Dear Friends,

The Charles Allis and Villa Terrace Art Museums achieved a great deal in 2016 — and your support was crucial. From our expanded curatorial department and the exhibitions we held, to new programs and capital improvements, it was a very busy year.

We welcomed Shana McCaw as our Senior Curator, and she has begun refining our exhibition schedule and making recommendations regarding our curatorial spaces and department. Look for the announcement of special curatorial projects in 2017.

Through a grant from the Mae E. Demmer Charitable Trust, we re-glazed all two-dimensional work in the Allis collection with museum glass. Without the glare from the historic glass, it is as if you are looking at new paintings! We also renovated the exhibition galleries at the Allis, making them more functional for exhibitions while enhancing the visitor experience.

The museums staged five exhibitions in 2016. We are thankful for the Friends of Charles Allis' continuing support of our biennial exhibition FORWARD: A Survey of Wisconsin Art Now. Over 300 entries were submitted and 65 made up the exhibition, with seven winning cash awards totaling $3000. Also at the Allis, we presented The Art of Collecting showcasing the breadth of the Allis' collection. At the Villa, we presented Making a Scene: Wisconsin Art Organizations, Roy Staab: Nature in Three Parts, and Why Wallpaper? The exhibitions at the Villa Terrace featured collaborations with the League of Milwaukee Artists, Wisconsin Visual Artists, Cedarburg Artists Guild, Plumb Press, and Jan Serr and John Shannon.

One of the highlights of the year was Wild Space Dance Company's original dance performance in conjunction with Roy Staab's environmental piece “Shadow Dance” in the Renaissance Garden. Public response to the five performances was great, and we look to continue arts programming that utilizes not only the museum galleries but also the Villa's Renaissance Garden and Mercury Courtyard.

We also made some physical improvements at the museums. At the Villa, we executed much-needed tuck-pointing along the terrace, and roofing work in the Mercury Courtyard. We are grateful for the funding and project execution the Friends of Villa Terrace provided supporting the restoration of a new limestone retaining wall and landscaping after the existing wall failed in 2015. At the Allis, the ivy has been removed ahead of stone, brick, and roofing work to begin in 2017. It is great to see these capital projects move forward, but the list of deferred maintenance needs remains long. The museums will continue to work with Milwaukee County on future projects.

The Allis and Smith names are synonymous with Milwaukee, and it is due to their generosity that we enjoy their homes and art collections as public spaces. On behalf of our Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support of their original vision and all that we do to carry on their tradition of giving and beauty.

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Executive Director
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Our budget for 2016 was $829,667. We are proud to report that this year we have exceeded our revenue expectations, with actual revenue of $902,990 against actual expenses of $802,143. Many thanks to every member, donor and volunteer who contributed in 2016.
THANKS YOU

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Park Bank, Mueller Communications, Wisconsin Department of Tourism, Mae E. Demmer Charitable Trust, Brookbank Foundation, In Honor of Grace Graves, Eileen & Howard Dubner Donor Advised Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation, In Memory of Syd Johnson, Milwaukee Museum Mile

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Association of Midwest Museums; American Alliance of Museums; Local First Milwaukee; Milwaukee Museum Mile; Wisconsin Heritage Online; Center of Milwaukee; National Trust for Historic Preservation; American Association For State and Local History; Milwaukee Art Dealers Association; WVALAA Wisconsin Visual Art Lifetime Achievement Award, Charles Allis Art Museum 2013; Milwaukee County Historical Society Commendation Award, Charles Allis Art Museum 2008; Designated Milwaukee County Landmark, Charles Allis Art Museum and Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum 2004; National Register of Historic Places, Lloyd R. Smith House Designated 1974; National Register of Historic Places, Charles Allis House Designated 1975

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