

Bysiewicz, area officials visit New Britain Museum of American Art to highlight state's Summer at the Museum program

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NEW BRITAIN – The New Britain Museum of American Art welcomed Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz and state officials to the museum Monday morning to highlight the state's Summer at the Museum program.

“We're delighted to participate in the Connecticut Summer at the Museum program, which allows us to once again welcome hundreds of families to our beautiful museum this summer,” said Maureen O-Shea, NBMAA director of education.

In addition to Bysiewicz, State Rep William Petit and State Senator Rick Lopes were in attendance.

“This museum is one of the first in America to collect only American art. So this is the place to come, and through the Summer at the Museum program, which we started last year, families across the state have the opportunity to bring their children for free all summer long,” Bysiewicz said.

The free entry for all Connecticut children age 18 and under who are accompanied by one Connecticut resident adult was effective as of July 1 and will run through Labor Day, September 5. Those interested can make reservations and get tickets online or get tickets in-person.

“Visitors are encouraged to make reservations online because this is a very popular place and we have museums across the state that are doing the same thing that are welcoming our families, particularly children,” Bysiewicz said. “This is an amazing opportunity for children to come and learn about art and culture.”

Bysiewicz highlighted the 30 Americans exhibit that is currently on display until October 30 where the conference was being held. It showcases works by some of the most significant artists of the last four decades, including Jean-Michel Basquiat, Mickalene Thomas, Kara Walker, Hank Willis Thomas and Kehinde Wiley. Her favorite piece was Portraits of Quanikah by Mickalene Thomas.

“People talk to me all the time about going out to Boston or New York and I say ‘have you been to the New Britain Museum of American Art, The Hill-Stead, The Griswold?’ There are many places in Connecticut,”



Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz and Rep. William Petit Photo Provided by Ciara Hooks

Petit said. “And you can spend half the day here at the museum, visit Walnut Hill Park, the garden at the top and head over to Angelo’s to get some great Italian food. That’s a perfect day.”

Some of the museums include reduced admissions, free admissions or free admissions on certain days of the week for seniors, Petit added.

“It was very interesting to hear that this museum hosted 500 families over the summer last year,” Bysiewicz said. “Many of the museums across the state had a similar experience and we heard from so many families whose kids enjoyed and learned at the beautiful museums so we’re happy to be able to bring this program back this summer. The summer is a perfect time to come and see the art.”

The Summer at the Museum program was started by Gov. Ned Lamont and his administration as part of their mission to get kids learning and to keep them busy during the summer and recover some of the learning that was lost over the pandemic.

“The governor and I had this program to get kids and their parents to go to museums, but also places like Mystic Seaport, Mystic Aquarium and the Norwalk Aquarium for free with adults,” Bysiewicz said. “And we’re hoping that while families are out enjoying these places that they will also take the opportunity to explore the city and discover some wonderful cultural treasures that we have in our state and hopefully they’ll be supporting our small businesses.”

The Connecticut Summer at the Museum program is made possible from the covid-19 Recovery Funding that is being received by the state from the American Rescue Plan Act.

You can visit the Department of Economic and Community Development website at portal.ct.gov/decd for participating museum listings and to apply for the child tax credit.