

## **Berkshire Museum Press Release**

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# **Statement from Berkshire Museum in Response to the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD)**

[Pittsfield, MA] – The Board of Trustees of the Berkshire Museum and Van Shields, Executive Director, release this statement in response to the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD):

We have been gratified by the outpouring of support from the full spectrum of our community for the New Vision recently unveiled by the Berkshire Museum. Through an extensive, two-year planning process, the vision was formed in collaboration with our community and in direct response to the needs and opportunities of our region. The board and staff of the Berkshire Museum gave full consideration to the guidelines on deaccessioning published by the American Alliance of Museums and the Association of Art Museum Directors, and their response to our strategy is not unexpected. But we believe it is the right strategy for the future of the Berkshire Museum and for the future of Pittsfield.

## **About the Berkshire Museum**

Located in downtown Pittsfield, Massachusetts, at 39 South St., the Berkshire Museum, a Smithsonian Affiliate, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. In association with the Smithsonian since 2013, Berkshire Museum is part of a select group of museums, cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share the Smithsonian's resources with the nation. The Berkshire Museum integrates science, history, and the arts in dynamic, educational, and engaging programs and exhibitions for visitors of all ages. *Curiosity Incubator* is on view.

***GUITAR: The Instrument That Rocked the World*** is on view now through September 4, 2017. Little Cinema is open year-round. Lab102, Feigenbaum Hall of Innovation, Worlds in Miniature, Aquarium, and other exhibits are ongoing.