



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Laura Lynch

Phone: 516.484.9338, ext. 24

Email: llynch@nassaumuseum.org

NASSAU MUSEUM LAUNCHES NEW PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS WITH ALZHEIMER'S AND YOUTH WITH AUTISM

Roslyn Harbor, NY – [01/04/2020] Starting in January, the Nassau County Museum of Art will open early on select Saturday mornings each month to offer the new **Mornings at NCMA** programs, featuring the **Art of Conversation** for adults with Alzheimer's disease, and the **Early Morning Access** program for youth ages 13 -23 on the autism spectrum. Both programs, reflecting the latest thinking on museum accessibility as guided by experts in the field, will run for a full year.

The **Mornings at NCMA** programs offer a dedicated one-hour tour of the current exhibition. Because the programs begin before regular museum hours, families avoid crowds and loud noises, ensuring a more enjoyable museum experience. Participants need to pre-register and be accompanied. All registrants will have access to pre-visit materials and sensory kits designed by experts in museum accessibility to alleviate the stress associated with being in a public space.

The **Mornings at NCMA** programs are made possible by a generous grant from by **The Phyllis Backer Foundation, Inc.** They continue the Museum's ongoing effort to expand and develop its accessibility initiative, attracting a new community of families to visit and become regular museum-goers.

Calendar for Art of Conversation programs: 1/25, 2/22, 3/28, 4/25, 5/23, 6/27, 7/25, 8/29, 9/26, 10/24, 11/21, 12/19. Time: 9:45-10:45 am

Calendar for Early Morning Access programs: 1/11, 2/8, 3/21, 4/18, 5/9, 6/13, 7/11, 8/8, 9/12, 10/17, 11/7, 12/5. Time: 9:45-10:45 am

- Each program limits the number of registrants so pre-registration is required. Registrants will be sent confirmation via email.
- Doors open 9:30 am for a one-hour guided tour.
- Each session will be unique with changing themes.
- Participants must be accompanied by a caregiver.

"Every ounce of effort we put into accessibility has brought us tons of benefits, not just in terms of serving the needs of the disability community but as a way to transform our own museum culture," says Charles A. Riley II, PhD, the Museum director and author of two books on disability rights. "As with so

many aspects of accessibility, from design to policy, the broader museum-going public actually gains a better level of comfort and engagement along with people on the spectrum or living with Alzheimer's when a place like ours gets this right. This is a priority for us, and we are working with the region's best experts to stay at the forefront of museum accessibility."

The Nassau County Museum of Art has offered programs for people with disabilities since 2004. To register for the Mornings at NCMA programs, **Art of Conversation** for adults with dementia or the **Early Morning Access Program** for youth with autism, go to <https://nassaumuseum.org/education/#access-programs> or call (516) 484-9338.

Nassau County Museum of Art is located at One Museum Drive in Roslyn Harbor. The museum is open Tuesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (62 and above) and \$5 for students and children (4 to 12). Docent-led tours of the exhibition are offered at 2 p.m. each day; tours of the mansion are offered each Saturday at 1 p.m. Media Contact: Charles Riley, (516) 484-9338 x 37, criley@nassaumuseum.org

###

If you would like more information please contact Laura Lynch, Director of Education, at 516.484.9338, ext. 24 or llynch@nassaumuseum.org