



Watson says he'll help Cavs win amid 'party in the East'

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After more than a year of renovations, the Akron Art Museum is set to reopen its restored historic 1899 building on East Market Street on Sept. 23. It will feature three new galleries. PHOTOS BY MIKE CARDEW/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Akron Art Museum to reopen 1899 building

Preview day set Sept. 23, with community opening Sept. 24

Kerry Clawson Akron Beacon Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

After more than a year of renovations, the Akron Art Museum will reopen its restored, 1899 historic building with three new galleries during a preview day Sept. 23 and community opening Sept. 24. • The \$12.5 million project in the former post office building has added more than 2,100 square feet of gallery space. That means there's more art to be seen, with the goal of guests spending more time at the museum.

At the center of the renovation is the new, first-floor J.M. Smucker Co. Idea Machine gallery, which launches a new era for the museum. It's an immersive space with a two-story ceiling and interactive artworks that invite guests to touch and experiment.

The black box MacDowell Gallery is another new space in the 1899 building, designed for video, digital and time-based art. This gallery formerly housed the museum's older collection from 1850

to 1950. Now, those works are incorporated throughout the galleries in the museum's newer, 2007 building.

A brand new, second-floor gallery, the Tony and Susie Paparella Galleries, also graces the 1899 building, in an area that was formerly office space and a kitchen. The new spaces allows the museum to show more of its permanent collection.

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Museum personnel look over the new spaces in the 1899 building at the Akron Art Museum.

Museum looks to create a splash with 4 new shows

Kerry Clawson

Akron Beacon Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Akron Art Museum will have a total of four new exhibitions opening at the same time Sept. 23, when the 1899 building reopens.

Museum Director and CEO Jon Fiume said that ambitious number of openings hasn't happened at once since the museum's 2007 building opened.

Besides the interactive Idea Machine by CHIAZZO, two other new exhibits will open simultaneously in the 1899 building and another in the museum's 2007 building.

'Meta/Physical Therapy'

Artist Shana Moulton uses video, sculpture and installation in her "Meta/Physical Therapy," which opens Sept. 23 and runs through Sept. 27, 2027, in the McDowell Gallery in the 1899 building.

The Akron Art Museum purchased seven projectors and a full sound system for Moulton's show, on loan from the Museum of Modern Art in New York, to be installed in its new black box gallery space, which functions like a theater.

"This is all very new and very exciting toys for us to play with in this space," Chief Curator Jenny Gerow said. "Part of the joy of working with a seasoned artist like Shana is that we get the opportunity to make sure that everything that we're doing here can then be carried forward with other artists within the space."

Moulton's digital installation explores themes of aging, mid-life crises,

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Flock camera usage to be probed

Police oversight board OKs independent audit

Derek Kreider

Akron Beacon Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Akron's police oversight board has given the city's independent police auditor the green light to put the department's Flock network under a microscope.

On Sept. 16, the board voted unanimously to authorize Independent Police Auditor Anthony Finnell's office to begin scrutinizing the network, including all searches and queries performed by any APD user from Jan. 1, 2024 to Aug. 31, 2026. The office requested the top-priority documents be produced by Nov. 6, with all other records to come by Dec. 15, and asked the department to "promptly" notify his office if it won't be able to meet those dates.

"The audit will evaluate APD's Flock/(Automated License Plate Reader) program from the perspectives of legal and policy compliance, authorized use, privacy and civil-rights protections, access controls, data sharing, alert verification, supervisory oversight, accountability, transparency, and operational effectiveness," Finnell wrote in a Sept. 18 email to Akron Police Chief Brian Harding. "The review will include both an assessment of APD's overall governance framework and transaction-level testing of system activity."

Nationwide, communities have begun questioning their relationship with Flock as more and more instances of abuse by officers and federal agencies surface and questions about privacy swirl.

City officials have said the cameras are an effective investigative tool, citing missing persons and homicide cases that were solved with the aid of Flock data. The city said the cameras are used strictly as license plate readers.

Privacy and civil rights advocates in areas with license plate readers have become increasingly concerned about reports of misuses of the system, including claims of profiling and stalking.

Amy Acton, Democratic candidate for Ohio governor, threw her support behind a total ban on Flock cameras, and Republican gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy said Flock technology could lead to a "Chinese-style surveillance state."

According to the 42-page request sent to Harding on Sept. 17, the auditor's

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A Flock license plate reader is seen on Manchester Road near West Thornton Street. ANDREW DOLPH/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

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