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## **SAMA TO HOLD RIBBON-CUTTING ON JUNE 9, UNVEILING NEW ARCHIVAL STORAGE CENTER**

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 3 p.m. on Thursday, June 9. The ribbon-cutting will unveil the grand opening of the Museum's new archival storage center. The press is invited to attend the ceremony.

SAMA's archival storage expansion project included renovation of the ground floor of the Loretto Museum. Funded by generous grants from the Colcom Foundation and the Donald & Sylvia Robinson Family Foundation, the project significantly increased the Museum's storage capacity, which was necessary to adequately protect and preserve the 4,300-plus works in the Museum collection. The project took nearly 17 months to complete and has increased storage capacity from 1,000 square feet to approximately 5,000 square feet.

Over the years, SAMA's art collection has expanded significantly from a collection of 87 pieces to more than 4,300 works today. The collection includes 18th-, 19th- and 20th-century works by artists such as Albert Bierstadt, Mary Cassatt, Thomas Moran, Gilbert Stuart, Thomas Sully, and Andy Warhol, among others. Additionally, SAMA is the repository of a major collection of works on paper including a two-century survey of American prints, vintage photographs, and noteworthy drawings. SAMA also houses a number of important special collections, such as a comprehensive survey of Steuben glass, the culturally significant Rezk Collection of Tibetan and Nepalese Art, and a collection of Old Master prints and drawings. Works from the permanent collection are available for exhibition to thousands of visitors annually.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto is located on the campus of Saint Francis University. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Museum is open to the public free of charge. For more information, call the Museum at (814) 472-3920 or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).

For more information on the Colcom Foundation, visit [www.colcomfdn.org](http://www.colcomfdn.org).