



For Immediate Release  
April 7, 2009  
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## The Fifth Annual Biggs Museum Gala: An Affair with the Arts

Tickets Now On Sale



Dover, DE (April 7, 2009) – Tickets are now on sale for the Fifth Annual Biggs Museum Gala: *An Affair with the Arts*, to be held Saturday, May 16, 2009. The 2009 Biggs Museum Gala is presented by WSFS Bank and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Delaware. *An Affair with the Arts* is the Museum’s largest annual fundraising event. Proceeds from the event directly benefit the continuance, growth and development of Museum temporary exhibitions and educational programming. Support of the 2008 event enabled the Museum to present three outstanding temporary exhibitions this past year: *Award Winners VIII*, *Forgotten Dreams: The Paintings of Edward Grant* and *Biggs Shot 2009*. The Museum also continued to offer the free monthly *Biggs Kids* program for children ages 5-10. An additional free educational program, *Mini-Masters*, was introduced in February 2009 to children ages 3-5. Proceeds from the 2009 Gala will directly benefit the further development of the *Mini-Masters* and *Biggs Kids* free, art educational programs and the summer 2009 *ArtVentures* day-camp program. The 2009 Gala will also support upcoming temporary exhibitions and related programming in 2009-2010. Upcoming exhibitions include *Award Winners IX*, *Arts ConnectEd*, and an exhibition featuring Marine Artists.

Over 400 friends of the Biggs Museum are expected to attend the 2009 Biggs Museum Gala to celebrate the arts and their impact on our culture. The event boasts live entertainment, dinner and cocktails, a silent auction, a dance floor, raffle, and more. Signature “B” sweet treats will be sold as raffle tickets for a chance to win a week-long stay in Orlando, Florida in spring 2010. Back by popular demand, Trademark will return to provide live entertainment. The showmanship and talents of this dynamic group

guarantees to yield the right blend of music to have all guests on the dance floor. Their music and style appeal to every generation and promises to highlight the evening's festivities. This year's cuisine will include heavy hors d'oeuvres, plus a buffet dinner offering highlights of the season. Catering will be provided by The Granary of Georgetown, MD. An open bar, including specialty drinks, will also be offered. Tickets for this event range from \$100 per individual to \$1500 for a Benefactor Table for ten. Tickets can be purchased by mail, phone or on-line at [www.biggmuseum.org](http://www.biggmuseum.org).

**The 2009 Gala Committee: The Museum welcomes the 2009 Gala Committee led by this year's Honorary Chairs, Mr. and Mrs. William Willis of Smyrna, DE.** Members of the 2009 Gala Committee include: David Affholder, Joanne Armstrong, Richard Janney, Terry & Thomas Burns, Nancy Burris, Karen Caputo-Huenke, Cindy & Asher Carey,



Jessica Cook, Beverly Davis, Jane DiMondi, Julie & Bradley Eaby, Lynn Edgell, Clay Foltz, Fern Gnesin, Stephanie Hall-Berman, Sheri & Michael Harrington, Jr., Dolly & Vernon Ingram, Karen Janus, Carey Koppenhaver, Darlene Lake, Nisha Lodhavia, Jane Mattern, Kip & Joseph McDaniel, Jan Mercer, Richard Pryor, Charles Rodriguez, Donna & L.D. Shank, Donna Stone, Linda Sydell, Gretchen Tillman, Carrie Townsend, Shirley & Roger Whitney.

**2009 Gala Sponsors:** The Biggs Museum is thrilled with the overwhelming support of its sponsors. As of Tuesday, April 7, 2009, the Biggs Museum acknowledges the following sponsors.

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Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Please visit the Museum web-site at [www.biggsmuseum.org](http://www.biggsmuseum.org) or contact Sarah DiMondi by phone (302.674.2111 Ext. 105) or e-mail [sdimondi@biggsmuseum.org](mailto:sdimondi@biggsmuseum.org) for more information.

**Gala on the Web:** Learn anything and everything there is to know about the Gala on the Biggs Museum's web-site at [www.biggsmuseum.org](http://www.biggsmuseum.org). View the full dinner menu, a full list of current sponsors, a frequently updated guest list, and the silent auction inventory of items. Sponsorships and tickets can be purchased in the on-line gift shop.

**The 2009 Signature Image:** Francis Luis Mora, *Fourth of July*, 1914, oil on canvas. The Permanent Collection at the Biggs Museum holds a diverse array of art forms representing both historical and contemporary time periods. In an effort to parade the



diversity of time periods represented in the Museum, the staff of the Biggs Museum chose from its galleries an oil on canvas by Francis Luis Mora as the

signature image for the 2009 Biggs Museum Gala. *Fourth of July*, made in 1913 during the impressionist era, is an exceptional representation of the Biggs Museum's contemporary collection. Fresh outdoor scenes of sailing aficionados, *Fourth of July* is noteworthy for the joyful holiday spirit that is conveyed by the artist's integration of casually dressed figures of young men and women strolling and lounging on the pier railings. *Fourth of July* expresses a sense of celebration and community, just as the Biggs Museum Gala does each year.

#### **If You Go: Gala Quick Facts**

**Date:** Saturday, May 16, 2009

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

**Location:** Legislative Mall, Dover, DE

**Ticket Price:** \$100/Individual to \$1,500/Table of 10

**What:** Dinner, Open Bar, Silent Auction, Live Entertainment, Raffle

**Attire:** Black-Tie or Cocktail Attire Suggested

**Reservations:** Tickets must be purchased in advance by

Mail: P.O. Box 711, Dover, DE 19903

Phone: (302) 674-2111

On-Line: [www.biggsmuseum.org](http://www.biggsmuseum.org)

#### **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.

**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.biggsmuseum.org](http://www.biggsmuseum.org)

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**Top Images:** *2008 Biggs Museum Gala*