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For immediate release:

Art & History Museums of Maitland, Greater Orlando's Only National Historic Landmark, Announces Expansion with New Educational Facilities

Plans advance mission of exploration in the visual arts

Maitland, FL (January 3, 2023) **The Art & History Museums of Maitland (A&H) announced the Maitland Art Center campus is expanding to include new education facilities, with an estimated groundbreaking of Summer of 2023.** This approximately 6,000 sq ft state-of-the-art space will allow A&H's Art School classes to be expanded to serve a growing Maitland and Central Florida. A&H Art School classes will be moved from the historic artist studios to these new facilities in the second expansion of the campus since it was constructed in the 1930s.

The facility's construction is primarily being funded through the estate of Qurentia Throm and Cicero Greathouse, both artists, who shared a deep love for the site. A&H's designated building endowment will also help fund the construction.

Before her passing, Qurentia Throm stated about this community-changing gift, "The Art Center has always been a special place for Cicero and me, and I am thrilled to be able to give what I hope will be an aesthetic, functional and transformative addition to the beautiful and gracious setting."

These state-of-the-art facilities, dedicated to education and with added parking, will be just outside the north wall of A&H's main campus, along Jackson Street. The addition will take inspiration from the scale and look of the original Art Center and its iconic decorative elements. The expansion is being designed by DLR Group. A construction company has not been selected at this time.

The expansion will include teaching space for ceramics, painting, drawing, as well as multi-purpose space that can flex between a variety of disciplines. A gallery within the reception area will showcase the artwork of Que Throm and Cicero Greathouse. The capacity of the new buildings will allow for more students and classes, while still maintaining the intimate teaching experience that the Art School is known for. The existing educational program has flourished in spite of limited space; currently there are wait lists each quarterly session for several of the Art School classes, which are offered for adults of all skill levels.

"The new education facilities will be transformative for the center. They will not only provide our Art School students with a beautiful and spacious working environment, but will also allow A&H to return the buildings that the Art School currently occupies to their historical use as individual artist studios. This will fully restore our founder André Smith's vision and intent for the

Art Center, which was to provide a place of sanctuary and creativity for working artists," said A&H Executive Director Danielle Thomas. "This project wouldn't be possible without the generosity of Que Thom and Cicero Greathouse, and the A&H's staff and board are incredibly grateful for their support and love of the site."

The Maitland Art Center was originally known as the Research Studio, and was built by André Smith in 1937 to provide working artists with a space where they could dedicate themselves entirely to explorative approaches to art. Today Smith's vision lives on through A&H's Artist in Action program, which provides non-residential studio space for 1-2 years to Central Florida artists for the professional practice and research of fine art. Moving the Art School classes to the new facilities will allow the A&H to fully restore the original artist studios to their historical use, and expand the number of artists in the Artist in Action program annually by 25%.

The expansion will be significant for artists, art students, visitors to Art & History Museums of Maitland, and Central Florida as a whole. **Please visit artandhistory.org/expansion for more information.**

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ABOUT ART & HISTORY MUSEUMS OF MAITLAND

Art & History Museums of Maitland (A&H) engages our communities & visitors, preserves the past, and nurtures artists in all stages of their career. With four museums spread across five acres, visitors encounter a showcase of original art (both contemporary & dating back to the 1920s) and historical artifacts, watch local artists at work, and learn from some of Central Florida's finest art instructors. The historical grounds, established in 1937 as an artist colony, are one of the most prominent examples of Mayan Revival architecture in the nation, and received the prestigious National Historic Landmark designation in 2014. Today, the A&H is recognized as a place of sanctuary, exploration, and celebration. For information, visit artandhistory.org.

Images available here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Nk58RJ_egoEnS60lgV6u2u9c3bkLXg7R?usp=sharing
(photos of our existing classes & Studio Court, AiA studios, site plan outlining the area)