As was recently revealed in an Asheville Watchdog report ("Not a Pretty Picture at the Asheville Art Museum," Nov. 9, 2022), Museum staff have been subject to abuse and fear tactics from the Executive Director, Pam Myers, for years without sufficient Board support.

We, the current and former staff of the Asheville Art Museum, want to reclaim our Museum—an institution built by the community and for the community. We will not sit by and continue watching the organization, employees, and the public suffer because of the failures of the Executive Director and the Board of Trustees who enable and protect her.

We refuse to continue being verbally and emotionally abused; we refuse to be gaslit and silenced when we defend ourselves; we refuse to be subjected to sexual harassment without proper corrective action; we refuse to be bullied by Myers’ supporters; we refuse to turn a blind eye and be powerless in our mission to build a better museum.

Despite a systemic culture of fear and toxic leadership, dedicated and passionate Museum staff have and continue to produce exemplary exhibitions and programming on behalf of our community and its many visitors. We believe the Museum is a critical resource for our region. We care for the Museum deeply, and it is because of that love for what it is, and more importantly for what it truly could be, that we are asking you to join us in supporting the Museum and not its leader. They are not the same. One can be excised from the whole, and the whole will thrive and flourish, without being strangled from within.

The time is now. We believe in a vibrant Museum that is the center of the art community in Western North Carolina. We urge the Board of Trustees to do their duty and remove Pam Myers immediately in order to protect the current and future health and viability of the Institution.

Board of Trustees:

Tami Bebber
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Chris Cavanaugh
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Signed,

Lauren Arruza, Gallery Attendant, 2011-2014
Kelly Baisley, School & Family Programs Manager, 2019-2022
Patti Freeman Behzad, Store Manager & Visitor Services Manager, 2019-2020
Lauren Bellard, Black Mountain College Project Curatorial Fellow, 2012-2014
Parker Louise Bobbitt, Museum Assistant, 2014-2018
Kristen Boddy, Membership and Museum Events Manager, 2018-2021
Jenny Bowen, Visitor Services & Museum Shop Manager, 2014
Amanda Bryan, Events Coordinator, 2013-2015
Luiza deCamargo, Curatorial Assistant, 2013-2015
Alex Fisher, Events Manager, 2012-2013
John Floyd, Gallery Associate, 2019-2020
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Melisa Holman, Grants Manager and Development Associate, 2012-2014
Matilyn Hull, Membership Manager & Digital Media Associate, 2021-2022
Mark Jackson, Grants Manager, 2014-2017
Anna Capel Koll, Gallery Attendant, 2015
Lenny Kyriakoulis, Gallery Assistant, 2022
Cornelia Ligon, Visitor Services and Gallery Attendant Manager, 2012-2013
Bobby Morgan, Assistant Preparator and Gallery Attendant, 2012-2014
Lacy Nance, Adult Programs & Community Outreach Manager, 2022
Cameron Rademacher, Museum Associate, 2021
Candace Reilly, Adult Programs Manager, 2013-2015
Chelsea Rudisill, Grants Manager, 2018-2021
Lydia See, Curatorial Fellow, 2020 + Connections Intern 2018
Jen Swanson, Communications Manager, 2013-2018
M. Paige Taylor, Learning & Engagement Assistant, 2020-2021
Laura Wheeler, Visitor Services & Museum Shop Manager, 2014-2018
Elizabeth White, Visitor Services Associate, 2021
Ali Whitman, Registrarial Assistant 2013-2014