

PRESS RELEASE

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MATTATUCK MUSEUM

Adventures in Art & History

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Mattatuck Museum Seeks Community Support for Critical HVAC Improvements Through “Heat the Heart” Campaign

WATERBURY, CT – As winter weather places increased demands on museum buildings and collections, the Mattatuck Museum has launched *Heat the Heart*, a fundraising initiative supporting the replacement and upgrade of the Museum’s failing HVAC system. This critical project will protect the Museum’s collections, sustain the health of the building, and ensure continued service to the Greater Waterbury community for generations to come.

Museum-quality climate control plays a vital role in protecting artwork, photographs, and historic objects from damage caused by temperature and humidity fluctuations. A modern, efficient HVAC system also ensures that galleries remain safe, comfortable, and accessible for visitors year-round. “Visitors may not always see the systems behind the scenes, but climate control is foundational to everything we do,” said Bob Burns, Executive Director of the Mattatuck Museum. “This fundraiser directly supports the preservation of our collection and allows us to continue serving the community with exhibitions, educational programs, and public events, even during winter.”

The full HVAC replacement project is estimated to cost approximately \$2.1 million. The Museum has secured \$1.9 million in grant funding toward this critical infrastructure investment and is seeking to raise the remaining \$140,000 through the *Heat the Heart* campaign to complete the project.

Beyond preservation, the HVAC upgrade directly supports the Museum’s role as an economic and workforce contributor. According to the National Council of Nonprofits, Connecticut nonprofits generated nearly \$7 billion in revenue statewide in 2022. Since completing a major building expansion in 2021, the Mattatuck Museum’s staff has nearly tripled and now includes 22 full- and part-time employees, half of whom live in Greater Waterbury. The Museum also supports local businesses through its café, operated by Sweet Bella, a minority-owned local business.

The health of the building is also essential to sustaining internships, workforce pathways, and community partnerships, including collaborations with the Silas Bronson Library and Literacy Volunteers ESL program. A functioning and efficient HVAC system ensures these programs can continue uninterrupted.

The Mattatuck Museum serves a diverse audience that reflects Waterbury’s population. Many visitors come from underserved communities, including populations living below the federal poverty line. The Museum prioritizes accessibility through free Community Days, student discounts, subsidized programs, and low-cost admission opportunities, ensuring that art and history remain available to all.

Through *Heat the Heart*, the Mattatuck Museum invites the community to invest in a project that strengthens preservation, supports local jobs, and sustains a vital cultural institution.

For more information or to make a contribution, visit mattmuseum.org/heat-the-heart.

ABOUT THE MATTATUCK MUSEUM

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. The collections at The MATT span the history of American art from the colonial era to the present day with special strengths in Naugatuck Valley history and Connecticut artists, as well as artists from around the world representing the diversity of our community. The collection includes more than 8,000 objects including paintings, unique works on paper, photography and sculpture.

In February 2021, The Mattatuck reopened after a \$9 million renovation project to reimagine the Museum while continuing to be a welcoming, inclusive, stimulating, and enriching community anchor. The "new" Mattatuck Museum, designed by Ann Beha Architects, includes an extensive 14,000 square foot renovation to the existing space and an addition of almost 7,000 square feet to enhance public access, educational programming, collections storage, and exhibitions.

The 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. The Museum is a founding member of the Consortium of Connecticut Art Museums and is a member of the Connecticut Art Trail, a group of 29 world-class museums and historic sites (ctarttrail.org).

The Mattatuck Museum is located on the Green in Waterbury, CT at 144 West Main Street. The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The Museum is closed on Mondays from September through May. The Museum offers free, convenient off-street parking directly behind the Museum and in additional lots on Park Place. The Mattatuck Museum website (mattmuseum.org) outlines the Museum's updated guidelines for visitors, including what to expect on your visit, cleaning and safety protocols, and frequently asked questions. Face masks are currently not required indoors. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for more updates and content.

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