

# Biggs Museum of American Art

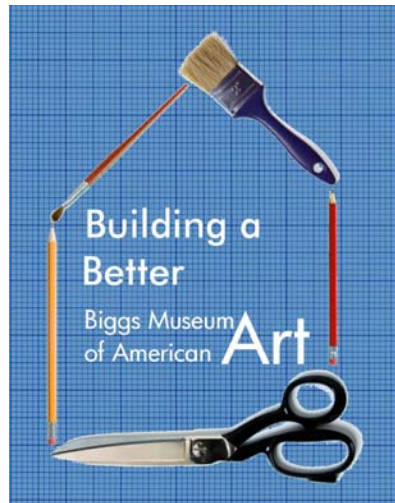
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## The Biggs Museum is 406 Federal Street

February 17<sup>th</sup> Ceremonial Key Presentation with Governor Jack Markell  
Commemorates Gift of 406 Federal Street Building from the State of Delaware



*Dover, DE* (February 19, 2010) – The Biggs Museum of American Art’s Board of Trustees and Staff commemorated its recent expansion at a Ceremonial Key Presentation on Wednesday, February 17, with Governor Jack Markell, Secretary of State Jeffrey Bullock, local- and state-elected government officials, the Delaware Department of Historical and Cultural Affairs and additional representatives from Delaware Division of the Arts and Delaware Tourism offices.

Biggs Museum Director Linda Danko introduced Board President Terry Jackson after expressing her “indescribable amount of gratitude and appreciation for this unprecedented gift of space.” Danko described the expansion as “an invaluable gift from the State that will position the Museum to fulfill many of its long-term goals to better serve the public.”

Board President Terry Jackson addressed the State of Delaware by describing the day as a “celebration and significant milestone in the history of the Museum, which began with the signing of the original trust in 1989 between Sewell Biggs and the State of Delaware.” Jackson noted, “The Biggs Museum will continue to evolve to meet the needs of the community and its visitors from around the country and the world. We look forward to harnessing this opportunity, presented by the State, with pioneering spirit to grow this



*From left to right: Sec. of State Jeffrey Bullock, Director Linda Danko, Representative William Carson, Representative Bradford Bennett, Governor Jack Markell and Senator Brian Bushweller*

organization.” Jackson also referred to the goals the Museum hopes to accomplish through renovations by stating, “We hope to reintroduce the Museum as a vital arts organization in the community through renovations to display more of the Permanent Collection, increase the number and size of temporary exhibitions and expand our educational program

offerings. The completion of these renovations will tailor the building’s image to the organization’s culture and identity, creating a welcoming presence for all Museum visitors.”

Secretary of State Jeffrey Bullock shared a narrative story with attendees about how the Museum’s expansion and described the benefits for both parties involved by stating, “The expansion of the Biggs is a win-win situation. The museum has more space for its exhibits which, in turn, will improve visitors’ experience and make the First State Heritage Park an even more attractive destination.”

Governor Jack Markell reemphasized the benefits for all stating, “This is a win-win for the Biggs Museum and for the state, saving taxpayer money while providing more space for the Museum. Arts organizations like Biggs fuel a major economic engine in Delaware and draw visitors to Delaware. Our business community also benefits because we know businesses are more likely to succeed in the long-term when children have a chance to enrich and expand their horizons. Biggs is providing that opportunity for children, young people and all who visit the Museum.”

The original trust agreement between the State of Delaware and the Museum Founder Sewell C. Biggs was signed in 1989, creating a public-private partnership. In 1994, renovations to the Old Elections Building in Dover, creating a State-owned public building in which the Biggs Museum of American Art resided on the second and third floors and the State of Delaware operating a Visitor Center on the first floor. On January 9, 2010, the Biggs Museum began occupying all three floors of the building on 406 Federal Street. The Visitor Center relocated to the Archives Building in next to Legislative Mall in 2009 and is now operating under a new name as the First State Heritage Park Welcome Center and Galleries.

The Biggs Museum Board of Trustees and staff are currently in the preliminary planning phase for Museum renovations and expansions, with the local expertise of Homsey Architects and Paragon Engineering. The goals of the newly created spaces will improve the galleries and public areas. New scale and proportion will support this vibrant public institution that contributes significantly to the economic vitality of the community. The Biggs Museum is diligently working to transform the building at its prominent location in downtown Dover, and to make the overall Museum experience more impactful to the public.

### **About the Museum**

The Biggs Museum seeks to serve a diverse public as a regional museum of fine and decorative arts, made from 1700 to present, representing the State of Delaware and the surrounding Mid-Atlantic region. The Biggs Museum engages audiences through a compelling program of temporary exhibitions and programming. The Biggs Museum encourages the development of creativity and an appreciation for art by offering a comprehensive slate of educational programming for all ages. The Biggs Museum of American Art is a private, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization and is a full and active member of the First State Heritage Park.

**Hours of Operation:** Tuesday through Saturday; 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Sunday; 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

**Admission:** Biggs Museum is free to the public year-round. Fees may apply to certain programs and special events.

### **The Biggs Museum of American Art**

406 Federal Street  
Dover, DE 19901  
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[www.biggmuseum.org](http://www.biggmuseum.org)

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