NEW DIRECTOR In September 2014, Jonathan Binstock became MAG’s seventh director. Binstock came to Rochester from New York City, where he was a senior vice president and senior advisor in modern and contemporary art for Citi Private Bank’s Art Advisory & Finance group. He brought more than a decade of curatorial work in major American museums including the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

At right, Binstock hit the ground running during his first week on the job. He’s shown greeting visitors to the 2014 Clothesline Festival along with Dan Burns, regional president of M&T Bank; Mary Koegel, president of the MAG Board of Managers; and UR president Joel Seligman.

NEW ACQUISITIONS An expert in postwar and contemporary art, Binstock lost no time adding works by major living artists to the collection and planning for a major reinstallation of MAG’s first floor galleries. New acquisitions now on view include (from left) *Fishing Well* by Sam Gilliam; *The Clown* by George Condo; and *Three Fujins* by Hung Liu, who spoke at MAG in June 2015.
EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS  (from left): Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren read to young visitors at a family day for one of the year’s most popular shows, Golden Legacy: 65 Years of Golden Books.  — Nine Infinity Boxes by California artist Matt Elson invited viewers to enter the art and share it through social media.  — Infinite Place: The Ceramic Art of Wayne Higby explored the work of a nationally acclaimed artist from our own region.  — Exhibitions in the Lockhart Gallery showcased light-sensitive works such as this Japanese woodcut from Yoshitoshi’s New Forms for 36 Ghosts.

PROGRAMMING  (from left): Hidden Passions: Inspiring Conversations About Hyphenated Lives kicked off in March 2015; the popular monthly series celebrated the private hobbies and creative lives of such Rochesterians as MAG’s own advancement director Joe Carney (pictured), whose “other hat” is English professor.  — An ongoing series of family days celebrated Hispanic/Latino, Asian Pacific, and African American history and culture; Black History Month Family Day in February 2015 featured a performance by The Blackstorytelling League of Rochester.  — At MAGthursdays, every Thursday evening from 5 to 9, visitors could enjoy live music, food and drink for purchase, half-price museum admission, and special events.

IN OTHER NEWS At the 14th Annual Fine Craft Show in October 2014, director Jonathan Binstock and jurors Shirley Dawson and Patti Giordano awarded Best in Show to Vermont fiber artist Danielle Gori-Montanelli. The three-day event was just one fundraiser sponsored by MAG’s Gallery Council, which in February 2015 celebrated 75 years of service and launched a new logo and branding initiative.  — In fall 2014 MAG was selected by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to receive a Museums for America grant; the highly competitive award was used to conserve 22 rare Asian miniatures (pictured is a detail of A Raja Returning Home from 19th-c. India.)  — In February 2015, MAG published its second eBook, on the arts and culture of ancient Greece; like last year’s companion volume on ancient Egypt, the book was designed for classroom use in grades 6–12.

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