

Rebecca Massie Lane- 2020 Recipient of the Sue Hess Maryland Arts Advocate of the Year Award

Rebecca Massie Lane became Director of the Museum of Fine Arts-Washington County (MFA-WC) August 1, 2008. She received her B.A. and M.A. in Art History from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville and from 1989-2008, was Director of Museums and Galleries, and Associate Professor and Program Director, Arts Management Program, at Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Virginia. Previously, she was Director of the Knoxville Museum of Art, Knoxville, Tennessee and served the curatorial and education departments at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia.

Throughout her career, she has engaged in arts advocacy. She has attended Maryland Arts Day every year since taking her position in 2008. She has maintained communications with the Washington County Delegation, apprising them of arts needs and initiatives locally, regionally and statewide. She has enjoyed the relationships she has developed through arts advocacy, and seeks to share the transformative power of art in all of her work. In Virginia, she led the Arts Management Program at Sweet Briar College, where she introduced students and volunteers to the importance of Arts Advocacy, helping them develop their voices as advocates, participants and supporters of the arts. She also was active with the Virginia Council for the Arts and during her tenure at the Knoxville Museum of Art in Tennessee, in the efforts of the Tennessee Arts Commission.

Since 2008, Rebecca has led the museum in undertaking strategic planning, balancing the budget, developing a collections philosophy and collections management policy, and originating innovative exhibitions and programs funded by new grant sources such as the Henry Luce Foundation, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Japan Foundation, Target Foundation, Maryland Humanities Council, Maryland Energy Administration, and the Art Dealers Association of America Foundation. She led the museum in completing three Museum Assessment Program (MAP) grants, and in 2016, she successfully led the museum through the rigorous American Alliance of Museums' (AAM) national reaccreditation process, for which the MFA-WC received unqualified reaccreditation.

During her tenure, the museum has completed the refurbishment and reinterpretation of the Singer Memorial Gallery and the 19th and 20th Century American Art Galleries; each project entailed curatorial advances for the museum's interpretive program as well as aesthetic and facility improvements. In 2011, the Museum completed the enclosure of the Museum's central courtyard to create a glass-roofed atrium, for which it exceeded its \$2.5 million fundraising goal. Recent capital projects have totaled over \$4.5 million. In addition to the gallery refurbishments, these funds supported two roof replacements with energy-efficient white membrane roofs, historic skylights repair, refurbishing the two major galleries, improving the North Entry Plaza, upgrading the catering kitchen, replacing existing lighting with energy-efficient LEDs, and completely upgrading the HVAC System. The facility upgrades have not only improved the artistic impact of the museum's galleries, but have also reduced the MFA-WC's energy consumption by 40%.

She has worked tirelessly to seek endowed positions for the museum's Curator and Educator. In 2016, the Agnita M. Stine Schreiber Foundation endowed the curatorial position, and the Nora Roberts Foundation has provided half of the needed funds to endow the Museum Educator's post. She initiated the Cushwa High School Scholarship and the Cushwa Internship with the assistance of Jean Cushwa's

heirs. She has developed robust, expanded programming to enliven the museum and serve new and diverse audiences. The MFA-WC's commitment to diversity, equity, access and inclusion is a paramount goal and touches every aspect of the museum.

In 2016-17, the Museum commemorated its 85th anniversary with a year of special exhibitions and programs. The Museum's endowment campaign has raised over \$3,000,000.00 specifically dedicated to artistic and educational purposes. The museum completed a 3-year art collection inventory funded by a Museums for America grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Other art collections stewardship grants have been received from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Arts education grants have been received from the National Endowment for the Arts. Rebecca Massie Lane served for ten years on the Washington County Convention and Visitors' Bureau board of directors for which she was Secretary, the Hagerstown Arts and Entertainment District Board, the Hagerstown Cultural Trail Advisory Committee, the Maryland Commission on Artistic Property, and the Maryland Fine Arts Education Advisory Panel. She has served as a grant reviewer for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Virginia State Arts Council, The Tennessee Arts Commission, and the Maryland State Arts Council; she has often served as a juror for regional art exhibitions.

Rebecca has said, "I am privileged to have worked in the field of art museums for my entire career, where I have engaged with a community of creative people who have enriched my life beyond measure. I am immensely grateful for the gift of art in my life."