



Blairstown Museum

Small Town. Big History.™

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PRESS RELEASE

PHILANTHROPY LIVES AT THE BLAIRSTOWN MUSEUM

Small Town Museum, Big Time Impact



Photo: Blairstown Museum October 1, 2016 Grand Opening (Courtesy Blairstown Museum)

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Blairstown, NJ (June 15, 2017) — When the Iurato family moved to Blairstown, they were surprised to find that the township did not have a museum honoring its founders. There wasn't a central place where new residents and others could learn about the people and businesses that shaped the town's past and how to be good stewards of the historic village and rural beauty that they left in their care.

The family's intention for the property at 26 Main Street was to rent the first floor space to a business that would complement the historic district's businesses, add to the tourism appeal and increase the overall foot traffic of the area. They were overwhelmed by the amount of people that enthusiastically suggested they establish a museum.

Following eighteen-months of renovations, artifact collecting, historic research, and networking with some of the most brilliant historians in the area, the Blairstown Museum opened to rave reviews. Nearly 600-people attended the Grand Opening on October 1, 2016. Today, people from all over the region incorporate the museum into their Northwest New Jersey travels.

“As the Blairstown Museum's Curator, I can honestly say the Blairstown Museum is so much more than just a space filled with display cabinets. Within our small footprint history comes alive in the eyes of children who see artifacts from a bygone era; neighbors meet to share their stories and rekindle their connections; newcomers and visitors learn about our history and those before us; local artists and businesses incorporate their items and crafts into our gift shop; Friday the 13th is celebrated as a local holiday; and love abounds through our many community-driven programs and events.” says Jeanette Iurato, Founder and Curator of the Blairstown Museum. She continues “Blairstown's history finally has a home... where everyone is welcomed.”

Traditionally, museums established by government agencies, commissions and committees operate almost exclusively on taxpayer funds. However, the Blairstown Museum is governed by an elected Board of Trustees, founded by civically minded people, existing for the stewardship of its collection and the education of the public. As a privately funded museum, the Blairstown Museum exists in a civic capacity based on public trust, whose operating budget and endowment were established without government support.

The Blairstown Museum offers permanent and changing exhibitions, public programs, historic tours, family-friendly events and research assistance. Living up to its slogan “Small Town, Big History”, the Blairstown Museum packs a big punch for a small space. Guests can spend a considerable amount of time viewing exhibitions, receiving research assistance, chatting with visitors, reading magazines and charging their mobile devices. There is even a play area for children.

When asked the cost of admission, Jeanette Iurato replied “Absolutely zero. We pride ourselves on providing impeccable exhibitions at no cost to our visitors or local taxpayers.” The Blairstown



Museum, located at 26 Main Street Blairstown NJ, is a current New Jersey Non-Profit organization, pending 501(C)3 status. They are open every Thursday through Sunday from 11am to 5pm. Visit their website www.blairstownmuseum.com for further information.

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