

**For: IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Jan. 2, 2019



**Contact: ArtsNow**  
Nicole Mullet, Executive Director  
330-752-2815  
[Nicole@artsnow.org](mailto:Nicole@artsnow.org)



ARTSNOW



## **COMMUNITY UTILIZING MUSEUMS FOR ALL; BRINGING ACCESS TO FAMILIES WITH NEW PARTNERSHIPS**

**Jan. 2, 2019 (Akron, Ohio)** – In early July of 2018, the Akron Art Museum, Akron Children’s Museum, Akron Zoo, Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens and Summit County Historical Society began offering a substantially discounted admission price of \$1 to \$3 to any guest who presents their U.S. government-issued Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card upon arrival, as part of the Museums for All program.

After the launch, METRO, SARTA and PARTA saw the story, and its teams knew they could assist by offering additional access to their riders. Together, the Northeast Ohio transportation services launched pro-bono marketing ads on their buses and crafted pamphlets with details about Museums for All available to all riders.

And within just six months of partnership, all organizations are reaching an underserved audience—together.

*From July through December 2018, the program has been utilized by more than 1,500 individuals in Summit County.*

Stan Hywet President & Executive Director Sean Joyce explained, “We valued the idea of a collaboration among peer organizations, and are thrilled METRO, PARTA and SARTA have joined our efforts. This community thrives on collaboration, and this project is proof of how strengthening each other strengthens Summit County. Individually, we may be addressing the need in various ways, but together, we can increase our collective reach and impact as a coalition that speaks with one voice.”

Known nationally as Museums for All, this program, adopted by the participating Summit County museums and attractions, was launched in 2014 by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMSL) in partnership with the Association of Children’s Museums. The effort was designed to encourage those who may have the interest but not the means to make museums a part of their everyday lives. It was later expanded to include museums in every category, and to date, it has facilitated more than one million visits across the country.

Because of the partnership and collaboration show, Akron has been named a “Hub Location” as part of the national Museums for All network.

“This collaborative is aware that truly creating welcoming spaces is a complex issue,” states Nicole Mullet, Executive Director of ArtsNow, a local nonprofit that works to bolster the arts and culture sector in Summit County. “Partnering with a successful national program is one more step in our collective mission of ensuring our cultural assets are available and welcoming to everyone.”

For more information on the local Museums for All program, please visit [ArtsNow.org](http://ArtsNow.org). If you have questions or want to learn more about food assistance and the EBT program, please visit [GetFoodHelp.org](http://GetFoodHelp.org).

# # #

**To speak directly to organizations participating in this collaboration, please contact:**

**Akron Art Museum**

*Featuring modern and contemporary art, the museum’s nationally recognized collection spans three centuries and symbolizes the museum’s dual role as preserver of the past and herald of the future.*

Contact: Mark Masuoka, John S. Knight Director & CEO  
One South High Street, Akron Ohio 44308 • 330-376-9185 • [akronartmuseum.org](http://akronartmuseum.org)

**Akron Children’s Museum**

*Its mission is to be a gathering place for children and families, where play inspires exploration, discovery, and problem solving while connecting families, individuals and organizations in our community.*

Contact: Traci Buckner, Executive Director  
216 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44308 • 330-396-6103 • [akronkids.org](http://akronkids.org)

**Akron Zoo**

*The Zoo connects your life to wildlife while inspiring lifelong learning and conservation action for the preservation of endangered wildlife and wild places.*

Contact: Doug Pierkaz, President & CEO  
505 Euclid Avenue, Akron Ohio 44307 • 330-375-2550 • [akronzoo.org](http://akronzoo.org)

**ArtsNow**

*Inaugurated in 2015, ArtsNow strengthens Summit County by advancing its arts and culture assets and building connections between arts and culture and the broad community.*

Contact: Nicole Mullet, Executive Director  
175 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44308 • 330-752-2815 • [artsnow.org](http://artsnow.org)

**Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens**

*Its mission is to preserve and share our historic estate and serve as a resource for educational, cultural and recreational enrichment.*

Contact: Sean Joyce, President & Executive Director  
714 N. Portage Path, Akron, Ohio 44303 • 330-836-5533 • [stanhywet.org](http://stanhywet.org)

**Summit County Historical Society**

*Its mission is to preserve and interpret the history of Summit County and Akron, and to educate regional communities about the people and events that have shaped our rich history.*

Contact: Leianne Neff Heppner, President & CEO  
550 Copley Road, Akron Ohio 44320 • 330-535-1120 • [summithistory.org](http://summithistory.org)

**The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**

*The mission of IMLS is to advance, support, and empower America’s museums, libraries, and related organizations through grant making, research, and policy development. The organization’s strategic objectives: **Promote Lifelong Learning**: IMLS supports learning and literacy for people of all ages*

through museums and libraries. • **Build Capacity:** IMLS strengthens the capacity of museums and libraries to improve the well-being of their communities. • **Increase Public Access:** IMLS makes strategic investments that increase access to information, ideas, and networks through libraries and museums. • **Achieve Excellence:** IMLS strategically aligns its resources and relationships to support libraries and museums nationwide. See [imls.gov](http://imls.gov).