



THE COLUMBUS MUSEUM ANNUAL MEETING

2021



ANNUAL MEETING 2021

May 20, 2021

Welcome / Call Members' Meeting to Order.....	D. Steven Sharp
President's Remarks.....	D. Steven Sharp
Nominating Report/Presentation of Nominees Members' Election of Board Nominees.....	Melanie Slaton
Adjourn Members' Meeting/Convene Board Meeting.....	D. Steven Sharp
Adjourn Board Meeting/Election of Officers Reconvene Members' Meeting.....	D. Steven Sharp
Finance Committee Report.....	Tyler A. Townsend
Director's Report.....	Marianne Richter
Collections Report.....	James Hall
Closing Remarks/Adjournment.....	D. Steven Sharp



The mission of the Columbus Museum is to bring American art and history to life for the communities of the Chattahoochee Valley.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2020 -21

D. Steven Sharp, *President*
Chris Henson, *Vice President*
Thomas A. Wade, Jr., *Corresponding Secretary*
Marianne Richter, *Museum Director/Recording Secretary*
Tyler A. Townsend, *Treasurer*
Carolynn Obleton, *Immediate Past President*

Daniel P. Amos, Kathelen V. Amos, Eliza Brewer,
Zack Bishop, Kay Broda, Lance Brooks,
Lark Champion, J. Robert Elliott, Jr.,
Gail B. Greenblatt, James E. Hall, Pace Halter,
Robert Hecht, Helen Hobbs, Thornton F. Jordan, Dori
Jones, Billy Kendall, Tricia Llewellyn Konan,
Mary Lu Lampton, Martin Lyles, Sallie Martin,

W. Fray McCormick, Becky Miller,
Elizabeth C. Ogie, Deani Pahl, Rebecca Rumer,
Gwendolyn H. Ruff, Otis J. Scarborough,
Melanie Slaton, Melissa Murray Smith,
Otis E. Tillman, E. Worth Williams

LIFE TRUSTEES:

Philip L. Brewer, Elizabeth T. Corn,
Evelyn T. Crowley, Ethel W. Foley, Judy S. Harris,
F. Clason Kyle, Betsy T. Leebern, Jerry B. Newman,
Thelma M. Robinson, Rebecca K. Yarbrough

HONORARY TRUSTEES:

James H. Blanchard, Representative Calvin Smyre,
J. Barrington Vaught

MUSEUM STAFF

Marianne Richter, *Director*
Lacey Yeend, *Assistant to the Director*

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITIONS

Jonathan Frederick Walz, *Director of Curatorial Affairs & Curator of American Art*
Rebecca Bush, *Curator of History/Exhibitions Manager*
Aimee Brooks, *Collections Manager*
Miles Kirkpatrick, *Assistant Collections Manager*
Cameron Faucette, *Exhibition Coordinator & Designer*
Keith Smith, *Lead Preparator/Art & Artifacts Handler*
Yun Nye, *Associate Artifacts Handler & Exhibit Preparator*

EDUCATION

Lucy Kacir, *Director of Education & Engagement*
Jessamy South, *Youth & Family Programs Manager*
Rachel Vogt, *Academic Programs Manager*
Imani Jones-Pugh, *Community Outreach Coordinator*
Brittany Merchant, *Gallery Teacher*

DEVELOPMENT

J. Hunter Peak, *Director of Development*
Kelly Cargill, *Event Sales Manager*
Morgan Wilson, *Campaign Coordinator*

Shivkumar Desai, *Membership & Grants Coordinator*

MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Bridgette Russell, *Director of Marketing & Public Relations*
Marcolm Tatum, *Graphic Designer*
Cesar Colon Torres, *Marketing & PR Coordinator*

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Kimberly Beck, *Deputy Director for Operations*
Paula Evans, *Accounting Specialist*
Brooke Starling, *Gift Shop Manager/Volunteer Coordinator*
Jori Kent, *Museum Shop Associate*
Joi Iverson, *Visitor Services Representative*
Rosaline Anderson, *Visitor Services Representative*
Rick McGowan, *Security Chief*
Larry Hunter, *Security Deputy*
Al Johnson, *Security Deputy*
Edward Diamond, *Maintenance Engineer*
Sam Willis, *Maintenance Technician*
Custodians: Martha Culp, Alice Holmes,
Dorothy James
Bill Consoletti, *Gardener*



COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITIONS

- Between July 2020 and March 2021, the Collections department researched, presented, and processed 181 objects as additions to the permanent collection. Several of these new treasures have already debuted in the Museum's galleries.
- 461 items were added to the Museum's public online database bringing the total from 3,685 to 4,148, including 309 new acquisitions and 152 objects already in the collection.
- From July 2020 through May 2021, department staff members researched, organized, designed, and installed 10 exhibitions. Nine of these exhibitions were based on new and original research by Museum staff. Numerous outdoor interpretive signs on the grounds were also updated.
- The Museum loaned pieces from its collection to four exhibitions:
 - Childe Hassam, Hamilton Hamilton, Chauncey Ryder, and Emil Carlsen, to *Impressionism: Translating the Modern World*, Jule Collins Smith Museum, Auburn, AL, March 24 – November 29, 2020
 - William Beckman, *Cody*, to *A Telling Instinct: John James Audubon & Contemporary Art*, Asheville Art Museum, Asheville, NC, February 21 – November 30, 2020
 - Carl Holty, five works, to *Carl Holty, Romantic Modernist*, Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA, August 29, 2020 – January 17, 2021
 - Augusta Savage, *Lift Every Voice and Sing (The Harp)*, to *Uptown 2020*, The Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University, New York, NY, September 24, 2020 – February 28, 2021

◀ Therman Statom, *Cuatro Historias Sobre La Luz*, 2020, sheet glass, mixed media, The Fund for African American Art, The Columbus Museum G.2021.8

AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS

AWARDS:

- In support of the exhibition *Alma W. Thomas: Everything Is Beautiful* and accompanying catalogue, the curatorial team wrote and submitted grant proposals to the following organizations, which, in turn, awarded funding: The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Wyeth Foundation for American Art, Furthermore: a program of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, and the Society for the Preservation of American Modernists
- The exhibition *Mystery Science Museum 3000* and the Columbus State University students who co-curated it, Shyrisse Ramos and Jordan Spires, received the 2021 Georgia Association of Museums Student Project Award

PUBLICATIONS:

- Curator of History & Exhibitions Manager Rebecca Bush published:
 - Museum's Lovelace coverlet article in the Winter 2020 issue of *Winterthur Portfolio*, a journal of American material culture. An image of the coverlet served as the issue's cover art.
 - "Alma Woodsey Thomas: 'The Marionette Show as a Correlating Activity in the Public Schools,' 1934," in *Living Objects: African American Puppetry*, John Bell, ed. Storrs, CT: University of Connecticut, 2020
- Director of Curatorial Affairs & Curator of American Art Jonathan Frederick Walz published:
 - "The Gleaners: Alma Thomas and Warren Rohrer at the Edge of the Field," in *Field Language: Paintings and Poetry* by Warren and Jane Rohrer, Julia Kasdorf & Joyce Robinson, eds. University Park, PA: Palmer Museum of Art and Penn State University Press, 2020
 - "Vibrations of Pasaquan: Contemporary Artists Respond to St. EOM," in *Vibrations of Pasaquan: Contemporary Artists Respond to St. EOM*, M. McFalls & J. Walz, eds. Columbus, GA: Columbus State University, 2020



▲ Jonathan VanDyke, *In a Different Voice*, 2019, water-based paint and inks on cotton t-shirt material, cut and sewn; backed with dyed linen and photos (archival prints on canvas), The Ella E. Kirven Charitable Lead Trust for Acquisitions with a partial gift of the artist in honor of The Columbus Museum staff, The Columbus Museum G.2021.5

SPONSORSHIPS & GRANTS

- The Museum received the following sponsorships, grants and community support of the 2020-21 fiscal year:
 - *Paolo Arao: In Dialogue with Drawing* was generously supported by W.C. Bradley Company
 - *Quilts from the Collection of Paul M. Goggans, Part 1* was generously sponsored by Mr. Alan F. Rothschild, Jr. through The Fort Trustee Fund, Community Fund of the Chattahoochee Valley
 - *Axis Among Us: World War II POW Camps in the Chattahoochee Valley* was generously sponsored by MetroPower
 - Aflac has generously sponsored three upcoming unique exhibitions ranging in topics from local civil rights history to artworks on paper by African American artists to hidden gems from the Museum's collection
 - Community outreach was supported by Phillips Auction House, the Columbus Office of Crime Prevention, the Georgia Council for the Arts, the Next Generation Fund of the Bradley-Turner Foundation, the Rotary Club of Columbus, the Synovus Financial Corporation, and The Walter Alan Richards Foundation
 - The Georgia Council for the Arts, Georgia Humanities, J.W. and Ethel I. Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts generously contributed funds to the Museum for COVID-19 relief and operational support
 - The 2020 year-end giving campaign raised more than \$30,000, an increase of 38 percent over the previous year

◀ Ernest Fokes, *Jordan City Mill*, Columbus, Georgia, 2012 (printed 2013), platinum palladium print on paper, Gift of the Artist, The Columbus Museum G.2020.65.1

PRESENTATIONS & TALKS

- Curator of History & Exhibitions Manager Rebecca Bush gave the following:
 - Virtual lecture entitled “Fort Benning and Columbus, Georgia: A Community Transformed” for the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, LA, January 6, 2021
- Curator of History & Exhibitions Manager Rebecca Bush presented:
 - Remote internship projects at the Georgia Association of Museums annual conference in Statesboro, April 26, 2021
- Curator of History & Exhibitions Manager Rebecca Bush, as well as Museum volunteer Sherricka Day, presented:
 - “Compelling Evidence: Telling New Stories from Familiar Narratives” as part of the virtual annual meeting of the National Council on Public History, March 26, 2021
- Director of Curatorial Affairs and Curator of American Art Jonathan Frederick Walz, Ph.D. presented
 - “Alma W. Thomas: Unexpected Presence on the Global Stage,” African American Art in the International Arena: Critical Perspectives, College Art Association, February 12, 2021
 - “Impossible Interviews: Artists Alma Thomas and Warren Rohrer in Conversation,” Palmer Museum of Art, Penn State University, February 16, 2021



Swamp Fox Distilling Company hand sanitizer bottle, 2020. Gift of Swamp Fox Distilling Company, The Columbus Museum G.2020.44 ►



▲ Unknown artist, Vase with incised decoration, 1950s, Ceramic: cream color background with olive green decoration, The Art Acquisition and Restoration Fund, The Columbus Museum G.2020.43.1

VISITORSHIP & PROGRAMS

■ VISITORS:

- As of April 30, The Columbus Museum recorded 7,878 visitors. This number has been impacted by reduced hours of operation as well as reduced building capacity.

■ PROGRAMS:

This year, the education department continued to create virtual programs and resources for Museum audiences in addition to relaunching limited in-person programs in late 2020.

- In summer 2020, a new series of virtual programs for families was launched—covering topics such as at-home art-making activities, artist talks and features, and a virtual adaptation of our canceled Gallery Scenes program
- School programs continued in a virtual format:
 - The Museum’s virtual school tour program served almost 800 students and teachers this year, throughout the local area and around the country.
 - Museum PALS (Pre-K Art & Literacy in Schools) expanded to 16 classes in six different MCS D schools this year, reaching 312 students and teachers each month.
- Virtual artist talks and lectures covered a range of topics and presented the opportunity to partner with speakers who would not have been able to attend in-person programs.
- In place of the Museum’s popular family festivals, the Education team created hybrid virtual events combined with take-home activity kits.
 - 716 people engaged with the virtual Fall Festival
 - 150 people engaged with the virtual February Festival
- Mini Makers, the Museum’s gallery program for children aged 2-5 years and their caregivers, was also adapted to this format, serving 99 children over the course of the year.
- The Education department partnered with the Development department to distribute 200 activity bags to individuals and community partners.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The COVID-19 pandemic halted traditional special events at the Museum. The team did creatively present the following events with safety of guests and staff in mind:

FARM TO TABLE(AUX):

- Cancelled in the spring due to the pandemic, the fall Farm to Table(aux) virtual fundraiser was led by co-chairs Kathelen Amos and Eliza Brewer in a hybrid format. The event included a drive-thru meet and greet with Celebrity Chef Alex Hitz, who prepared a boxed dinner to go. After the drive-thru, the Museum broadcast a program to update our guests on Museum education programs, events, and exhibitions and to show them appreciation for helping us achieve our goals during a very challenging year.

MASTER CIRCLE 2020:

- The Columbus Museum hosted our annual Master's Circle gathering in early December. Rather than the traditional dinner, guests were invited to sit outside under beautiful lights provided by RSL Theatrical Lighting and enjoy The Columbus Ballet perform "Waltz of the Snowflake" from *The Nutcracker*. Master Circle Members received a gift bag with wine from our wine sponsors, Georgia Crown, and light snacks. Gift bags were delivered to members who were unable to attend.

ALMA THOMAS SOCIETY 2021:

- On February 2, The Alma Thomas Society voted and chose this year's winning piece of art, Therman Statom's glass assemblage sculpture *Cuatro Historias Sobre La Luz*, 2020. The event included voters attending in person and on Zoom. Attendees received a gift bag that included Alma Thomas-themed notecards, magnets and a face mask. It also included two books from former and current exhibits focused on African American history and art.

2021 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER - FABRIC OF OUR COMMUNITY:

- On April 22, the Museum held the spring fundraiser, Fabric of our Community, themed around our current third floor show, *Paolo Arao: In Dialogue with Drawing* as well as the Chattahoochee Valley's rich legacy in the textile industry. Patron Sponsors received gift bags tied with Larkin Lane fabric as well as access to videos produced by the Museum's Public Relations & Marketing team that featured a welcome and appreciation message from Director Marianne Richter; an exclusive tour of the Paolo Arao exhibition with Curator of American Art Jonathan Frederick Walz, Ph.D.; and a history talk with Curator of History Rebecca Bush. Upon arrival, guests were greeted by stilt walkers from The Springer Theater Academy and enjoyed beautifully packaged charcuterie boxes, Paolo Arao-inspired cookies, and wine donated by Georgia Crown. All Patrons were entered into a raffle for two beautiful pieces of art by Arao and a two-night stay at Hotel Indigo with dinner included.



Unknown maker, *Baltimore Album quilt*, 1840s, cotton, Gift of Andy and Matthew Moyer in memory of Sue M. Moyer, The Columbus Museum G.2020.72.1



▲ Allen Horne, *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*, Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership, Columbus Tech, 1974, gelatin silver print, The General Acquisitions Fund, The Columbus Museum G.2021.1.6

THE VIRTUAL MUSEUM

The Museum continued to maintain the Virtual Museum through online talks, tours and programs, adding content to educator resources, the Virtual Museum for Kids, as well as programming for adults. Since July 1, 2020:

- Visits to the Virtual Museum landing page have increased by 96 percent
- Visits to columbusmuseum.com have increased by 17 percent
- The number of visitors to the Museum's website has increased by 45 percent
- Social media engagement continued to increase

VOLUNTEERS

The Museum utilized 131 volunteers this fiscal year in programs and events, totaling 1,132 hours of service.

- The Museum's volunteer department continued its membership with the non-profit Tri-Community Directors of Volunteer Services to better engage with other nonprofits in the community

COLUMBUS MUSEUM SHOP

- The Shop revenue was \$26,493.43 for shop sales as of April 30, 2021
- The Shop welcomed four new consignors: Saturday Expressions, Amanda Weldon Art, Spa Day Holiday, and Sherry Glass' wreaths and driftwood pieces
- The Shop hosted the Holiday Market Open House virtually this year. The Outdoor Spring Market was a socially distanced Open House that was held in-person.
- The Shop hosted the Glass Maker's Workshop in the fall, featuring glass pumpkins, and in the spring, featuring glass flowers
- The Shop continued its memberships with the MidTown Business Association and the Museum Store Association



◀ Frederic Edwin Church, *Alpine Lakes*, ca.1868, Oil on paper, laid down on canvas, Gift of a Friend of the Museum, The Columbus Museum G.2021.16.1