Did you know that the Official Museum Directory, the most comprehensive directory of museums in the United States, has more than 8,300 entries? The listing includes museums in more than 70 categories, such as art and history museums, toy and doll museums, military museums, folk art museums, entomology museums, nature centers, children’s museums, natural history and anthropology museums, general museums, science/technology museums/centers, zoological parks and aquariums, historic houses, botanical gardens and arboretums.

The American Association of Museums’ (AAM) most recent statistics show that 774 museums are accredited by the AAM. Applicant museums that are seeking first time accreditation number 49. The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum will be joining the ranks of “applicant” museums in late 2009 when we apply for accreditation.

Unlike a job application where you complete a form and submit it, an AAM accreditation application is a challenging and time consuming process. Museum staff and I have been preparing for accreditation readiness for nearly two years and it is my intention to apply in December 2009, with the understanding that it can take two or more years for the AAM to award accreditation status.

Why accreditation? The AAM, a national association of museums, believes it is important that “we be broadly accountable for our conduct, not just to the users of our services but to society as a whole.” It is important that “we have clearly agreed-upon standards that describe what it means to be a ‘good’ museum, one worthy of public support and trust,” according to AAM’s recently published National Standards & Best Practices for U.S. Museums.

Museum staff, the Board of Advisors and university personnel are doing a commendable job in the museum accreditation preparedness process in the areas of collections, programs, physical facility, and staff/board development. Accomplishments include:

- **Collection.** Over 2,800 objects have been catalogued, photographed and entered into the PastPerfect database; nearly 300 objects were relocated from the “barn” to a temperature/humidity controlled collections storage room A adjacent to the Museum; over 700 objects in collections storage room B have been identified, organized, catalogued and photographed; and 60 percent of the 200 linear ft. of archives material has been preliminarily processed.

- **Programs.** Education programs at the Museum have expanded to include things like the successful 2008 summer art camps; an exhibition endowment was created; temporary exhibitions are scheduled through 2009; and school tour transportation is being subsidized by local businesses.

- **Facility.** Twenty-year old track lights have been replaced with state of the art lights; worn carpet was replaced in the administrative offices; and the gift shop has expanded and consigned merchandise diversified.

- **Staff and Board.** Three full-time employees—registrar, archivist, secretary—have joined the staff, and the Board of Advisors is at its peak with 20 members.

I invite each of you to support one of the projects we are undertaking to prepare for accreditation by “adopting a didactic.” Many of the didactic (instructional) labels in the permanent sculpture gallery will be redesigned and installed on museum quality display stands (see image at left) for the visitor’s comfort and ease of reading. Each stand costs $100. **Adopt a label display stand** and have your name, or that of a loved one, permanently displayed in the museum. Accreditation is about standards and best practices and this project will improve substantively the way visitors read about the art work.

Please use the inserted envelope to send your $100 tax deductible contribution and write “didactic label” in the memo portion of the check. THANK YOU!
From the Archives: Of Mice and Men

Inspired by Aesop’s timeless tale and its moral of “Little friends may prove great friends,” Marshall Fredericks created a whimsical representation of the fable for the 1957 opening of the Eastland Shopping Center in Harper Woods, Michigan. This sculpture illustrates the final moment of the story, where the lion and the mouse have become friends. Commissioned by the J.L. Hudson Company, Fredericks designed Lion and Mouse to appeal to children.

Both animals possess human-like features and warm expressions. The reclining lion is carved from limestone and features a large round head with stylized ringlets. Atop the lion's paw is the mouse cast from gilt bronze and gold-plated. It is this tiny mouse that attracted a great deal of attention during the late fifties and sixties when local pranksters who coveted the mouse for its shiny gold plating routinely stole it.

No records exist as to how many times the mouse was stolen, but the mall went through several. In order to dissuade potential thieves, Eastland instituted numerous security measures, including regular rounds by patrolmen. One of the men entrusted with the safekeeping of the mouse was my uncle, Henry Gerst, who worked as a patrolman at Eastland Center during the early 1960s. Although my uncle died before I was born, I find it ironic that I too am charged with protecting Marshall Fredericks’ work. As the archivist at the museum, one of my main responsibilities is to maintain intellectual and physical control of Mr. Frederick’s personal and professional papers.

Even though I do not have to worry about thieves with hacksaws coming into the museum during the night, my job is no less important. In order to make the archives available to researchers, we are currently processing, arranging and describing the 200 linear foot collection. Once the archives are fully processed, researchers will have access to information that spans the 70 years of Fredericks’ sculpting career, including an article in the Museum Archives from which the photograph below is taken.

The mystery of the missing mouse was solved after a fifty year absence when the original mouse was returned to Eastland in summer of 2007 by the person who stole it shortly after the mall opened in 1957. The mouse is currently on exhibit at the Detroit Historical Museum. It will arrive at the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum sometime later this year.

—Melissa Ford, Archivist

Tangents and Waves: The Art of David Barr and Diane Carr opens at the Museum Oct. 3

New work by well-known Michigan artists David Barr and Diane Carr will be exhibited at the Museum from Oct. 3, 2008 – Jan. 31, 2009. A reception to meet the artists will be on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Museum.

“Crossing Lines: Spanning 30 Years of Global Projects” is the topic of David Barr’s lecture on Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 7:00 p.m. in Rhea Miller Recital Hall at SVSU Curtiss Hall. David’s global projects are the primary subject of a recently published limited edition manuscript, Crossing Lines, which he will autograph following the lecture.

On Thursday, Oct. 30, Diane Carr will lecture in the Museum at 4:00 p.m. and again at 7:00 p.m. Diane’s lecture, “Spiral Gestures,” will delight the audience with tales of kayaking and how the water inspires her work.

The lectures are free and open to the public.

Governor Granholm holds press conference at Museum

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm visited SVSU on August 12 to announce an increase in funding for the Michigan Nursing Corps, an initiative to train new nurses and nursing faculty to help combat the state’s nursing shortage. During the 2009 fiscal year, the $5 million funding will be awarded as grants to Michigan nursing schools and hospitals, including SVSU.

“Training workers to fill the good-paying jobs available right now in health care facilities across the state is a key component of our plan to revitalize Michigan’s economy,” Granholm said. “By expanding our capacity for training nurses and accelerating the training, we are not only placing workers in jobs, we are helping to ensure every Michigan citizen receives world-class health care.”

Governor Granholm and SVSU President Eric Gilbertson (2nd from right) spoke at the press conference at the Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Museum.

Photo: Geoffe Haney
Summer art camps were a great success

For three weeks in June, 36 children created wonderful artwork at the museum’s summer art camps. A pilot program, the art camps were supported by a Saginaw Valley State University Foundation Resource Grant.

Three week-long sessions were filled to capacity with twelve children in each camp. Classes were designed and taught by SVSU Art Education majors Patricia Bry, Sally Giroux, Dawn Kehr and Erica Kowal.

Along with guided tours of the museum, art projects included “Body Double” drawings, one-point perspective drawings, color theory paintings, face sand castings, African paper mache masks, tetrahedron kite making, and t-shirt art. Plans are being made to extend the art camps throughout the summer months in 2009.

To see more of the children’s creative artwork and experiences, visit the museum blog at www.marshallfredericks.com.

Young students participate in summer art camp 2008 sessions. Photos: Geoffe Haney

Bus transportation subsidies available for Bay County and the City of Saginaw

Bus transportation subsidies are available for Bay County schools through a generous grant from the Bay Area Community Foundation Youth Advisory Committee. Subsidies are also available to Saginaw city schools through a generous donation from Team One Credit Union.

The Museum will provide a subsidy of $75 per trip toward transportation costs to and from the museum. Availability of funds is on a first come first served basis. Schedule a tour by calling the Curator of Education at 989.964.7096 or emailing a request to: museumtours@svsu.edu.

Saints, Sinners and Sopranos coming to the Museum

For four years the Museum has been celebrating Marshall Fredericks’ well-known Saints and Sinners sculptures at the annual gala. On Friday, Oct. 3, an Italian themed Saints, Sinners and Sopranos will take over the Museum and Arbury Fine Arts Center atrium with Italian cuisine, wine, music and art. A silent art auction takes place from 6:30-8:00 p.m., followed by a live art auction at 8:00, hosted by auctioneer Mike Furlo.

The Dow Chemical Company is the event’s title sponsor for the second year in a row. We are grateful to Dow and our other generous sponsors for their continued support of this Museum, one of mid-Michigan’s great cultural assets.

Tickets are $80, or two for $150. Call the Museum at 989-964-7125 for tickets or additional information. All proceeds from the event support the Museum’s educational and exhibition programs.

Get your tickets early!

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Museum Musings

Remember to visit our blog and stay up to date on Museum happenings.

www.marshallfredericks.com

Upcoming Events at the Museum

Saints, Sinners and Cinema

The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum is pleased to announce its first ever film series Saints, Sinners and Cinema, a monthly film festival featuring Arthouse, Cult and B movies. The films will be shown in classroom Arbury 107 adjacent to the Museum. All films start at 7:00 PM. The lineup for this fall is:

September 18, Taste of Cherry
October 23, The Trouble with Harry
November 20, Absolut Warhola
December 4, Santa Claus Conquers the Martians, plus a holiday cartoon.

Chairs are provided, or bring a beanbag chair, a pillow and a friend and enjoy the film. Admission $1.

Spirit of Detroit Turns 50

The Spirit of Detroit, one of Marshall Fredericks’ most popular sculptures, will turn 50 years old this September. Please join us at the Museum to celebrate this monumental birthday on Tuesday, Sept. 23, from 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m. Spirit of Detroit die struck brass lapel pins are now available for $5 in the Museum gift shop and on line at www.marshallfredericks.com.

Roethke Poetry Slam

Coming in November, in celebration of the 100th birthday of Theodore Roethke, a poetry slam at the Museum. Stay tuned for more information.

Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum
Phone (989) 964-7125 • Fax (989) 964-7221 • www.svsu.edu/mfsm

Saginaw Valley State University
Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum
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