

Toledo Now
10 hours ago

WHO IS GUARDING THE TRUST? BETSY BRADY & THE GREAT GALLERY BAIT-AND-SWITCH

Swipe through the images attached to this post.

Images 1 & 2: The iconic Great Gallery in 2014. A dense, breathtaking sanctuary of cohesive Old Masters, built to inspire every single resident of Toledo.

Images 3 & 4: The new official town hall renderings. The walls have been stripped bare. Only four Old Masters remain, mixed into a confusing layout that completely destroys the room's historic purpose—unless an institutional lecture on the evils of history is their only goal.

When looking at this architectural downsizing, we have to ask a simple question: Who is allowing this to happen?

Look at Elizabeth "Betsy" Brady, a 20-year museum insider and the first female Chair of the Board.

What makes Betsy Brady the most critical player to look at isn't her past philanthropy. It's where she sits right now: on both the board of the museum and the board of the Edward Drummond Libbey Endowment Fund.

As a custodian of the Libbey Trust, Betsy Brady's literal, legal job is to safeguard the investments and strict instructions left in Edward Drummond Libbey's 1925 Will. Yet, under her direct oversight, the board is executing a massive corporate bait-and-switch:

They are greenlighting a "Transformation" that replaces our world-class, cohesive art sanctuaries with this, while crown jewel paintings are packed into crates to be leased to international venues – or sold, we don't know.

Public attendance has tanked by a staggering 66% since before the pandemic.

The board wants us to look at their glossy website and stay quiet. In fact, when local citizens and "Children of the Museum" use social media to criticize this direction, elite insiders scramble to leave angry, defensive comments to shut us down.

But our eyes don't lie. The 2014 photos prove what we used to own. The new renderings prove what they are doing and what we no longer have because they took it away.

When the people tasked with protecting the trust choose to side with corporate overreach instead of the public, the community has no choice but to step in. This is

exactly why we triggered Case Reference Number 114140 with the Ohio Attorney General's Charitable Law Section.

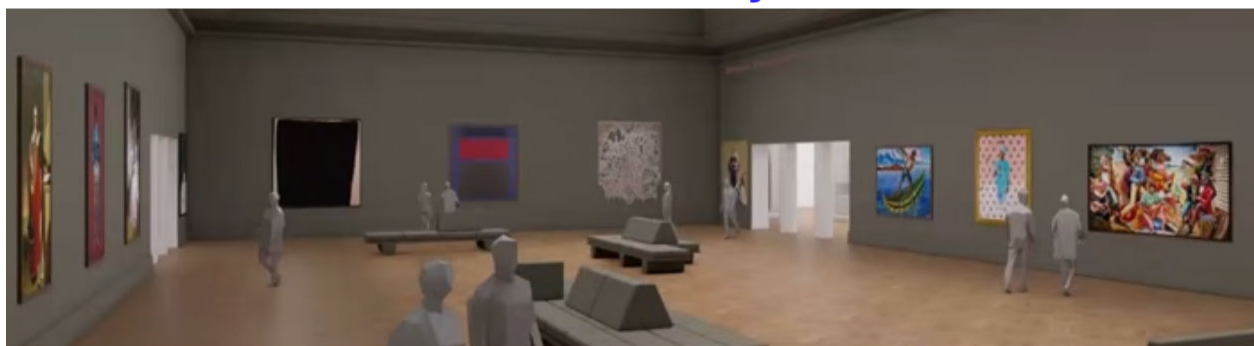
Look at these pictures. Remember what they took. And get ready to fight for it.

[#ToledoNow](#) [#SaveTheLibbeyTrust](#) [#ChildrenOfTheMuseum](#) [#BetsyBrady](#)
[#LibbeyEndowment](#) [#Case114140](#) [#MuseumShellGame](#) [#GreatGallery](#)





The Great Gallery redo



Top: east side, bottom, west side, spanning a 500-year chronology, from Europe to the U.S.

The Great Gallery redo (south center wall)

1821	2020	1771
		
Lord Amherst	Frederick Douglass	Hester, Countess of Sussex, and Her Daughter, Lady Barbara Yelverton

Jeff Circle

Our museum has slipped away to something that's unrecognizable, and it's still happening right in front of our eyes. The problem is that since attendance has dropped so dramatically, people aren't seeing it. The museum is taking the magic and wonder of art and destroying it. We are witnessing a classic money grab under the guise of claiming to move things into a new future. It's disgusting, and it's why I'm among the many of those who canceled my family membership and refuse to patronize this once great institution.

What would Mr. & Mrs. Libbey think if they could see what has happened to the once incredible legacy they left for us? What about Arthur Secor, George Stevens, Nina Spalding Stevens, or the great Otto Wittmann? (Look into the danger and sacrifice Wittmann exposed himself to in WW2 Europe to save art.) I venture to say they would be shocked. What these people built was for the people of Toledo and beyond. They didn't leave it for directors and board members to plunder the art and the trust for their own gain.

Sherry Driver

Taking away the grandeur and replacing it with blandness! Minimal framing, no cohesiveness, and gray paint without depth. This is awful!!!

Toledo Now

Sherry Driver You hit the nail on the head! 'Replacing grandeur with blandness' is the exact corporate formula here. They take a historic sanctuary, throw up flat gray paint without any depth, and try to sell it to us as 'modern minimalism.'

And here is the kicker: at the town hall, they tried to backpedal by saying they are 'still deciding on the color.' But if they haven't decided, why is flat, lifeless gray the exact color they chose to project on their official presentation slides? It shows you exactly what their real vision is: turning a civic masterpiece into a sterile, corporate lobby.

They are trading historic cohesiveness for bland corporate design, all while public attendance has already plummeted by 66%. This is exactly why we aren't trusting their glossy promises anymore. We've got the state reviewing this entire mess under Case Reference Number 114140 to force them to respect the legal and aesthetic legacy of Edward Libbey.

Thank you for calling out the gray trap—our eyes don't lie!

Joyce Tatro Manes

Unbelievable. Who are these board members in charge??? They should be ashamed of themselves for approving this ridiculous nonsense.

Jeff Circle

Joyce Tatro Manes agreed.

Toledo Now

Joyce Tatro Manes Joyce Tatro Manes They absolutely should be ashamed, and it is time the public knows exactly who is sitting in those seats.

The people pushing this 'ridiculous nonsense' aren't art historians or community educators—it is a conflicted network of multi-millionaire corporate executives running our public museum like a private real estate portfolio:

- Mike Thaman (Board Chair): Former long-time CEO of Owens Corning.
- Pat Bowe (Vice Chair): CEO of The Andersons, Inc.
- Sharon Speyer (Vice Chair): Retired Regional President of Huntington Bank.
- Thomas Winston (Treasurer): CEO of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority.

While they use public taxpayer money to fund a \$25 million air conditioning bill, they are greenlighting a layout that strips the Libbey name off historic galleries to hand out elite naming titles to their wealthy friends.

We are not letting them hide behind the museum's PR team anymore. Starting this week, Toledo Now is launching a daily Board Stewardship Profile series to expose exactly who these executives are, how their corporate interests conflict with our museum, and how we are using Ohio AG Case Reference Number 114140 to stop them.

Hit share, tell your friends, and stay tuned. The exposure starts tomorrow!

Joyce Tatro Manes

yaaaaassssss!!!!

Stace Sheckler Sondergeld

Like the Uptown Maumee & P'burg Reno's- "Trust Us, we're improving it" No, No No!

Toledo Now

Stace Sheckler Sondergeld Spot on! You nailed it. It's the exact same corporate 'Trust Us' script we saw with the Maumee and Perrysburg renovations. They take a beautiful, historic, functional local landmark, strip away its character, and call it 'progress.'

But there is a massive difference here: the city planners didn't have a binding legal will stopping them. The Toledo Museum of Art Board DOES.

Edward Drummond Libbey explicitly left his collection under strict rules to prevent corporate executives from playing these exact layout shell games with our city's

inheritance. They thought they could sneak this past us using the same flashy PR tactics, but the 'Children of the Museum' are smarter than that.

That's why we've got the state involved under Case Reference Number 114140. We aren't trusting their glossy booklets anymore. We are enforcing the law.

Stace Sheckler Sondergeld

Thank you !

Ginty Persimmon

I thought the plan was to arrange "chronologically"?!?!

Toledo Now

Ginty Persimmon so did I !!

Bryn Toney

Every time i go to the museum its sad, disappointing, areas closed off and areas that had been "redone" look like modern garbage.

Living in an area that proclaims to be so proud of our local art destinations and artist and yet this is what we get. Despicable actions of those making decisions.

Joe Celusta

Unbelievable, but reality sees the problem



Joyce Tatro Manes

PS the only institution that I know of with gray walls is prison!!! Where did they get their art degrees? Cracker Jack box???

Joyce Tatro Manes

Vivek Ramaswamy