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## ***Visions of the Susquehanna River Art Exhibit*** **Opens at Zimmerman Center for Heritage**

Regional heritage group thanks community for contributions.

**Wrightsville, PA** – The Lancaster-York Heritage Region celebrated the opening of the *Visions of the Susquehanna River Art Collection* this evening during a community reception for donors, artists and heritage partners at The John and Kathryn Zimmerman Center for Heritage at Historic Pleasant Garden, along the river at Long Level. The event also honored John Zimmerman and his late wife Kathryn with a commemorative building plaque in recognition of their long-time service to the community and their 2007 donation of the Center's historic Pleasant Garden mansion to the Heritage Region.

The opening reception was the first public display of the newly established river art collection, which was acquired with grant funding from the Pennsylvania Heritage Areas Program and matching funds generously contributed by local donors. Over \$58,000 in private contributions were received to match the \$50,000 state grant.

The *Visions of the Susquehanna River Art Collection* consists of selected contemporary pieces that were part of the travelling exhibit *Visions of the Susquehanna: 250 Years of Paintings by American Masters*. The exhibit, organized and curated by York County artist Rob Evans in 2006, examined the rich tapestry of Susquehanna river art created by the extraordinary number of renowned artists, past and present, who have gravitated to the Susquehanna to paint. This impressive show was well received at six venues in three states. The Heritage Region believes that keeping a significant portion of the collection together will help interpret the scenic beauty, natural wonder, and rich history of the Susquehanna for current and future generations.

**The river art will soon be available for public viewing at The John & Kathryn Zimmerman Center for Heritage, 1706 Long Level Road, Wrightsville, PA 17368. The public is invited to attend a Community Open House at the Zimmerman Center on Friday, November 7, 2008, from 10am-4pm. After this event, public visiting hours will be 10am-4pm on the First Friday of each month, starting on December 5, 2008. Guided group visits to the collection may also be scheduled by appointment at other times for a moderate fee.**

While the First Friday visits are free, contributions to the river art fund are welcome and

appreciated. More paintings will be added to the collection as funds become available. Donations to the acquisition fund are tax-deductible. Checks may be made payable to the Lancaster-York Heritage Region, 1706 Long Level Road, Wrightsville, PA 17368.

The river art collection is eventually intended for permanent exhibition at the proposed Susquehanna Gateway River Heritage Center, planned as a signature feature of the recently established Susquehanna Heritage Park, also located along the river near Long Level.

More information about the *Visions of the Susquehanna River Art Collection*, details about viewing the collection, and donation opportunities can be found on the Heritage Region's website, [www.StoriesoftheLand.com](http://www.StoriesoftheLand.com), by email at [info@lyhr.org](mailto:info@lyhr.org), or by calling 717-252-0229.

**More about the Zimmerman Center for Heritage:** John and Kathryn Zimmerman of Mount Wolf, PA purchased Pleasant Garden, commonly referred to as the Dritt Mansion, in 1998 and spent five years restoring and renovating the formal Georgian styled stone house to its current condition. The house and property overlook the majestic Susquehanna River at Long Level. In May 2007 the Zimmermans donated the historic house and property to the Lancaster-York Heritage Region to serve as its regional office. The Heritage Region's Board of Directors recognized this generous contribution by dedicating the home as The John & Kathryn Zimmerman Center for Heritage at Historic Pleasant Garden. The opening of the *Visions of the Susquehanna River Art Collection* for public viewing supports the Zimmermans' vision of sharing the home with the community and providing educational opportunities that explore the Susquehanna's rich heritage.

The building plaque honoring the Zimmermans reads: *In recognition of their life-long commitment to civic improvement and their generous gift of this historic home as a place to honor and celebrate regional heritage, Pleasant Garden is dedicated to John & Kathryn Zimmerman, October 2008.*

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The Lancaster-York Heritage Region is a non-profit organization that raises awareness and appreciation of the cultural and economic value of the Susquehanna Gateway region, and preserves, enhances and celebrates its most significant heritage assets as economically vital attractions for residents and visitors alike. For more information about the organization please visit [www.StoriesoftheLand.com](http://www.StoriesoftheLand.com).

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