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### **SAMA, TOMAHAWKS PARTNER ON 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL *ART OF HOCKEY* PROGRAM**

Johnstown – SAMA’s partnership with the Johnstown Tomahawks will continue in 2016 as the two organizations present the third annual *Art of Hockey* program. Scheduled for Friday, March 11 during the Tomahawks game versus the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Knights at the Cambria County War Memorial Arena, the *Art of Hockey* is designed to raise awareness of the importance of the arts in education while also celebrating many of the region’s talented young artists.

The *Art of Hockey* will feature an exhibition of original student-created, hockey-themed artwork, with all fans in attendance having an opportunity to vote for their favorite piece. The artwork selected as the fans’ favorite will win a SAMA Arts-in-Education program for their school. Participating in this year’s *Art of Hockey* program are Blacklick Valley, Forest Hills and Richland school districts. Each school may submit up to 20 pieces for the *Art of Hockey* exhibition. All exhibiting students receive a free ticket to the game. In support of the program, Tomahawks players will visit art classes while the students work on their *Art of Hockey* creations. The exhibition is open to schools that participate in SAMA’s Arts-in-Education programs.

“SAMA is excited to be partnering with the Johnstown Tomahawks for the *Art of Hockey*,” said SAMA Education Coordinator Jessica Campbell. “This is such a wonderful opportunity to combine the visual arts with our local hockey team. We are fortunate to have the support of the Tomahawks in the arts and our local schools.”

The *Art of Hockey* is in celebration of national Youth Art Month, which SAMA also recognizes with its annual *Artists of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* student art exhibition. The exhibition, held each spring at both the Ligonier Valley and Loretto museums, features more than 300 works created by students in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fayette, Somerset and Westmoreland counties. The exhibition is open to schools that participate in SAMA’s education programs.

Sponsorships for the *Art of Hockey* are available through the Tomahawks and SAMA. For \$100, sponsors help send classes of students to the game while also supporting the arts in local schools. Additionally, sponsors receive a pair of club section

tickets to the game, as well as prominent name and logo recognition in the exhibition during the March 11 game, in an insert in the GameDay programs, and on a page promoting the *Art of Hockey* on the Tomahawks website, JohnstownTomahawks.com.

Now in its third year, this marks the fourth *Art of Hockey* exhibition. The program most recently included a special installment at the Pasquerilla Conference Center last September as part of Johnstown's Kraft Hockeyville celebration.

To become a sponsor or to participate in the *Art of Hockey*, please contact Jessica Campbell at (814) 472-3920. For additional information, contact the Tomahawks at (814) 536-GOAL.

The Johnstown Tomahawks are a Tier II Junior A ice hockey team in the North American Hockey League's North Division. The team's first season was 2012-13, when it was named the NAHL's organization of the year. Currently in its 39th season, the NAHL includes twenty-four teams in eleven states across the United States. NAHL alumni include NHL All-Star Thomas Vanek of the Minnesota Wild, former Pittsburgh Penguin Mike Rupp and Pittsburgh native and Stanley Cup champion Brandon Saad.