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McKinley Presidential Library & Museum Receives History Outreach Award from the Ohio Local History Alliance

Canton, Ohio... The McKinley Presidential Library & Museum received a History Outreach Award from the Ohio Local History Alliance for "Project EAT!," a community-wide partnership that celebrated "all things food" in 2019. This award was given in recognition of the Museum's outstanding contribution to the field of local history in Ohio in the category of Public Programming. The McKinley Presidential Library & Museum was the lead partner for "Project EAT!"

"Project EAT!" brought together museums, colleges, businesses, and organizations fighting hunger in Stark County to create a series of food-related programs, events, and exhibitions throughout the Stark County area. Three exhibitions were presented simultaneously at the Canton Museum of Art, McKinley Presidential Library & Museum, and the Massillon Museum, plus more than 30 events and programs. Other partners included Canton Food Tours, Carpe Diem Coffee Shop, National First Ladies' Library, Palace Theater, StarkFresh, Food Design Institute at Walsh University, and Kent State Stark. Funding for parts of Project EAT! came from Arts in Stark and Visit Canton.

This collaboration increased awareness of food insecurity in our community, while growing attendance at all three museums during the exhibitions. In his letter of support, Canton Museum of Art Executive Director Max Barton said, "The *Food for Thought* exhibition exposed audiences to 70 works of art from names like Thomas Hart Benton, Clyde Singer, Salvador Dali, and more. Nearly 6,000 visitors during the exhibition explored food through objects, people, and places – what we eat, how we eat, and even who we dine with . . . creating an intimate look at the role of food in life. CMA was also able to participate with a launch-point and book signing event for *Stark County Food: From Early Farming to Modern Meals*, co-authored by Barbara Abbott and Kimberly Kenney. The event drew many attendees to hear a discussion of the book and about the need for all of us to assist in hunger reduction."

Tom Phillips, Executive Director of StarkFresh, also praised the partnership: "This collaborative effort brought together a myriad of farms, restaurants, nonprofits, museums, and universities to form a year-round programming effort centered around food. Not only did this level of collaboration help introduce audiences to a large cross-section of programming, but it created a more public narrative about our area's history and the way food connects us all. This project helped start a ripple effect which continues to find us looking at collaborative solutions to address hunger within our community. I know of no other program that has impacted the community as much as Project EAT."

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The McKinley Presidential Library & Museum is located at 800 McKinley Monument Dr NW in Canton. The Keller Gallery is the Museum's temporary exhibition space and features a variety of topics each year. The Museum also includes the McKinley National Memorial, McKinley Gallery, Street of Shops, The Stark County Story, Discover World, and the Hoover-Price Planetarium. The Museum is open

Tuesday – Saturday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 to 4:00 PM. The Museum is closed Sunday and Monday.

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