

Press Release

MATTATUCK MUSEUM

Adventures in Art & History

144 West Main St. Waterbury, CT 06702

Tues. – Sat. 10 – 5, Sun. Noon – 5

mattmuseum.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A New Vision for the Mattatuck Museum

Waterbury, CT... The Mattatuck Museum, a key component of the cultural, social and educational life of the Waterbury community, announces an \$8 million capital project committed to re-envisioning the Museum. This project focuses on the expansion and renovation of the Museum's historic building on the Green in downtown Waterbury, CT.

“We believe in Waterbury and its future,” says Bob Burns, Director of the Mattatuck Museum. “We pledge to use our strength as a cultural beacon to bring an expanded audience of visitors to downtown.”

Planning for this capital project began with the Museum's 2014 Strategic Plan. During the nearly yearlong process, the Board explored many scenarios with a goal of improving the Museum visitor's experience while also empowering the Museum to achieve its educational mission. The planning process resulted in the Board's commitment to reimagining the current space in order to meet the institution's goals and play a key role in Waterbury's economic growth by increasing visitation to downtown. The project dovetails with the multimillion-dollar investment of state, federal and private funds pledged to revitalize the City of Waterbury through the Downtown Next and T.I.G.E.R. grant programs.

Following the adoption of the Strategic Plan, the Museum engaged the architectural firm of Ann Beha Architects (ABA) to undertake a space use survey and to present options to reshape the Museum to be a welcoming, inclusive, and enriching community anchor. ABA's proposal led to the 2015 renovation of the Museum's galleries and performing arts center. Following the completion of these transformative projects, the Museum Board contracted with ABA in 2016 to develop a major renovation plan, which has resulted in the final design for construction. The Museum has contracted with New Britain-based Downes Construction who will be the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for the project. ABA and Downes have worked together on several projects including both phases of the expansion of the New Britain Museum of American Art.

ABA's construction and renovation plan for the Mattatuck allows the Museum to implement an exciting vision that includes two new educational studio spaces, allowing for an increase in school tours, family programs, and adult studio classes. It also includes a new elevator that is better equipped to accommodate large-scale, high quality traveling exhibitions; additional exhibition space; new preparatory and storage space for collections; expanded parking; and a more welcoming exterior that invites the community and visitors into the Museum.

The expansion will provide a new entrance; dedicated museum shop, café, and community spaces; an outdoor roof terrace overlooking Waterbury's historic green; areas for displaying large-scale sculptures; and a striking and welcoming architectural presence that will transform the landscape of downtown Waterbury. The renovation of over 10,000 square feet of existing space within the Museum allows for the enhancement of educational programs and exhibition offerings, greater access for scholars to archives and library

materials, and renovated office spaces. The project also includes enhancements to HVAC, climate controls, and fire suppression systems.

“The project strikes a positive economic development note for downtown Waterbury by adding an estimated \$1 million to the local economy each year following its completion,” notes Board President, Mary Rosengrant-Chiappalone. “As an industry that provides jobs and generates revenue through admissions, rentals, and café and shop sales, the new Museum will be a cornerstone of regional tourism.”

To accomplish its goals, the Museum formed a Campaign Leadership Council led by co-chairs Nancy Becker and C. Hiram Upson. The team, comprised of current and former Board members, local volunteers, and Museum staff, has been working diligently over the last two years to raise private and public funds for the project. To date, they have secured gifts and pledges totaling more than \$6.6 million from individuals, foundations, corporations, as well as local, state, and federal sources.

“We are so grateful for the leadership and support of Senator Joan Hartley, Representative Jeff Berger, the entire Waterbury delegation in Hartford, and Mayor Neil O’Leary for their support throughout the project,” says Burns. “It is only through their focused and combined efforts that we were able to secure a bonding grant from the State for this project. This \$3 million ensures the success of this transformational project and serves as a catalyst for our efforts to secure the remaining funds.”

The Museum is now in the public phase of the campaign to raise the remaining funds and plans to begin construction in spring 2019. “We are grateful for the efforts of the Campaign Leadership Committee over the past two years,” says Becker. “As they have talked through the building plans and shared their enthusiasm with the greater Waterbury community, we have seen people embrace this vision and invest in bringing the plan to fruition. The successful completion of this project will secure the Mattatuck’s legacy for future generations.”

The Committee is asking for the support of the Greater Waterbury Area to complete the campaign. Gifts of any size from \$50 to \$500 to \$50,000 will bring the Museum closer to its final fundraising goal.

For more information on how to contribute to the Mattatuck Museum’s Capital Campaign contact Cyndi Tolosa, Director of Development at cyndi@mattmuseum.org or (203) 753-0381 x120 or learn more about the plan at mattmuseum.org/campaign.

During construction, which is estimated to be completed in 12-15 months, the Mattatuck Museum will operate a temporary museum exhibit at the historic Rose Hill mansion, located at 63 Prospect Street. In addition to tours of the Mattatuck collections on view, a special exhibit on Rose Hill will be on display. The Museum staff also plans to offer a series of special programs and events throughout the construction period that will happen throughout the City including lectures, tours, pop-up exhibits, and other surprises for members and visitors. A grand opening event at Rose Hill is in the works and details for the spring 2019 event will be provided at a date in the near future.

Located in the heart of downtown Waterbury’s architectural district, the Mattatuck Museum is a vibrant destination, known locally and regionally as a community-centered institution of American art and history. For more information on all of the Museum’s programs, events, and exhibits visit the website at mattmuseum.org or call (203) 753-0381.

The Mattatuck Museum is operated with support from the Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development/CT Office of the Arts, which also receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, and is a member of the Connecticut Art Trail, a group of 21 world-class museums and historic sites (ctarttrail.org). Located on the green in Waterbury, CT at 144 West Main Street, the Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Convenient, free parking is located behind the Museum in the lots on Park Place.