FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Eric Brockman, Marketing and Communications Manager
937-512-0142 (direct office) | ebrockman@daytonart.org

High resolution images available online: www.daytonartinstitute.org/newsroom

THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE PARTNERS WITH OWNERS OF ‘ROOST MODERN ITALIAN’ TO LAUNCH ‘LEO BISTRO’

Restaurant to open in museum’s new community gathering space this December

(DAYTON, OHIO) – November 15, 2012 – When The Dayton Art Institute’s new community gathering space opens in December, it will include an all-new restaurant, called Leo Bistro.

The Dayton Art Institute has partnered with Veritas Foods to create Leo Bistro, which will be prominently featured in the renovated café and retail space at the museum. Veritas Foods, owned by Chef Dana Downs, president, and Beth Hirschbach, vice president, operates Roost Modern Italian in the Oregon District.

“The museum’s new community gathering space is another part of our long-term goal to make The Dayton Art Institute a premiere destination in downtown Dayton,” says The DAI’s Executive Director, Michael R. Roediger. “We feel this new partnership is another important step in the process, by creating a unique dining experience at the museum.”

Leo Bistro will offer a variety of cuisines with influences from all over the world. The menu will feature a collection of soup, salads, appetizers, sandwiches and lunch-portioned entrees, as well as desserts. Additionally, Leo Bistro will offer “grab and go” items for museum guests, such as bottled waters and sodas, yogurt, house-made granolas, coffee and espresso beverages.

A few menu highlights include Hickory Smoked Mushroom soup, an Italian Nibble sandwich, Salsaulito Redfish Tacos, a Croque Monsieur sandwich, Pork Carnitas, Cappero Chicken, a Carmelized Onion, Yukon Potato and Goat Cheese Tart, and desserts such as Peach Ripieno and Crème Brulee.

Leo Bistro will be open during regular museum hours and is expected to seat 68 at tables, with bar and lounge seating for an additional 12. It will feature a casual, relaxed atmosphere, with free Wi-Fi, made possible by a federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant the museum received in 2011. Museum members will receive special discounts and offerings, although museum membership is not required to dine at Leo Bistro.
“Dana & I are extremely excited to be a part of this project!” says Hirschbach. “The enthusiasm and guidance of The DAI leadership staff has taken this project to a new level. We are very enthusiastic to partner with them and bring a great restaurant to a wonderful venue for art and education. We feel strongly that the ‘art’ of our cuisine is a great fit.”

Leo Bistro takes its name from the well-known bronze sculpture, known as Leo the Lion, which has “guarded” the museum grounds since 1955 and was the Steele High School mascot in downtown Dayton prior to that.

“Leo the Lion has been an enduring landmark in downtown Dayton for more than 100 years and a longtime favorite of museum visitors,” says The DAI’s Associate Director, Jane A. Black. “He is the perfect ‘face’ for this new venture, and the experience Dana and Beth bring to The DAI are the perfect fit for Leo Bistro.”

“Michael and Jane have put in countless hours and a great deal of thought in creating the beautiful and welcoming Leo Bistro,” says Downs. “It is an honor to join them in this new stage of The DAI and become a part of their history. We look forward to serving the Miami Valley a fresh and innovative bistro menu.”

Downs and Hirschbach began Veritas Catering in 2009 and opened the Black Rooster Pasta Bar at the 2nd Street Market later that year. Roost Modern Italian, which features a fresh take on classic Italian dishes, opened in the Oregon District one year ago today, on November 15, 2011.

“Our first year of Roost Modern Italian in the Oregon District has been amazing,” says Hirschbach. “We are grateful for all of the support of the residents of the Miami Valley and its visitors. We believe that the partnership between Roost Modern Italian and The DAI is a win-win for both parties and, more importantly, a great asset to the downtown Dayton area.”

In addition to Leo Bistro, the new community gathering space will feature a completely renovated Museum Store and a space available for meetings, receptions and events. The new space combines the former Museum Store, Café and Fifth Third Private Dining Room spaces into an open area that is easily accessible from the museum’s General Motors Entrance Rotunda.

For more information, visit www.daytonartinstitute.org or call the museum at 937-223-4ART (4278). Be sure to also connect with The Dayton Art Institute on Facebook and Twitter for additional information and exclusive offers.

ABOUT THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE
As one of the Miami Valley’s premier fine art museums, The Dayton Art Institute offers a full range of programming in addition to exhibiting its collection. The galleries are open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., with extended hours on Thursday until 8 p.m. With support from the Chase Endowment Fund, suggested admission to the museum’s permanent collection is $8 adults, $5 seniors, active military and groups. Admission is free for museum members, students (18+ w/ID) and youth (17 and under). Some special exhibitions, programs and events may carry an additional charge and include admission to the museum’s permanent collection as part of that price. Free parking is available at the museum and the facility is fully accessible to physically challenged visitors. The DAI’s café and Museum Store have been moved to a temporary location on the lower level, and will be open during all regularly scheduled museum hours. For more information, please call 937-223-4ART (4278) or visit www.daytonartinstitute.org. The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The DAI also receives support from the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District.

#  #  #