words, silences, intentional movement, deep listening, story sharing, and poetry with purpose. Dress in loose, comfortable clothing, and bring a favorite quote or affirmation that uplifts you, written out by hand if possible. Be ready to laugh!

ADULT STUDIO WORKSHOP

Drawing from the Land with John Hitchcock

Sunday, May 17, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

JEAN HOLDEN EMINENT VISITING ARTISTS WORKSHOP FUND

Led by artist John Hitchcock in connection to his exhibition, participants will use various drawing tools to create vibrant artworks that reflect their experiences of what is above, on, and beneath the land.



For more information on education and community programs, visit our website



Access for All Community Days

Free Admission all day!
WALK-INS WELCOME

Polish Heritage Celebration

March 28

In collaboration with the Polish Language School in New Britain and other local organizations and artists, the Museum celebrates the rich cultural heritage of the Polish community. Café takeover by Belvedere Café.

¡Viva Puerto Rico!

April 18

Join us in kicking off the Museum's multi-year initiative to address the intersections, past and present, between the art of Puerto Rico and the U.S.

Rooted Generations: Honoring Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage

May 16

In collaboration with the Asian Pacific American Coalition of Connecticut (APAC) and Layavinyasa, the Museum celebrates the rich cultures and traditions of the AAPI community through performances, interactive presentations, mini exhibits, and other offerings.

Juneteenth Celebration

June 20

Join us for our 25th Annual Juneteenth Celebration! This day-long event features artistic performances, music, in-gallery experiences, and of course artmaking. Shop from local Black-owned businesses, support independent artists, and grab a bite from regional food trucks.

Generous support provided by Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All program. Additional support provided by New Britain Commission on the Arts and Murphy Charitable Contributions Committee, Legrand/Wiremold.

Children's Art Classes & Programs

AGES 3-5

Art Start

Saturdays, 11-11:45 a.m., through April 25

AGE 6-8

Art Explorers

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., through April 25

AGES 8-12

Retro Art Play

Saturday, April 11, 10:45-11:45 a.m.

Retro Play is an invitation for child-led exploration with open-ended loose parts.

AGES 8-12

Tissue Paper Bouquet Still Life

Saturday, May 9, 12-1:30 p.m.

Kids will use tissue paper and color layering to construct a mixed-media still life.

ALL AGES

Let's Co-Create an Exhibition Inspired by Pop Art!

Saturday, April 18, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Inspired by the exhibition, *Pop! American Art in the 1960s*, students will use printmaking techniques to bring new ideas to life. With cARTie, our original works of art come together inside a mobile art museum exhibition set to travel all over our state in Summer of 2026.

Support provided by Art Bridges Foundation.

AGES 8-12

Paper Making Exploration

Saturday, June 13, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Dive into the tactile process of turning pulp into brand-new sheets of paper!

Homeschool Offerings

HOMESCHOOL DAY

Celebrating Sol LeWitt

Tuesday, March 24, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Discover the art and ideas of Sol LeWitt through hands-on artmaking and Museum exploration.



HOMESCHOOL DAY

Great American Classics

Tuesday, June 30, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Explore two and half centuries of American art.

April Vacation Days

AGE 7-11

Youth Printing Exploration

April 14, 15, 16, 17, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

AGE 11-17

Teen Printing Exploration

April 14, 15, 16, 17, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Book a school visit printmaking art studio!

This spring semester, we are offering a printmaking art studio visit for school groups in conjunction with *Pop! American Art in the 1960s*. Schools/classes interested in a Printmaking Art Studio can book a workshop for a class of up to 25 students. Students will begin in the galleries with a brief guided conversation in front of an artwork by one of the featured Pop Art artists, then head to the printmaking studio for a 1.5-hour printmaking workshop.



If you've been on a guided tour at the Museum, then you've encountered one of the Museum's wonderful Docents.

From pre-school children to high school students, college classes to groups from senior centers, the Museum Docents expertly connect visitors to the artwork in the galleries. The Docent Program at the New Britain Museum of American Art started in 1969. Ever since, the Museum has relied on the dedicated team of Docents to provide in-depth, personal conversations in the galleries by leading school field trips, adult group tours, and weekend Walk-In Tours (now on Tuesday afternoons too!). Without the Docents, the Museum could not serve the thousands of visitors who come into the galleries for a shared group experience. The Museum could not welcome hundreds of students each week to learn about art and American history in relation to their school curriculum. The Docents make the Museum's mission of connecting people through art possible.

The Museum Docents come from a variety of backgrounds. Many join the program for a deep and meaningful volunteer experience during retirement.

Most join because they have a lifelong love of art. Some have personal experience as teachers or artists. Others are former lawyers, doctors, or business executives who have always had a curiosity and passion for learning about art and want to explore it more deeply in retirement.

The nine-month Docent training program ensures that every Docent is prepared for leading in-depth guided tours in the galleries. This training program is managed by Docent Kathy Butler, educator and professor emeritus, University of Saint Joseph, in collaboration with Emily Dunnack, Director of Learning and Engagement. In weekly sessions from September through May, the Docents learn general art history and pedagogical teaching techniques, with a specific focus on the art in the Museum's permanent collection. Most sessions are in the galleries, where the Docents can actively learn from the art on the walls. After the first year, Docents graduate and can start leading tours. Veteran Docents continue learning about touring techniques and how to teach all ages (down to very young



OUR DEDICATED DOCENTS

The Volunteer Tour Guides Who Educate and Connect

children), and with the Museum's ever-changing exhibition schedule, there's always a new exhibition to delve into.

There are also many opportunities for connection and community within the Docent program. Throughout the year, the Docents can enjoy several artist talks and guest speakers at their training sessions, learning directly from artists whose work is on view. A potluck Holiday Party in December and a Spring Luncheon, along with the new Docent Book Club and "Art, Life, Friends" social outing group, ensure plenty of social opportunities to connect with like-minded fellow Docents. A number of the Docents have been a part of the program since the early 2000s, and their decades of dedication are extremely appreciated by both staff and visitors. The active touring Docents work directly with Learning & Engagement staff to significantly serve the visitors, but even when

you stop touring, you can still be part of the program and the community of art lovers who have developed deep bonds and relationships with each other.

The Docents at the New Britain Museum of American Art are the Museum's biggest supporters and amazing ambassadors, leaving a lasting impact on every visitor that they lead through the galleries. Thank you to each and every person who has shared their time and talents as part of the Museum's Docent program.

Interested in becoming a Museum Docent?
Our next class starts in Fall of 2027. To learn more, visit nbmaa.org/docents

SAVE THE DATE

Heritage Society Brunch

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

Please join us at this year's Heritage Society Brunch, a celebration of visionary individuals—people just like you—who have included the Museum in their estate plans.

As a member of the Heritage Society, your commitment ensures that the Museum remains a cornerstone for exceptional American art and community engagement for generations yet to come.

Not a member of the Heritage Society yet? It's easy to join and won't cost you anything today. If you're interested in learning more, or if you have named the Museum in your will, trust, or as a beneficiary of a retirement plan, please contact Debra Holcomb, Director of Development, at holcombd@nbmaa.org or 860-515-3363.

The Art Party of the Year!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026

Prepare for an unforgettable affair! The Museum's Art Party of the Year is a spectacular night of fine dining, cocktails, auctions, and more. It's more than just a fun night out, it's a celebration of philanthropy and premier fundraiser—all to benefit the Museum's extraordinary exhibitions and programs. Tickets go on sale at ArtPartyoftheYear.org in July. You won't want to miss it!

Sponsorship opportunities, with premier visibility and exclusive benefits, are available now. Contact the Amanda Shuman-Bisson, Associate Director of Development, at shuman-bissona@nbmaa.org or 860-229-0257 ext. 246 to lead the way in supporting our most important night of the year.



The Juried Members Exhibition

PEALE, PORTER, CASSATT, ROCKWELL . . . AND YOU?

Imagine your artwork gracing the same galleries as America's most iconic artists. **The 56th Annual Nor'Easter Juried Members Exhibition** returns this summer. This is more than a show—it's your chance to etch your name into the legacy of the nation's first museum dedicated exclusively to American art.

- **Who:** Artists and Museum Members (New England & beyond).
- **What:** All media—painting, sculpture, photography, mixed media, and more.
- **Submissions open March 30, 2026** exclusively via CaFÉ (callforentry.org).
- **Seize the moment.** Visit nbmaa.org for guidelines or contact Jenna Lucas, Development and Membership Coordinator, at lucasj@nbmaa.org.

HISTORY ENDURES— ONCE AGAIN—at the New Britain Museum of American Art

After months of meticulous work, the final tile has been set on the newly restored Landers House roof. The impact of this preservation will endure through the next century.

This project has always been about more than construction. It is about stewardship. The roof features 9,600 American-made handcrafted tiles, installed with care by master craftsmen who used the project to train the next generation of artisans. The restored roof is built to last another 100 years, providing a permanent shield for the treasures housed within. When you look at the Landers House, you can feel pride in knowing your gift protects the art, architecture, and shared heritage that make our Museum so special and unique.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the hundreds of individuals, businesses, and organizations who helped to quite literally *raise the roof* for historic preservation at the New Britain Museum of American Art.

ENSURE THE FUTURE

The restoration of the Landers House proves that the Museum will continue to endure. With a 170-year history and at least 100+ more to come, your gift to the Museum is also sure to endure. By naming the New Britain Museum of American Art as a beneficiary of your IRA or other bank accounts, you create a legacy that will last longer than the newly retiled roof itself.

Every gift, no matter the size, provides power for American art and helps fulfill our important mission for generations to come.

Contact Debra Holcomb, Director of Development, at 860-515-3363 to learn more.





CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
of the John Butler
Talcott Society

The year 2026 marks a landmark anniversary for the New Britain Museum of American Art: two decades of the John Butler Talcott Society (JBTS).

Named for the visionary industrialist who's pivotal 1905 bequest established the Museum's first acquisition endowment, the JBTS continues to fuel our mission to inspire, educate, and connect through the power of American art.

A Legacy of Leadership

Founded in 2006, the Society was the brainchild of then-Director Douglas Hyland alongside Trustee Emerita Kay Cox and her late husband, Tom. What began with 38 charter households has grown into a formidable force for cultural stewardship. Under the leadership of dedicated supporters like the Coxes and co-chairs Kelly and Jonathan Jarvis, the JBTS has become the heartbeat of the Museum's philanthropy.

The collective impact is staggering. Since its inception, hundreds of JBTS members have given more than \$7 million to support the Museum via membership, Annual Fund, and exhibitions support. From underwriting premier exhibitions to bolstering programming, this group ensures the Museum remains a vibrant community and cultural pillar.

Save the Date: June 12, 2026

Mark your calendars for a milestone celebration. On Friday, June 12, 2026, the Museum will host the annual Director's Dinner, an elegant black-tie evening dedicated to honoring the annual support and 20th anniversary of the John Butler Talcott Society.

While this event celebrates our most dedicated philanthropists, it also serves as a welcoming moment for new members to join this visionary circle. We look forward to seeing JBTS alumni and newcomers alike as we toast to two decades of collective impact.

Your Invitation to Lead

One person does make a difference, and a committed group can move mountains. By joining JBTS, you multiply your annual impact and start a cascade of support that powers the vibrancy of the Museum.

To learn more about this premier membership level or tax-advantaged giving strategies, please contact **Debra Holcomb, Director of Development, at holcombd@nbmaa.org or 860-515-3363.**

Not a JBTS member yet?

Upgrade your membership today to secure your invitation.

Scan to explore JBTS

Memberships levels: **nbmaa.**

org/premier-level-membership



ARCHITECTS OF LEGACY

A Memoir of Gratitude

by DOUGLAS HYLAND, Director Emeritus

Sadly, in 2025, we lost three past Trustees and devoted members of our Museum community, Samuel Bailey, David Jepson, and Dr. Theodore Johnson, all of whom made substantial contributions to the expansion and subsequent success of the New Britain Museum of American Art.

In the case of Ted Johnson, he acted in close collaboration with our distinguished former Congresswoman Nancy Johnson, who survives her late husband.

My goal after being hired in the summer of 1999 was to plan and build what became the Chase Family Building in order to better display one of America's finest collections of American art and to provide space for the many programs we

wished to offer to attract both a local and a national constituency. With the encouragement and support of Chairman Alan Hunter and the small but steadfast New Britain-based Board of Trustees, we hired visionary architect Ann Beha and endorsed an ambitious capital fund drive to both build the building and defray its cost by substantially expanding the endowment.

Ann Chamberlain, who had deep roots in New Britain, was hired to be Director of Development and did an outstanding job until her untimely death just after the construction was begun.

The first order of business was to expand the Board, and **Sam Bailey** was among the earliest of my new recruits. A native of Cincinnati, he initially practiced law in Hartford and then established a successful financial services company. After fighting in the

Samuel and
Janet BaileyTheodore and
Nancy JohnsonDavid and
Sharon Jepson

Civil War, his maternal great-grandfather was the lawyer who established Procter & Gamble. Successive generations of his family helped nurture both the Cincinnati Art Museum and the Taft Museum, and Sam was very pleased to be able to continue this tradition of philanthropy.

Sam soon was appointed Treasurer and for years oversaw both the operating budget and the endowment; he attended monthly meetings of the Executive Committee. Luckily, he simultaneously participated in the capital campaign. Both personally and through the Warrington Foundation of Cincinnati, he annually provided substantial operating funds and, most importantly, donated the Warrington Gallery in the Chase Family Building.

Later, when we launched the second capital campaign, he and his wife Janet decided to endow the Bailey Fund for Special Exhibitions so that future generations of visitors would be able to enjoy artworks of exceptional quality. His commitment to our Museum was heartfelt and steadfast.

The expanded Museum and the renovated Landers House were so successful that it soon became apparent we needed more space, and so we launched the second capital campaign. By then, Alan Hunter—who had made sure that the first construction project was finished on time and on budget—had stepped away, and I needed an equally committed and experienced replacement. Fortunately, on a Museum trip to Portugal



I bonded with **Dave Jepson**, who had just retired from heading one of the country's most highly regarded architectural firms based in Hartford. He was full of energy and raring to go, embracing our mission with gusto. He supervised every planning and construction detail, working in concert with Downes Construction, which has been responsible for every construction project at our Museum for generations. Dave was at the Museum almost every day for nearly two years. Both buildings have brought great joy to millions of visitors over the last 15 years.

One of the most gratifying developments of my career was when Dave told me that he and his wife Sharon were giving a substantial gift to name a gallery in the new building in my honor. The Jepsons made annual donations to support the operating budget, and like the Baileys and the Johnsons, they helped underwrite and attended innumerable fundraisers and other events throughout many years.

After I retired, Dave continued to head the Buildings and Grounds Committee and remained an active Trustee. I was able to recruit him for the Boards of the Elizabeth Park Conservancy and the Webb Deane Stevens Museum, on which I have served, and so had the pleasure of interacting with him regularly.

Dave was an accomplished draughtsman specializing in pen and ink portraits of the major architectural monuments of our region. In 2015, when I asked him, I was thrilled that he donated a group of his finest drawings to the Museum. Many are now on display in the Landers House.

Recently, my wife Tita and I gave to the Museum a Daniel Wentworth Connecticut landscape in his memory. Ars longa, vita brevis est [Art is long, life is short].

Ted Johnson's family—and in particular his mother—was deeply involved with the Museum as a member and active volunteer for decades, and so it was perfectly natural that Ted and Nancy would participate in the cultural life of New Britain once they moved here. As a founding docent, his mother's first civic engagement was going to the public schools, generating enthusiasm and understanding prior to their school visits. Ted and Nancy were behind every single effort to improve the Museum for five decades. Ted helped lead, and they gave personally, to both capital campaigns. They encouraged their family and friends to follow their example.

In Washington, Nancy engineered the transfer of the bankrupt adjacent nursing home to the City of New Britain so the Museum could then buy it, thus providing the space on which to build the new building along with adequate parking. Without this land acquisition, no expansion would have been possible. Next, she secured a million-dollar grant to help underwrite construction. She wrote the various arts endowments endorsing our applications. I am glad that one of the first Museum galas honored Ted and Nancy, whose goodwill toward the Museum knew no bounds.

In writing this memoir, I am mindful of the great debt I owe Sam, Dave, Ted, and Nancy. We could not have achieved our ambition to make the New Britain Museum the Place Where Art *Really* Meets Life without them. Over the years, my wife Tita and I enjoyed their company and friendship. I wish that others will be inspired to follow in their footsteps to make the Museum an ever better place.



Tita and Douglas Hyland with Sam and Janet Bailey



WELCOME TO OUR NEW TRUSTEES AND STAFF



TRUSTEE

John E. Kulesza

Founder and President of Young Pharmaceuticals

“The New Britain Museum of American Art is an international treasure. I’m delighted and honored to participate in the next chapter of its growth.”

TRUSTEE

Joe Aresimowicz

Former member of the Connecticut House of Representatives and two-term House Speaker

“I’ve had the privilege of working closely with the Museum over the past few years, and during that time I’ve seen firsthand the critical role it plays in our community. Its commitment to education, access, and celebrating diverse artistic voices is not only meaningful, but also essential. As a Trustee, I’m most looking forward to supporting the Museum’s mission and helping ensure it continues to thrive for future generations.”



Lydia Holleck

Hamm Family Curatorial Fellow

The Museum is pleased to announce the arrival of Hamm Family Curatorial Fellow Lydia Holleck, who will deepen her knowledge of the Museum’s permanent collection, conduct research on rarely exhibited works, and share new perspectives that connect visitors to themes of place, identity, and belonging. Stay tuned for regular updates on Lydia’s work with permanent collection research and the Hamm Family Initiative.



Dave Fleig

Chief Financial Officer

After a quick first six months, Dave feels right at home. Having spent a few years in corporate, education, and start-up roles, the opportunity to join the Museum was a perfect next step. He is excited to learn and partner with everyone to help support our journey. During the offseason, it's all things family and New York sports.

Jessica Daniel

Exhibitions Coordinator

Jess previously worked at The Wadsworth, where she held several roles over the past five years, most recently as a Collections Assistant. She has always had a deep love for museums and a strong interest in the behind-the-scenes work that supports them. "Being able to join the team to coordinate touring exhibitions and share such an amazing collection with people across the country is incredibly exciting."



Naomi Gorero

Development Assistant

Naomi has always been an avid museum visitor across the world, which influenced her to pursue a career in the museum sector. As an intern and Visitor Service Associate at the New Britain Museum of American Art, Naomi saw the Museum as an impactful space to foster community and build connections. She looks forward to growing the Museum's community and exploring how art connects everyone through her new role assisting with fundraising and membership events. In her down time, she enjoys being creative and making art such as collage, clay, and photography.





Join us for our Museum After Dark (MAD) Parties!

Enjoy a night out with dancing, drinks,
delicious food, and more!

Chinchorro at the Museum

Saturday, April 18, 8-11 p.m.

Tickets:

Early Bird (available through March 31):
\$35 Members, \$45 non-Members

Starting April 1: \$45 Members,
\$55 non-Members

Add on: Salsa Dancing class for
+\$30 Members, +\$40 non-Members

Summer Solstice Party

Saturday, June 13, 8-11 p.m.

Tickets:

Early Bird (available through May 31):
\$35 Members, \$45 non-Members

Starting June 1: \$45 Members,
\$55 non-Members

WINTER SOCIALS

Mixology Course (21+) Presented by LITCHFIELD DISTILLERY

Friday, March 20, 5:30-8 p.m.

Learn to craft iconic drinks sure to impress at
your next gathering.

\$45 Members; \$55 non-Members

Low Strung (21+)

Friday, March 27, 5:30-8 p.m.

Enjoy an elevated evening of craft drinks,
premium hors d'oeuvres, and a special
performance by Low Strung—a group of
classically trained Yale University musicians
turned rock cellists.

\$45 Members; \$55 non-Members



Locomotion

Live Music Schedule

Sunday Music Series

3 p.m., Stanley Works Center

The Museum's longstanding monthly concert series features local & regional performances from a variety of musical genres.

MARCH 8

Connecticut Virtuosi

APRIL 12

Anthony Carabello

MAY 10

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS SPECIAL CONCERT

Mother's Day Celebration with Zhanna Alkhazova

JUNE 14

Nikki Pet

Sponsored by the William T. Sloper Trust for Andrew J. Sloper Musical Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee.

Fryderyk Chopin Society of Connecticut

3 p.m., Stanley Works Center

MARCH 15

Clara Yang

MAY 24

Angelina Gadeliya

APRIL 19

Gabrielius Alekna

For detailed information, please visit the website of our program partners, the Fryderyk Chopin Society of Connecticut: www.chopinsocietyct.org

First Friday

5:30–8 p.m.

Our signature social event features live music, art, food, spirits, and good friends. New Britain's best Happy Hour, since 1995!

Cash bar available; access to Museum galleries is included with your ticket. Event doors will open at 5:30 pm.

MARCH 6

Theresa Wright

APRIL 3

Pangea Worldbeat

MAY 1

Locomotion

JUNE 5

Moto

Sponsored by The Richard P. Garmany Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

Please Note: The venue has capacity for several hundred with limited seating available and a full dance floor. The rest of the space is dedicated for standing room only. Please arrive early for a better chance of securing chairs.

Art Happy Hour

Fridays in the summer, 5:30-8 p.m.

Starting May 29, enjoy live music on Friday nights all summer long, with a front-row seat to the best view of Walnut Hill Park.

NEW BRITAIN
**MUSEUM OF
AMERICAN ART**

56 Lexington Street
New Britain, CT 06052
(860) 229-0257 | nbmaa.org



Keep the Art Coming.

Don't risk a lapse in your Member benefits! Renew early to ensure your Museum access and newsletter delivery remain seamless. Your proactive support helps bypass rising mailing costs and administrative overhead, putting more funding directly into our galleries and programs.

Renew early, stay inspired: nbmaa.org/membership

Take your support to the next level: Upgrade to join a distinguished group of supporters as a member of the **John Butler Talcott Society in its 20th year.**



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GENERAL ADMISSION

Members FREE
Adults \$20
Seniors AGE 67 AND UP \$15
College Students \$10
6-17 years old \$10
5 and under FREE

NEW 2026 MUSEUM HOURS

Monday: CLOSED
Tuesday-Sunday:
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

MUSEUM CAFE

Tuesday-Sunday
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY

Please inquire at the Front Desk for any assistance you may require. We are wheelchair accessible and have two wheelchairs available free of charge.