The Rahr-West Art Museum’s Vilas-Rahr Mansion is closer to becoming fully accessible. The museum’s addition of a six-stop elevator that will serve both its historic mansion and art galleries is reaching its halfway point.

Visitors to the museum and passersby will have noticed the construction of the masonry elevator shaft during the past month. This four-story tower will be accompanied by a new emergency staircase and clad in a red brick and green shingle in accord with the historic mansion. Construction is headed up by Mike Koenig Construction of Sheboygan, who gained the general contracting rights through public bid in 2021.

The elevator will provide full access to the museum, including the four main floors of the Vilas-Rahr Mansion. This addition will allow for future renovation of the mansion to expand visitor access. The museum plans to open the Mansion’s third floor to the public in future years.

The Rahr-West Art Museum remains open during the elevator construction, continuing on with a full slate of exhibitions and events in Spring and Summer 2022. The Vilas-Rahr Mansion’s second floor is the only public area to be temporarily closed during the construction. Museum staff are using this opportunity to refresh the Mansion’s 2nd floor to create a new visitor experience upon the completion of the elevator. The improvements will allow for more of the museum’s permanent collection to be on view, while also creating more changing exhibit space. Volunteer Jim Day in particular is contributing greatly to this endeavor, and the Rahr-West wants to recognize his many hours of skillful work.

Expected completion of the Rahr-West elevator construction project is listed as “Summer 2022,” due to the ever-changing timetables of supply chains. The museum is planning to host a major ribbon-cutting event to debut this transformative project later in 2022. We will share date and time when project completion is certain.
DIRECTOR’S REPORT

I have nearly gotten used to our temporary entrance at the Rahr-West. I’ve come and gone from the museum so many times during our elevator construction project it has almost become a comfortable experience. Almost.

Since November of 2021 we have modified our way of life at the art museum, and as anyone who drives by can now see, the physical changes are being realized. The elevator shaft is complete, and with it a certainty that after 129 years, the Vilas-Rahr Mansion will finally have elevator service.

I want to take this opportunity to talk about why this project, which caused months of shifting and adapting, is so necessary. I arrived at the museum ten years ago, and from the first week I was here I was asked when the museum’s mansion was going to be accessible. Through the years, groups of enthusiastic, wheelchair-bound patrons were told “sorry, maybe someday.” Families with strollers said, “Never mind, we'll just look in the galleries.” Elderly, longtime members would reminisce about how they so enjoyed Christmas in the Mansion in years past, but that they couldn't climb the stairs anymore. The Vilas-Rahr Mansion is a protected historic site, so an elevator was not a legal necessity. But I and my predecessors looked at it as a human necessity. For over forty years, the Rahr-West Art Museum and the City of Manitowoc devised plans to add an elevator. Each time the plans fizzled due to architectural, historic or financial concerns. But this time, everything aligned to make this transformative change possible.

I want to thank the many people who worked diligently to get us to this point. Without the buy-in of Mayor Nickels and the Manitowoc City Council, there would be no project. That council members vocally supported our project, particularly Council President Steve Czekala, Board Member Bill Schlei and the museum’s District 3 Representative Mike Cummings, was a real boost to us. Adam Tegen and the City of Manitowoc Community Development Office along with City Attorney Kathleen McDaniel used their expertise to guide the project organizationally and legally. Dan Koski, J.J. Waalvord and the City’s Buildings and Grounds team have worked with the construction crews to ensure that the museum’s regular operations continue alongside this major project. It is also important to acknowledge the museum Board of Directors and their predecessors, who never gave up on this project.

Construction will continue through the early summer, with completion expected near July 4th. As we near completion of this transformative project, I can’t help but look forward to a renewed mansion, finally open to all.

Greg Vadney

In Memoriam & Donations

Education Donations
Megan Marchant
Gary Bents
Carole Dunklau
Jennifer Hogan

In Honor of Tricia & Howard Zimmerman
Sue & Jack Molinari

In Honor of Diana Schwartz Rohrer
Jennifer Hogan

Public Arts Committee
Manitowoc Public Utilities

In Honor of Josef Cibulka
James Dickes & James Differding

In Memory of Carlie Ratigan
Jennifer Hogan
Spring is such an amazing season. In my opinion, it showcases the beauty of nature at its finest. The birds are chirping, the sun is shining, and - the best part - flowers are blooming. I love art pieces that feature nature and flowers. When I was younger, I would always doodle all different kinds of flowers. Even now, they are my favorite sidewalk chalk projects to create.

However, if you really want to see some amazing art created by children, you are in luck! The Rahr is now featuring the Youth Art Series in which children from local schools submit their works to be displayed throughout the museum. If you have a chance to check some of these out, you will not be disappointed. If you can't make it to the museum for all four parts of the series, keep an eye out for some pictures and other news posted on The Rahr-West Facebook page. These young artists are simply amazing, and I cannot say that enough!

Speaking of the Facebook page, is this your first time hearing about it? If so, go ahead and give the page a “like” and follow to keep up with relevant information and add some interesting tidbits into your day. Our staff does a great job posting information about upcoming events, news articles, current exhibits, and so much more. If you see something you like, we would love for you to share it! Help us to help others learn all about the museum and the benefits it can offer.

Once again, a big thank you to everyone who continues to be involved with the museum in any capacity. The museum is meant to be enjoyed by all who want to enjoy it, and I am so grateful to all of the people who come together to make that magic happen on a daily basis.

HaLeigh Zipperer

Utility Box Art Project 2022

In 2021 the Rahr-West Art Museum Public Arts committee contracted with ten artists to paint utility boxes throughout downtown Manitowoc with designs based on work in the Museum’s collection. This year’s collaboration with Manitowoc Public Utilities, funded by the City of Manitowoc Room Tax Commission, will add ten more designs to the city’s public art collection: five boxes downtown and five at public schools.

Having public art at public schools ensures that a diverse audience will see the works as they make their way to and from school on a daily basis. Two of the main objectives of the utility box project relate to art access: to increase awareness and understanding of local art and the Rahr-West Art Museum and to present an affordable and accessible art experience for people of all ages.

Aside from accessibility, the project also strives to enhance the quality of life for our citizens and promote Manitowoc as a cultural destination by making our streetscapes interesting and dynamic. Amateur and professional artists are encouraged to apply for the 2022 Utility Box Project, as well as artist teams and educational institutions. Applications are due April 22, 2022 and installation will occur between May and July 2022. The Request for Proposal and application can be found on the Rahr-West Art Museum’s website at https://www.manitowoc.org/2363/Public-Arts

Later this spring the Rahr-West Art Museum will launch a public arts app, that will provide information and interpretation of public art works in the City of Manitowoc, including the utility boxes. The anticipated launch date is May 23.
**DROP IN CLASSES**

**Preschool Palette**

- Thursdays as scheduled, 10:30a-11:30am
- Ages 3-5 years
- $2 RWAM Members/$4 Nonmembers

**June 16: Dandelion Fingerprints**
Just in time for Father’s Day, create a finger-painted dandelion picture!

**July 14: Butterflies**
Have fun with this mixed media project, creating watercolor butterflies from coffee filters.

**August 18: Fork Sunflowers**
Use a fork and paint to create beautiful sunflowers.

**Wacky Weekend Workshop**

- 2nd Saturday Monthly, 1-3pm
- Free, All ages

**June 11: Fork Painting Meadows**
Use a fork and paint to create a beautiful landscape.

**July 9: Firework Art**
In celebration of the Fourth of July, create firework art.

**August 13: Bug Magnets**
Make some fun and colorful mixed media critters.

**Artist Critique & Conversation Series**

- 2nd Monday Monthly, 6:30-8:00pm
- Free, All Ages

Consider this an artist's show and tell series. Bring a work of art to share or come for inspiration and artful conversation. Critique is a tool for developing our work and ability to talk about our work. Critique is facilitated by museum educator or another community artist.

**June 13**

**July 11**

**August 8**

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**YOUTH & TEEN CLASSES**

**Young Artists**

- Ages 5-12 Years
- $5 Per Class RWAM Members/$10 Nonmembers
- Thursdays, 1:00-3:00pm

**Statue of Liberty Painting**
Thursday, June 30
Learn about Peter Max and paint your own version of the Statue of Liberty.

**Paper Making**
Thursday, July 7
Learn the basics of papermaking using recycled materials and make your own paper.

**Puppet Making**
Thursday, August 11
Gif the puppet a hand...or sock! Create your own puppet using recycled materials.

**Clay Camps**

- Ages 5-12 Years
- $30 Per Camp RWAM Members/$60 Nonmembers
- Students must attend both classes to complete the project.

**Clay Owl**
Fridays, June 10 & 17, 1:00-2:30pm
Create an Owl wall plaque using the clay slab technique learned and the following week they will finish by adding color.

**Animated Pinch Pot**
Fridays, July 8 & 15, 1:00-2:30pm
Create a full-of-life animated container using the pinch pot method. The following week they will add color of their choice.

**Koi Fish Bowl**
Fridays, August 12 & 19
1:00-2:30pm
Create a bowl and add a hand molded fish. Add “water” using glass marbles and see what happens!

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*Space is limited. Pre-Registration is recommended, but not required.
Register to the Rahr-West at (920) 686-3090 or online at rahrwestartmuseum.org

**Pre-registration is required to the Rahr-West at (920) 686-3090 or online at rahrwestartmuseum.org**

Schedule subject to change
Teen Classes*

Ages 13-18 years

Paint Markers in the Style of Keith Haring
Tuesdays, June 14 & 21, 2:00-3:00pm
$10 RWAM Members/$20 Nonmembers
Explore the artist and artwork of Keith Haring in this two-part class and create a paint marker work inspired by him.

League of Milwaukee Artists
Tuesday, July 19, 2:00-3:00pm
$5 RWAM Members/$10 Nonmembers
Students will gain insight into the work of the League of Milwaukee Artists and create their own inspired work.

Self Portraits
Tuesday, August 16, 2:00-3:00pm
$5 RWAM Members/$10 Nonmembers
Students will create self portraits in graphite by drawing from a mirror.

3D Pen Sculpture
Tuesday, August 23, 2:00-3:00pm
$5 RWAM Members/$10 Nonmembers
Students will use 3D pens to create a mini sculpture.

Adult Art Classes**

Ages 18+
$25 RWAM Members/$35 Nonmembers

Pride History and Art
Wednesday, June 22, 6:00-8:30pm
Participants will learn about the artwork of the LGQBTIA+, pride month, and history and create their own inspired work.

League of Milwaukee Artists
Tuesday, July 19, 6:00-8:30pm
Students will gain insight into the work of the League of Milwaukee Artists and create their own inspired work.

Intro to Digital Drawing
Wednesday, August 24, 6:00-8:30pm
In this introductory course, students will use the Procreate app on iPads to create a digital drawing.

Figure Drawing/Painting**

4th Tuesday Monthly, 6:00-9:00pm
June & July Classes Ages 18+ Only
August Class Ages 12 and up
$10 RWAM Members/$20 Nonmembers

June 28: Drag Queen Theme
July 26: Nude Model Session
August 30: Clothed Model, Theme TBD

PaintOUT**

Saturday, July 23, 11:00am-4:00pm
All Ages
$25 RWAM Members/$35 Nonmembers

A day of plein air with guest artist demos and live models on Rahr-West outdoor grounds. Bring your own materials and paint or draw along. *Some materials will be available for use.

Working Creatively Through Grief

Free, All Ages

Grief comes in many forms, these classes are open to anyone dealing with any form of grief, whether it is the loss of a job, relationship, pet, or loved one, dealing with medical crisis; grief knows no bounds. Classes may be held outside, weather permitting. All materials are provided, registration is not necessary.

Be Present Resist Painting
Sunday, June 5, 1:00-3:00pm
Do something different, appreciate the aspect of letting go with less focus on the final production, allowing for more freedom.

Zentangles
Sunday, August 7, 1:00-3:00pm
This relaxing process can be done by anyone, reducing stress and improving focus, which can be so important during this difficult time.
Summer bus trip for Rahr-West members scheduled for Tuesday, August 16, 2022 to Bergstrom-Mahler Art Glass Museum in Neenah followed by lunch and then a stop at Abler's Glass Art Studio in Kiel. Detailed information will be sent to members the beginning of July.

Thank you,
Friends of the Rahr West Committee

Fine Art & Treasure Sale

The Museum is hosting a Fine Art and Treasures Sale June 2-5, 2022. June 2nd will be open to Museum members only so you will get first pick of the finds! We will have fine art, World War I propaganda posters, decorative arts, and Victorian furniture for sale.

Many items will come from the Museum’s recent housekeeping efforts, but we are also seeking donations from Museum Members of items to sell to fund collections care and new acquisitions. If you have any fine art, jewelry, or antiques you are willing to donate, contact us at rahrwest@manitowoc.org or call (920) 686-3090 for details. Drop off dates will be May 26 and 27, 2022. Items are subject to approval by Museum Staff.

We need volunteers to help at the sale to oversee the sales floor and ring up customers! Contact Diana Bolander at dbolander@manitowoc.org or call 920-686-3092 to sign up.

The Charitable Foundation recently hosted our gala fundraiser event, An Evening with STEEM. This sold out event featured valet parking, a delicious dinner catered by The Courthouse Pub and musical entertainment from the group STEEM. The evening was a rousing success and our thanks go to our event chairpersons: Amy Fricke-Weigel and Candice Giesen. I would also like to thank all of our sponsors, volunteers and all of you who attended this beautiful evening. Look for a summer announcement of next year’s event.

The Charitable Foundation was created to ensure the Museum’s financial security. For donors, it assures that your gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. The Charitable Foundation operates as an endowment with annual distributions used to preserve and enhance our artwork, and to provide Educational resources for art lovers of all ages. Your support reinforces our commitment to keeping world class art in Manitowoc.

Thanks to all of you who have given to or participated in Rahr-West Art Museum Charitable Foundation events. Your generosity is much appreciated!

Please remember the Rahr-West Art Museum Charitable Foundation in your estate planning.

Mike Halla
Rahr-West Art Museum Charitable Foundation President
Spring Exhibits

This April 24th two exciting exhibits will open featuring contemporary art.

Geo Rutherford: On the Threshold of the Great Lakes is an exhibit of prints and installations by Wisconsin artist Geo Rutherford from April 24- July 10, 2022 in our Lounge Gallery. In conjunction with the exhibit, Rutherford will be on site to meet with visitors and talk about her work on Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1, 2022 from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Rutherford’s work investigates notions of invasiveness, impermanence and the unseen in relation to the Great Lakes. Works in this exhibit include Manière lithographic prints, collage, artist books, and installations that all are inspired by the artist’s beach hunting and the materials such as beach glass, roots, and plastic debris. Rutherford is creating a work specific to the beaches of Manitowoc specifically for this show.

We will also host No More Stolen Sisters, an exhibit curated by Teresa Faris, and Valaria Tatera which brings together artworks representing the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women, girls and 2 spirits. The exhibition showcases technically diverse artworks of indigenous artists and allies addressing a range of experiences surrounding the violence against and loss of indigenous women, girls and 2 spirits. Material ranges from works on paper, mixed-media installation, metal, clay, quillwork, textile and paint.

Adjacent to the No More Stolen Sisters exhibit, the Museum will also feature contemporary works by regional indigenous artists that celebrates Indigenous culture, tradition, and/or craft.
**Upcoming Events**

**Art of Conversation**  
**John Durbrow, Van der Brohe Arboretum**  
April 21 at 1pm  
Join John Durbrow at the Rahr-West Art Museum as he shares his vision for the Van der Brohe Arboretum at the site of the former Emerald Hills Golf Course in Two Rivers. Free and open to the public.

**Geo Rutherford:**  
**On the Threshold of the Great Lakes**  
Open House  
Saturday, April 30 & Sunday May 1  
11am-4pm  
Geo Rutherford will be at the museum to meet informally with visitors and talk about her exhibit of prints and installation art.

**PaintOUT**  
Saturday, July 23  
A day of plein air painting with guest artist demos and live models on the East Lawn of the museum.  
*Registration is required.

**No More Stolen Sisters Closing Reception**  
Sunday, July 31  
Time and Details to be announced

**Upcoming Exhibits**

**April 24-July 10**  
Geo Rutherford:  
On the Threshold of the Great Lakes

**April 24-July 31**  
No More Stolen Sisters

**May 13-May 22**  
Roncalli Catholic Schools

**June 19-August 28**  
League of Milwaukee Artists

**July 24-September 18**  
Space to Sea

**August 21-September 10**  
Members & Manitowoc County Invitational

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**Rahr-West Art Museum Board of Directors**  
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