

December 12, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

Campaign successful in reuniting paintings

The portraits of Fanny Smith and L.A.D. Crenshaw - two important settlers of Springfield - will remain together at the Springfield Art Museum, thanks to support from donors who brought the pair together last July after a century of separation. The Springfield Art Museum launched a campaign to purchase the portrait of L.A.D. Crenshaw in November, through the Community Foundation of the Ozarks' "Cause Momentum" program. "The web-based campaign solicited strong community support, both through Cause Momentum donations as well as direct donations to the Museum," said Merritt Giles, Springfield Art Museum assistant director. "The donations of many individuals and groups in the Springfield community allowed for the purchase of the distinguished portrait of Mr. Crenshaw."

Southwest Missouri Museum Associates led the gift-giving. Other major donations were provided by the McQueary Family, Bobby Allison, the Friends of the Springfield Art Museum and Justice Jewelers. The remainder of the \$45,000 needed, was donated by numerous individuals and groups within Springfield. Extra funds received through the campaign will go towards conservation work on the Fanny Crenshaw portrait, ensuring the longevity of these paintings in the museum's permanent collection.

"We are so pleased that so many in the community came together to allow us to reunite these portraits. Having these portraits together again, after a century apart, is something that our community can be proud of. Everyone at the Museum is grateful for everyone who made this important acquisition possible," said Nick Nelson, museum director.

The Crenshaw portraits will remain on long-term display in the Musgrave Wing, Thielen Gallery.

For more information, contact: Merritt Giles, Assistant Director, 417-837-5700 or mgiles@springfieldmo.gov