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## **Fort Wayne Museum of Art Receives Highest National Recognition Awarded Re-Accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums**

**FORT WAYNE, IN (February 9, 2023)** - Fort Wayne Museum of Art has again achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums, the highest national recognition afforded the nation's museums. Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, to governments, funders, outside agencies, and to the museum-going public. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art was initially accredited in 1996, reaccredited in 2008, and reaccredited again in late 2022. All museums must undergo reaccreditation reviews to maintain accredited status.

Alliance Accreditation brings national recognition to a museum for its commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards and continued institutional improvement. Developed and sustained by museum professionals for 50 years, the Alliance's museum accreditation program is the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance, self-regulation and public accountability. It strengthens the museum profession by promoting practices that enable leaders to make informed decisions, allocate resources wisely, and remain financially and ethically accountable in order to provide the best possible service to the public.

"The American Alliance of Museums is dedicated to serving museums and their audiences by establishing the best practices and professional standards for the museum field. Further, through their respected Accreditation program, AAM helps museums measure their relative success at achieving these high standards.

"The process of being accredited involves a year of extensive self-study, upgrading policies and practices, submitting answers to countless questions about every aspect of that museum's operation and, finally, a thorough close examination on site by an AAM Visiting Committee.

"I'm thrilled to say that the Fort Wayne Museum of Art was found to be worthy of reaccreditation and, in the words of the AAM Visiting Committee, found to be 'professionally run, fiscally sound, and forward thinking.' I am so proud of our team—staff, board, and volunteers—who have brought us to this place," said Charles A. Shepard III, president & CEO of the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

Of the nation's estimated 33,000 museums, only 1,080 are currently accredited. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is one of only 26 museums accredited in Indiana.

Accreditation is a very rigorous but highly rewarding process that examines all aspects of a museum's operations. To earn accreditation a museum first must conduct a year of self-study, and then undergo a site visit by a team of peer reviewers. AAM's Accreditation Commission, an independent and autonomous body of museum professionals, considers the self-study and visiting committee report to determine whether a museum should receive accreditation.

"Accredited museums are a community of institutions that have chosen to hold themselves publicly accountable to excellence," said Laura L. Lott, Alliance President and CEO. "Accreditation is clearly a significant achievement, of which both the institutions and the communities they serve can be extremely proud."

### **About the Fort Wayne Museum of Art**

*Beginning with art classes in 1888 given by J. Ottis Adams and later William Forsyth, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art is now the third largest art museum in Indiana. Regularly exhibiting regional and nationally acclaimed artists, the FWMoA also boasts a collection of 7,700 objects of American and international art from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to today. The Museum is committed to the collection, preservation, presentation and interpretation of American and related art to engage broad and diverse audiences throughout the community and region, and add value to their lives. For more information, visit [www.fwmoa.org](http://www.fwmoa.org).*

### **About the American Alliance of Museums**

*The American Alliance of Museums has been bringing museums together since 1906, helping to develop standards and best practices, gathering and sharing knowledge, and providing advocacy on issues of concern to the entire museum community. Representing more than 35,000 individual museum professionals and volunteers, institutions, and corporate partners serving the museum field, the Alliance stands for the broad scope of the museum community. For more information, visit [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org).*

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