The personal and holistic development of students. The education of students who are men and women for and with others throughout the world. A spirit of interdisciplinary curiosity, research, innovation, entrepreneurship and application to change and improve ourselves, our community and our world. An inclusive, diverse community that fosters new opportunities, partnerships, collaboration and vigorous yet respectful debate.

These are some of Marquette University’s Guiding Values. The same words may be used to describe the characteristics of a meaningful art museum experience. Looking at, thinking about and talking about original works of art develops skills in visual observation, literacy, and critical thinking. In an academic museum like the Haggerty Museum of Art, museum experiences can inspire higher-level thinking through interdisciplinary analysis, comparative analysis, and critique of social issues. And recent research into the social work of museums demonstrates that shared museum experiences can strengthen personal relationships, foster social change, facilitate intergenerational bonding, and help us discover common ground with others. There is, after all, so much more uniting us than dividing us.

As I begin my tenure with the Haggerty Museum of Art, I’m filled with gratitude for the wonderful team that has welcomed me so warmly this week. And I look forward to working with the Haggerty’s many collaborators and supporters to advance the mission of this very special museum. If you have any thoughts that you’d like to share with me, please contact me at susan.longhenry@marquette.edu. My door is always open, and I’m listening!

Susan Longhenry
Director and Chief Curator