



NewsRelease

FOR RELEASE:
October 22, 2009

CONTACT: Maria Morreale, Director of Marketing
716.270.8229, mmoreale@albrightknox.org

Albright-Knox Art Gallery to be Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays Starting November 3

Good News on County Funding, Ongoing Fiscal Responsibility, and Shorter Open Hours on More Days Allow Return to Six Open Days Per Week

Buffalo, NY — The Albright-Knox Art Gallery announced today that it would return to six open days per week, re-opening the museum to the public on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Beginning on November 3, the Gallery will be open from noon to 5 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday and noon to 10 pm on Friday. The move comes as Erie County Executive Chris Collins recommended a slight increase in funding for the Gallery in his 2010 budget that is to be voted on by the Legislature. "This is good news," Gallery Director Louis Grachos said. "It gives us a measure of assurance that we can make this important decision and still meet our budget this year."

"We have been turning visitors away every day that the Gallery is closed," Grachos added. "We knew that despite our fiscal challenges right now, we simply had to find a way to adjust our open hours. To find us closed is a big disappointment for our visitors, our loyal supporters, and the community in general. Tourists to the area, who have often come a long way to visit the Gallery, are particularly disappointed to arrive and find us closed." Grachos continued, "the Gallery has a strong commitment to our role as a magnet for cultural tourism, and we need to play a significant role in the development of the cultural assets that will drive the region's tourism economy; making the Albright-Knox Art Gallery more accessible is an important and necessary step."

Grachos and his staff explored several options. Opening at noon rather than at 10 am saves the Gallery two hours per day, or eight hours per week. This allows the addition of open hours on both Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The Gallery is adding the cost of two extra hours per week to its budget, but given the news from the County Executive, the Gallery's staff and Board felt that this was an acceptable risk as the Gallery strives to stay on course to achieve its three-year financial plan. The Wednesday close, announced in July 2009, was a temporary measure.

The Gallery has several upcoming exhibitions on its schedule that are expected to be major draws for local and regional audiences as well as national and international tourists, which will bring revenue that will help to offset some of the increased cost. The Gallery Shop and the Gallery's restaurant, **muse**, will also be open to the public during the new hours. Director Grachos said, "I know the community will rally behind us and continue to support the great exhibitions,

programs, and events we have planned for 2010 and celebrate our impressive Permanent Collection.”

Commenting on today’s announcement, Erie County Executive Chris Collins said, “The Albright-Knox Art Gallery richly deserves my proposed funding increase, the Gallery received a strong review from the Erie County Cultural Resources Advisory Board (ECCRAB) through its revised funding selection process. I am pleased the Gallery will be using the funding to increase its hours of operation. The Gallery is a world-class attraction that helps drive cultural tourism, a growing segment of our economy. I want to thank Louis Grachos and his staff for their commitment to this community.”

Free school tours provided by BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York through the *Art’scool* program that are scheduled at the Gallery during the morning hours will be unaffected by this change.

The Gallery will continue with ongoing measures to control costs. A price increase initiated in January 2009 will remain in effect, and the Gallery will continue to implement programs like **At work**, a staff development program designed for businesses and corporations, to increase revenues.

The Albright-Knox Art Gallery is recognized as one of the world’s leading collections of modern and contemporary art. With more than 6,500 works in its collection and a dynamic series of exhibitions and public programs, the AKAG continues to grow and fulfill its mission to acquire, exhibit, and preserve modern and contemporary art in an enriching, dynamic, and vibrant environment.

Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday noon to 5 pm; Friday noon to 10 pm. The Gallery is closed on Mondays. Admission: \$12 for adults; \$8 for seniors and students; free for Gallery Members and children 12 and under. On Fridays from 3 to 10 pm, *Gusto at the Gallery* features a variety of free programs for visitors of all ages. For additional information, visit www.albrightknox.org.

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