

Editorial: A new name makes for perfect start for next 50 years

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For 50 years, residents of Anderson have enjoyed the beauty of art in various forms at the Anderson Center for the Arts.

Going forward, they will continue to enjoy the beauty, but under a new name. Now the Anderson Museum of Art, the historic building at 32 W. 10th St. celebrated its new name during a 50th anniversary gala last week.

The center, or museum as we now call it, is an important part of the community. Since its founding in 1967 at the Alford House on Historic West Eighth Street and the restoration and move to the former Carnegie Public Library building in May 1998, the arts center has fostered creativity, higher thinking, expressions of the human spirit and has offered the appreciation for beauty in many forms.

According to Andrew Hopper, museum board of trustees president, art “motivates, mends, inspires, intrigues and empowers” people. It also “contributes to the well-being of those who encounter it.”

Museum Executive Director Deborah Stapleton said she believes one of the things that has been constant in the community is the center. She also believes that it’s the “overriding joy and belief in the arts being important in a community.”

Stapleton said organizations have to be ever-evolving and that the museum has been fortunate to have had “great people on the board, on staff and volunteers that have cared about this organization and the community.”

Through many ups and downs over the last five decades, the organization has acquired about 800 pieces of art, most of which have been out of view from the public.

And, Stapleton hopes the permanent collection can be more accessible to residents, through exhibitions or by checking out the art online.

If you haven’t attended, the museum will continue its 50th anniversary celebration with an honorary exhibition of art following the organization’s history through mid-October. And, other events, outreach programs and educational events will also be featured.

We can only hope that more residents will be inspired and empowered and see the beauty of all the museum has to offer.