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## **“CELEBRATE THE ARTS” AT SAMA GALA**

**Loretto** – Summer is the perfect time for celebrations, and this July the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art (SAMA) at Loretto will “Celebrate the Arts” at its 34<sup>th</sup> annual Gala. Organizers are pulling out all the stops for this year’s event, scheduled for Saturday, July 21. Serving as Gala chairs are Jim Cayce, Nancy Sheetz, and Michael Strueber, the Museum’s founding director.

With the theme of “Celebrate the Arts,” every facet of the Gala will reflect the theme, from vibrant and fluorescent colors to highly original and unique decorations including one-of-a-kind table sculptures, mobiles, and outdoor sculptures. The “Artful – Make a Statement” dress code will add glitz and glamour. Guests will be entertained by choreographed dancers from “Cats,” multiple bands and musicians, an art preview, games of chance, and gourmet cuisine.

The auctions this year will be fabulous. The silent auction’s theme is an “Accent on Design,” featuring original and highly collectible decoupage, linoleum floor paintings, and lamps, as well as other traditional collectibles. The live auction will include a prize three-year-old mare, paintings by nationally recognized artists such as Gary Bukovnik and Nicola Simbari, as well as works by regional artists such as Michael Strueber and Helen Gorsuch, hand-painted furniture by Nancy Sheetz, a champagne brunch for ten with private tour at Fallingwater, a one week Caribbean vacation in St. Kitts, and outdoor sculptures, as well as other prized items. And this just in – scholarships from St. Francis University and Juniata College, plus fifteen tickets in a luxury suite at PNC Park to attend a Pittsburgh Pirates game.

The Gala will be held at 6 p.m. on July 21 on the campus of Saint Francis University in Loretto. Tickets are \$175 per person and can be purchased by calling the Museum at (814) 472-3920. Bus transportation will be provided from Altoona and Johnstown.

Over the past three decades, the Gala has evolved into one of the most sophisticated and complex outdoor social events in Pennsylvania. The proceeds from the event enable SAMA’s four museums – Altoona, Johnstown, Ligonier Valley and Loretto – to remain open to the public free of charge. The event also helps underwrite the Museum’s world-class exhibitions and innovative Arts-in-Education and

Museum/Healthcare Partnership programs. For more information on the Gala, call the Museum or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).