Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass Annual Report 2019

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Dear Members:

Sometimes celebrating a landmark, like an anniversary, provides an opportunity to examine not only what has transpired, but also look at the road ahead. This past year we sought to assess museum needs within the community and how museums, as well as the arts, can play an important role.

This cannot happen without a talented staff, a loyal volunteer force and a committed board of directors. I would like to honor those people who have helped positively position the museum for the future. Two board members made significant contributions financially and strategically during their tenure. David Woods passed away in April. He served on the museum board of directors from 2011 to 2019. During this period he helped establish and served on a National Advisory Committee of glass artists, collectors and gallerists who helped promote the museum glass initiatives.

Mike Van Asten stepped down as board president after three years in that role, and a total of seven years of board service. He assumed the President's role when asked to fill a time of need. His leadership and commitment supported new friend-raising events and initiatives. He also drove the investigation of a feasibility study to expand the museum in another location. These individuals guided the museum through growth in programming, expanded opportunities addressing the international glass audiences, and examined the impact of such for the museum long term. Their dedication has helped Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass achieve a more prominent position within the national and international glass arena.

As the museum moves forward, it is imperative to continue to build new audiences and focus on relevant programs that blend this national visibility with developments that also engage the local community through some creative collaborative partnerships.

As a glass artist and a board member involved for many years, I understand the work it takes to build these relationships that are key to strengthening the museum for the future. On behalf the Board of Directors of Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, I would like to recognize the commitment both of these individuals made and thank Mike Van Asten for his seven years of service with these last three as president.

Through the efforts of a dedicated staff and a committed board of directors, the museum will be poised to serve the community through art for the next 60 years.

Michael O. Meilahn President

Museums Need to Reinvent and Re-imagine Themselves to Stay Relevant

On April 5, 2019, Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass (BMMOG) turned 60. By that time, it was already shaping up to be a pivotal year and a year of reflection. In fall of 2018, the museum board of directors engaged McDonald Schaefer Group to conduct a study to build a new larger museum with expanded educational offerings. We hoped to capitalize on our strengths in the glass arena in the downtown area. We learned we must reinvent.

Museums are repositioning and re-imagining themselves in their communities to remain relevant. They flow from exhibition temples to spaces of social engagement to neutral platforms for community discourse. They present contemporary artists as messengers. Artists create powerful messages and glass is a medium that readily conveys metaphors that we find applicable to community concerns. This year, we attempted to find that intersection where art addressed local and national concerns. One of our exhibitions examined women's issues that ranged from women's roles and identity to climate change through the work of nine women glass artists. Sharper Edges: Women Working on the Edge of Glass also included related programming designed to empower young women by introducing them to successful artists.

By launching the exhibition Reflecting Perspectives: Artists Confront Issues of Diversity and Inclusion, you accepted yet another plateau recognizing the changes in the world around us. This exhibition took a close look at issues of racial bias, gender bias, cultural stereotyping and environmental disregard. You allowed us to risk sharing these voices, and the community responded with a thank you.

Art has shaped BMMOG's world and work over the last 60 years with glass as our cutting edge, and you as members who have come right along with us. The collections, programming and educational outreach continue to grow, so we can engage new regional audiences, as well as nurture national glass collectors like the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass. Museum growth has supported local economic growth and a creative community.

During this 60th year, various community engagement opportunities continue to examine these transitions and trends. Through the newly launched SPARK program, an initiative for those in the early stages of cognitive change and their care partners; through extensive work and development of the collections; hands-on learning in the glass studio; or unique work for sale in the shop, this invested team at your museum has shaped BMMOG to be place for visitor engagement and learning, as we see the next 60 years unfold.

Your vigilance, tolerance, encouragement and support have helped this museum team remain nimble, take a few risks, expand relationships and shape a new vision. We are grateful to you as our partners in exploring new possibilities together. Thank you.

Jan Mirenda Smith Executive Director

Exhibitions

Sharper Edges: Women Working on the Edge of Glass November 15, 2018 – February 17, 2019

Women are a formidable force in the growth of contemporary studio glass, despite the challenges they face receiving a level of recognition their male counterparts enjoy. This exhibit examined select female artists speaking with distinct viewpoints on social issues of politics, gender biases, stereotypes, and environmental concerns. Contemporary artists on view included the grande dame of contemporary studio glass, Audrey Handler, as well as Susan Taylor Glasgow, Beth Lipman, Lisa Koch, Stephanie Trenchard, Carmen Lozar, Kristin Thielking, Deanna Clayton, and Lisa Beth Robinson.

Reflecting Perspectives: Artists Confront Issues of Diversity and Inclusion April 18 – September 22, 2019

The Reflecting Perspectives exhibition focused on how artists use the power of their art to promote diversity and inclusion. The complex social, cultural, and environmental challenges shaping our global landscape inform the artists' work and provided a backdrop for advancing dialogue in these areas.

The exhibit included the work of Joyce J. Scott, Tim Tate, Helen Lee, Pearl Dick, Raven Skyriver, Patrick Wadley, and John Moran, as well as the collaborative work of Preston Singletary and Marcus Amerman, and brothers Einar and Jamex De La Torre.





Education

Area High School Students Work in Glass

The Fox Valley Area High School Glass Exhibition at Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass was on view for the month of March to showcase talented young area artists during Youth Art Month. Students from Appleton East, Appleton North, Berlin, Neenah, New London, Menasha, Omro, St. Mary Catholic, and Valders participated.

Throughout the months of January and February, students worked in The Glass Studio with artists Sara Rezin, Beth Wenger Johnstone, and Taylor Moeller-Roy creating objects using flame working techniques to make beads. Students experimented with a variety of fused glass methods. The majority of the works exhibited were created during these workshops.





Lessons in Being Women Through Glass

With visiting glass artist Deanna Clayton, tween girls from Boys and Girls Club in Menasha chatted about what it means to be a woman. As their conversation flowed toward the persona of Mother Nature, the young ladies planned their own pate de verre, or glass paste, sculptures with themes that empower them.

The young women spent an afternoon at the museum viewing the Sharper Edges exhibit. They learned about Clayton's work in the pate de verre technique and heard her point of view in the creation of her sculptures of women.

This event was made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region and the Les and Dar Stumpf Family Fund.



Visionary Artist Joyce J. Scott Visits During the Reflecting Perspectives Exhibit

MacArthur Foundation Fellow and Smithsonian Visionary Artist Joyce J. Scott visited the museum during the Reflecting Perspectives exhibit to sprinkle zesty wisdom on our understanding of the work on view. Dr. Scott is a world-renowned artist who works in fiber, beads and glass. Using family stories, life experiences, and a calling to advocate for social justice, she weaves stories of human happiness and horror throughout her work. She exhibited five pieces in the exhibit: Harriet's Rifle 2, 2018, Lynched Tree, 2011, Man Eating Watermelon, 1986, War Woman I, 2014, and Buddha (Earth) 2013.

She presented at several venues in the community, including Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Lawrence University, an evening with collectors from the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass, and a fundraising event, gallery talk and studio demonstration at the museum.

Community

Art After Dark Scorches Attendance Records

To celebrate the Summer Solstice, the museum staff brought fire and modern dance to the lakeside lawn for Art After Dark. Nearly 850 people visited the museum that evening, viewing the Reflecting Perspectives exhibit, making paper lanterns and watching the lawn performances. Art After Dark events occur on select Thursdays throughout the year. Other popular themes in FY 2019 included a December Festivus event as an antidote to holiday stress and a Naughty Bits tour of the collection in February. Each event brought new visitors and new fans to the museum.



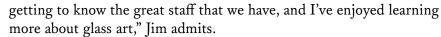
SPARK! Sessions Lighten Days for People with Memory Loss

June brought warmer temperatures and a warm, welcoming space for people experiencing cognitive changes and their care partners. Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass officially became part of the SPARK! Alliance of museums and cultural organizations in Wisconsin and Minnesota with specially trained staff who offer programs to the community. This program is made possible by a grant from Bader Philanthropies.

Jim Morgenstern, Volunteer

After moving to Neenah in 1981 to take a job with Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Jim Morgenstern first volunteered at the museum in 1995. Serving on the board of directors from then until 2003, he held the office of president from 1996-97. That's quite a commitment from a person who, when he first heard about the museum, thought paperweights were silly.

"Of course, that perspective changed quickly once I got to know more about the museum and its collection. It's been fun

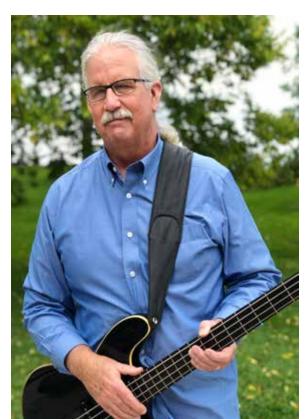


Jim has since traded his directorship for a position in The Museum Shop where his favorite part of his continued involvement is working with customers.

Outside the museum, making music is a favorite activity for Jim. He is an active musician, playing trombone and euphonium in the Fox Valley Concert Band, electric upright bass in the Neenah Ambassadors

Big Band, bass guitar in the band Hard Drive and guitar (and occasionally mandolin and banjo) in his church band. His greatest loves, however, are his wife, Connie, daughters, Elizabeth and Kristin, and grandchildren Eddie and Edith.









Select Acquisitions





Johne Parsley, Paperweight, 1987. Gift of Gary and Marge McClanahan; Audrey Handler and John Martner, The Pear in a Cherry Chair, 2018. Museum purchase with gift funds from David Woods; Susan Taylor Glasgow, Eve's Penance, 2005. Museum purchase with gift support from the Betty Smith Memorial Fund and contributions from Fred and Sharon Schomer, Bonnie Marx, and Bud and Libby Hoffman; Beth Lipman, Fruit and Cullet Centerpiece, 2011. Gift of Heller Gallery NYC.





Accessions

Gary and Marge McClanahan have provided exceedingly generous support for Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass financially, in-kind, and with gifts from their personal paperweight collection. The results of this longstanding relationship can be seen once again this year through gifts of antique and modern paperweights, hand selected by the museum executive director in keeping with their wishes to maintain this stellar collection. We are extremely grateful to all of these generous contributors, for this is how museums share incredible objects with the public.

Gifts of Gary and Marge McClanahan

Johne Parsley and Perthshire Paperweights, Perthshire/Parsley Pedestal, 1993 Compagnie des Cristalleries de Saint Louis, Paperweight Val Saint Lambert, Paperweight, 1850-1900 Compagnie des Verreries et Cristalleries de Baccarat, Paperweight Cristallerie de Pantin, Paperweight Compagnie des Cristalleries de Saint Louis, Paperweight, 1848 Compagnie des Cristalleries de Saint Louis, Paperweight New England Glass Company, Paperweight New England Glass Company, Yellow Leaf Cross Paperweight Cristallerie de Clichy, Paperweight (8) Cristallerie de Clichy, Miniature Bird Paperweight Cristallerie de Clichy, Trefoil Garland Paperweight Cristallerie de Clichy, Medium Millefiori Paperweight Travis Chaudoir, Hummingbird Paperweight, 2009 Gordon Smith, Strawberries Paperweight, 1996 Loren Stump, Paperweight, 1999 Johne Parsley, Paperweight, 1987 Parabelle Glass, Triple Stack Paperweight, 1998 James Kontes and Nontas Kontes, Paperweight Basket Perthshire Paperweights, Scent Bottle with Stopper, 1984-1985 Perthshire Paperweights, Medium Millefiori Paperweight, 1989 Perthshire Paperweights, Large Millefiori Paperweight, 1989 Perthshire Paperweights, Medium Millefiori Paperweight, 1989 Perthshire Paperweights, Medium Millefiori Paperweight, 1990 Perthshire Paperweights, Medium Millefiori Paperweight, 1991 Perthshire Paperweights, Medium Millefiori Paperweight, 1991 Perthshire Paperweights, Large Millefiori Paperweight, 1992 Perthshire Paperweights, Medium Millefiori Paperweight, 1994 Perthshire Paperweights, Small Millefiori Paperweight, 1995 Perthshire Paperweights, Medium Millefiori Paperweight, 1995 Perthshire Paperweights, Medium Millefiori Paperweight, 1997 Perthshire Paperweights, Magnum Millefiori Paperweight, 1999 Perthshire Paperweights, Large Millefiori Paperweight, 2000 Perthshire Paperweights, Large Millefiori Paperweight, 2001

Daum Freres, Untitled Art Deco Vase, ca. 1930. Gift of David Huchthausen

Beth Lipman, Fruit and Cullet Centerpiece, 2011. Gift of Heller Gallery NYC

Susan Taylor Glasgow, Eve's Penance, 2005. Museum purchase with gift support from the Betty Smith Memorial Fund and contributions from Fred and Sharon Schomer, Bonnie Marx and Bud and Libby Hoffman

Audrey Handler and John Martner, The Pear in a Cherry Chair, 2018. Museum purchase with gift funds from David Woods

Deanna Clayton, Scarred, 2015. Museum purchase with gift funds from the Family of Leon DeJongh

Jaromir Rybak, Untitled, 2001. Gift of Barry and Donna Rice

Stephanie Trenchard, Four Artists, 2015. Museum purchase with gift funds from the Family of Leon DeJongh

Kristin Thielking, Wrecked 2, 2018. Museum purchase with gift funds from the Marion Shepard Memorial Fund

Lisa Koch, Pale Blue Dot. Museum Purchase with gift funds from the Marjorie Bergstrom Moore Memorial Fund

Mark Peiser, Sunset Returning from Atlanta, 1990. Gift from the Estate of Wayne and Jean Roper

Mary Shaffer, Tool Box, 1997. Gift of Bruce and Judy Bendoff

Marvin Lipofsky, Czech Flowers, 1991 - 1992. Gift of Bruce and Judy Bendoff

Unknown maker, Cranberry Opalescent Epergne, 1870-1890. Gift in Memory of Marilyn A. Rogge

Toland Sand, Light Wedge, 2002. Gift of Gerald Silverstein and Bob Zimmerman

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Bruce and Judy Bendoff Contemporary Glass Collectors

Bruce and Judy Bendoff first became fans of Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass many years ago when they would stop to visit on their way to Door County. Oftentimes, they would meet their friends, Judy and Rick Conne, from Madison, as a convenient meeting spot. They came to love the museum - its history, the collections, and the exhibitions.

"Our first impression was that so much old and new was contained and so well organized in a small structure," the Bendoffs said.

They became better acquainted with the museum through executive director, Jan Mirenda Smith, who began visits to request loans for exhibitions. One of their first loans was a Fritz Dreisbach Mongo vase. When they toured with the Midwest Contemporary Glass Art Group and saw their piece exhibited so beautifully at the museum, they realized it looked much better professionally displayed than it did in their home. They were moved to promise to gift the piece to the museum in the near future, a promise that was fulfilled

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in 2015, with other subsequent gifts.

"Whenever we visit and see a piece from our collection, we are proud to have some involvement in this collector and museum relationship. Our pieces are always wonderfully displayed and know that we are fulfilling our glass group's mission of putting glass before the public," they said.

Since selling their home and splitting their collection between Naples, FL and Highland Park, IL,

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they have gifted additional pieces. Their relationship with the museum through Jan and the staff has been one of valued friendship and respect.

The Bendoffs explain, "We have been enriched as collectors by our relationship to the museum through gifting and we would encourage other collectors to do so as well. The joy we experience and the responsible easy way in which business is handled at Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass will make other collectors happy with the experience."

Roger and Lynn Van Vreede, Patrons of the Arts

Lynn and Roger Van Vreede became active supporters of Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass because they believe the Arts are a basic need. "We believe that without the Arts the world would be a very different place, not one that we would choose to live in," they explained.

"Following the progression of growth and change in the organization, it has been a privilege to become involved financially, in addition to participating in programs and events. We are happy to support not only exceptional glass exhibits but also education for children and adults alike," they continued.



The Van Vreedes expect Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass to continue its evolution and want to be a part of it. "After traveling to museums around the world, we realize what a gem we have right here in Neenah, WI. We

encourage others that want to make a difference in their community to get involved. Working together we can sustain a world-class glass museum that displays glass from the past and reaches into the future of modern glass."

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\$30.74 In Person Average Spending at Non-profit Arts and Culture vent or Venue in the Fox Cities

I /,0Ið Vistors to Berystrom-Mahler Museum of Glass in FY 2019

Results in \$541,577 Visitor Spending in Our Community by Museum Guests

In our community, museum organizational and visitor spending of \$1.5 million supports generates



Ellyn Sachs

Jean Schultz

Park and Lynne Smith

Solea Mexican Grill

Michael Steffen

Jen Stevenson

John Timmer

Kelly Stoll

Jan Smith

\$134,491

Mayauel Ward Xtreme Clean Kathy Ziminski

*a fund within The Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region

We apologize for an omissions. Please contact us and we will correct our database.

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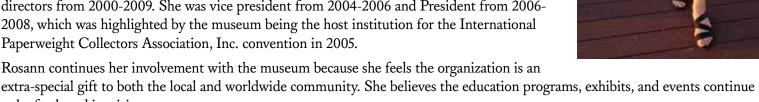
Rosann Milius, Member, Collector, Cheerleader

On lunch break walks through Riverside Park with coworkers 33 years ago, Rosann Milius discovered the treasure that is Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass. Visits to the museum became an escape from the stress of corporate life into the relaxing world of art, and eventually into collecting glass art and even volunteering in The Museum Shop.

In 1997, now completely enthralled with glass, Rosann became president of the newly formed Evangeline Bergstrom Paperweight Collectors Group promoting the art of small scale glass sculptures, historically referred to as paperweights.

"Glass and the artists that create with it never cease to amaze me with countless techniques and skills needed to express their ideas and share their creativity. I'm fascinated to look into the depths of their work, knowing and appreciating the skilled artistic hands that were needed to create it," she said.

As her passion for Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass grew, she served on the board of directors from 2000-2009. She was vice president from 2004-2006 and President from 2006-2008, which was highlighted by the museum being the host institution for the International Paperweight Collectors Association, Inc. convention in 2005.



extra-special gift to both the local and worldwide community. She believes the education programs, exhibits, and events continue to be fresh and inspiring.

"Watching the wonder and awe in children's eyes or the moments of peace as others escape the stress from the outside world, even if only for a brief amount of time is what inspires me to continue to support this treasure that graces our world. By giving gifts of patronage, financial, and art glass donations I hope to play a role to ensure the museum's longevity for generations to come," she explains.

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In Memoriam

Donna Bailey Robert Di Renzo Sharon Fenlon Karl and Dorothy Forsgren **Rev. Donald F. Hetzler** Gareth Jones Robert Lieber Lillian Renner Bob Rosenak David H. Woods





In Memoriam

David Woods was a member of Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass Board of Directors since 2011. He passed away on April 26th at his Appleton home. David was an avid collector of many things, including glass and he quickly became an enthusiastic advocate and patron. He served on BMMOG's Glass Advisory Council and as Vice President of the museum board, but stepped down to assist another nonprofit. A David Woods Memorial Scholarship fund has been established to enable low income youth participation in a museum art activity.

Mission

Engage, Excite and Educate our regional and global audiences using our world renowned glass paperweights, glass collections and changing exhibitions.

Vision

The Place for Exciting Discoveries in Glass!



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