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TWO NEW GALLERIES OPENED AT THE ELLA SHARP MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORY

Jackson, MI – The Ella Sharp Museum of Art and History opened two new galleries -- the Andrews Gallery of Wildlife Art and the Jackson History Gallery -- to the public on October 1st. The galleries are part of a \$2.5 million expansion that also includes an education resource center and 3,000-square-foot community room, donor lounge, gift shop and accessible offices.

The Andrews Gallery of Wildlife Art will house a rotating exhibition of the Museum's recent acquisition of the Andy and Sandy Andrews' wildlife art collection, featuring nationally-known wildlife artists.

The gallery's inaugural exhibit includes 62 artworks by 28 artists including world champion decoy carvers Tan Brunet, Jett Brunet and Pat Godin and paintings and prints including works by artists Terry Redlin, Claiborne Gregory, and Ron Kingswood. Also included are bronze sculptures and a number of rare taxidermy mounts including a White-Cheeked Pintail (The Bahamas) and a "Nene" (Hawaiian Goose).

"In the late 1960s, we began to collect wildlife art of all kinds. Bird carvings were always our favorites and we eventually gravitated to the more realistic and fine decorative bird carvings," said Andy Andrews. "Knowledge of the anatomy of a bird is pivotal in creating a convincing presentation and the inclusion of taxidermy in the collection will be educational and very exciting to us."

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Delta Waterfowl Foundation Becomes Education Partner

The new gallery has attracted the attention of wildlife artists and enthusiasts across the country including the Delta Waterfowl Foundation in Bismarck, North Dakota. The Foundation, a nonprofit membership organization committed to the preservation of waterfowl and founded in 1938, has determined that the Andrews Gallery of Wildlife Art is of national importance. Therefore, Delta's Waterfowl Heritage Fund will provide funding for several years to support WINGS, the Museum's educational outreach of the Andrews Gallery of Wildlife Art. The Foundation believes the WINGS program will set important precedents for teaching conservation through the visual arts.

Jackson History Gallery

The new Jackson History Gallery will exhibit a changing collection of Jackson stories from the pre-historic jawbone of an area Mastodon and early artifacts from the Jacksonburgh settlement, through the Civil and World Wars, and into the age "the world takes what Jackson makes!" A special children's eye view of Jackson, film footage from the 1930s, and a database of businesses from the earliest years are included in the exhibit.

MotorCities National Heritage Area Awards Grant for 1916 Marion

A centerpiece of the Jackson History Gallery will be a restored 1916 Marion K Six Cylinder Touring Car manufactured in Jackson. The MotorCities National Heritage Area of the National Park Service has awarded a grant for the interpretation of the automobile, funding brochures, interpretive panels and other materials used in the gallery installation. James Handley's Mutual Motors Company sold 2,505 Marion-Handley automobiles before the end of production in 1917.