



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**SHELBURNE MUSEUM ANNOUNCES NATIVE AMERICAN ART CENTER DESIGN
COLLABORATIVE APPROACH HALLMARK OF PROJECT**

SHELBURNE, Vermont (Sept.26, 2024)—Shelburne Museum announced the architectural team and design for the Perry Center for Native American Art, a building and integrated landscape collaboratively designed to create a national resource for the exhibition, study and care of an important collection representing Indigenous art from across the continent.

“The design of the Perry Center for Native American Art and the many steps that led us to this moment are the result of a collaborative approach focused on communication and relationship building with Tribal Nations to create a national resource for the study and care of Indigenous art,” said Thomas Denenberg, John Wilmerding Director and CEO of Shelburne Museum.

Annum Architects of Boston and Two Row Architect of Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation were chosen to design the Perry Center, joining together noted firms with depth of experience in both major museum and Indigenous projects. Landscape design is by Reed Hilderbrand of Cambridge, Massachusetts, a practice with extensive experience designing landscapes that seamlessly integrate with architecture.

(MORE)



The Perry Center for Native American Art is planned to be an 11,200 square-foot, highly sustainable structure with design consideration based on input from Tribal partners. The \$12.5 million Perry Center will serve as a welcoming space for Tribal members and scholars to study and engage with the collection and will reimagine the museum experience for all visitors. Plans call for construction to begin in spring of 2025.

“Searching for the appropriate design response for the building and landscape has been a deliberate and deeply collaborative exploration between Shelburne Museum, Two Row, Reed Hilderbrand and Annum,” said Annum Principal Steven Gerrard. “Embedded in the design are careful listening, research and creative iteration of ideas, all reflective of how the museum has operated since its founding.”

Integral to the project is collaboration with over 50 Indigenous partners, who advised on cultural protocols and design considerations and care and conservation of the collection. In addition, insight and guidance about the building and landscape design were taken from listening sessions—a series of Talking Circles—led by Indigenous-owned Two Row Architect that included leadership and culture bearers of the local Abenaki, the traditional stewards of the site, along with Tribal Nations represented in the museum’s collection.

“The Talking Circles guided us in considering this project in different ways. The building needed to honor the host nation, the Abenaki. The internal space, where the items from many Tribal Nations will be housed, will need to accommodate unique moments with items in the collection and allow for those items to be to be looked at and taken care of in unique ways,” said Matthew Hickey, from the Mohawk Nation, and a partner at Two Row.

The Perry Center will be the 40th building on the museum’s 45-acre campus and will house a significant collection that includes items gathered by Anthony and Teressa Perry and recently

(MORE)



gifted to the museum. When combined with the Indigenous art already stewarded by the museum, the collection represents more than 500 items from 389 Tribal Nations across the continent.

“The Perry Center will enhance the museum’s mission as an educational resource for the local community, will amplify Shelburne Museum’s role as partners rather than arbiters and will empower the Indigenous peoples represented in the collection by reconceiving the role of a museum facility in presenting material culture,” said D. Scott Wise chairman of the Shelburne Museum Board of Trustees.

The project has received early public and private grant funding support including from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the State of Vermont, Henry Luce Foundation, Lilly Endowment Inc., Terra Foundation for American Art, Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Endowment for the Arts and The Decorative Arts Trust.

About Shelburne Museum: Shelburne Museum is the largest art and history museum in northern New England and Vermont’s foremost public resource for programming in the arts and humanities. Incorporated in 1947, the museum comprises 39 buildings and 22 gardens on a 45-acre campus. The museum stewards a collection of over 100,000 objects in unique and unparalleled installations of American art and material culture. Programming includes exhibitions and educational programs designed to creatively engage a broad spectrum of audiences and spark conversation and contemplation about the human condition.

About Annum Architects: Annum Architects’ (previously Ann Beha Architects) projects explore the discourse between heritage and the future to establish new identities and settings for arts, education and the civic realm. The firm’s design honors include awards from the Boston Society of Architects, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Society for College and

(MORE)



University Planning and the American Institute of Architects. Based in Boston and practicing worldwide, Annum is a minority-owned firm with a diverse and inclusive studio culture.
annumarchitects.com

About Two Row Architect: Established in 1992 by principal Architect Brian Porter (OnAyota'a:ka), Two Row Architect is a 100% native-owned business operated from the Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation. Since its inception in 1992, the firm has focused on providing services to projects for Indigenous clients as well as those that incorporate Indigenous cultural ideologies and teachings manifested in architectural form. The firm's focus is on guiding the realignment of mainstream ways of thinking on a journey towards Indigenous ways of knowing, being, design and architecture. The firm's ultimate goal is to promote architecture that has a positive impact on nature, humanity and our current sense of civilization.

About Reed-Hilderbrand: Reed Hilderbrand practices landscape architecture as an act of purposeful transformation. Now in its third decade, Reed Hilderbrand is engaged on commissions for Tekakawimək Contact Station at Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument, Storm King Art Center and Longwood Gardens. Regional projects completed by Reed Hilderbrand include Bennington College and the grounds of the Clark Art Institute. The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) named Reed Hilderbrand the 2013 Landscape Architecture Firm of the Year.

IMAGE: View of gathering circle and north façade Perry Center for Native American Art at Shelburne Museum. Image: Annum Architects.

LINK: to high res images

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/tofqambpch65gqvu7ttz9/AE9cKbbgl0r2WI0Skv2pamQ?rlkey=a1hrl7cw1mfeaq3ap44b4ilbk&st=mqf4odcs&dl=0>

(MORE)



For media inquiries, please contact:

Leslie Wright, Director of Communications and Marketing

Shelburne Museum

lwright@shelburnemuseum.org,

802-985-0880

Kristen Levesque,

Kristen Levesque Public Relations

kristen@kristenlevesquepr.com

###