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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAMA-JOHNSTOWN TO HOST HEALTHCARE WORKSHOP

Johnstown – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Johnstown will host a Museum/Healthcare Partnership Program workshop on Thursday, April 12. The workshop, scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., will provide the community and those in the healthcare field an opportunity to discuss the Museum’s program and to see the impact it has had on patients.

The workshop begins with an overview of SAMA’s Museum/Healthcare Partnership Program. The session also will feature presentations by several artists and healthcare administrators who have participated in the program. Barbara Duryea and Carol Yoder of Conemaugh Health System and Lorrie Hetager, ACEL Program Director at the Home Nursing Agency, Blair County, will be presenting, as will SAMA artists Jan Kinney and Tom McCarty.

“This workshop will give the community the opportunity to see firsthand how the Museum’s Healthcare Partnership Program works and also speak directly with the artists who work with patients at local healthcare agencies,” said SAMA-Johnstown Coordinator Tina Lehman. “We hope to continue these informative workshops annually and provide a great networking experience for those in attendance.”

Since 2003, SAMA’s Museum/Healthcare Partnership Program has been serving area residents suffering from mental and physical disabilities. The program began with a partnership with the Conemaugh Health System and a series of artist residencies at the John P. Murtha Neuroscience and Pain Institute. In 2005, SAMA expanded the program to work with several other agencies. Through the program, trained artists work with healthcare providers to perform residencies designed to provide relief for patients dealing with physical pain and discomfort. Recently, the Museum further expanded the program to work with veterans groups. Since its inception, the Museum/Healthcare Partnership Program has served more than 500 people.

Cost for the workshop is \$30 per person. Reservations are requested by April 9 and can be made by calling the Museum at (814) 269-7234.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Johnstown is located in the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh at

Johnstown. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. For more information, call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.