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CONTACT

Kerri VanderHoff
Grand Rapids Art Museum
616.831.2914
kvanderhoff@artmuseumgr.org

ART MUSEUM ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2008-2009

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., October 22, 2008 – The Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) elected new board members during the Annual Meeting on October 3, 2008. Election to the Board of Trustees by the Museum Membership includes Patricia Betz, Judy DeLapa, Dirk Hoffius, Chris Stoffel Overvoorde, Jason Pater, Jeff Reuschel, Mitchell Watt, Scott Wierda, and Meg Miller Willit. Michael Ellis, outgoing President of the Board of Trustees, was elected to the Art Museum Foundation Board of Trustees. Election of Board Officers by Trustees included Scott Wierda to the position of President and Michael Love to the position of Vice President of the Board of Trustees. Recognition of service was given to outgoing Trustees Doris Anderson, Kenyatta Brame, Mary Nelson, Pamela DeVos and outgoing President Michael Ellis.

Patricia Betz graduated from Western Michigan University in 1959 with a B.A. Degree in Education. She was an educator in the Grand Rapids Public School system. She tutored in the inner city and recently helped establish a tutoring program at Westwood Middle School. She is married to Karl Betz, President of Betz Industries and has three married children and eight grandchildren. Patricia has been a volunteer in the Grand Rapids community for many years. She is a past president of UCOM – the United Church Outreach Ministry Board of Trustees and of the St. John's United Church of Christ Council and is currently active in the church's education program. She has served as a president of the Pilgrim Manor Board of Trustees and presently serves as a member of the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Board of Trustees.

Judy DeLapa is an Executive Coach for business and nonprofit clients throughout west Michigan. She is a graduate of Michigan State University with B.S. and M.A. degrees, developer of an award-winning software program, and author of fourteen Special Reports and three books. Judy is a returning Trustee at the Grand Rapids Art Museum. She also serves as a Trustee of the Frederik Meijer Gardens Foundation. Previously, Judy served as Vice President of the Grand Rapids Symphony Executive Committee with nine years on the Grand Rapids Symphony Board, and has served on the boards of The Economic Club of Grand Rapids, Leadership Grand Rapids, and The Potter's House Foundation. She also supports scholarships for students with disabilities at Michigan State University.

Dirk Hoffius graduated from Colgate University in 1966 and the University of Virginia Law School in 1969, when he joined the Grand Rapids Law Firm of Varnum, Riddering, Schmidt and Howlett LLP. His specialty is estate planning. He is the Strategic Planning Consultant to the Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE) since 2004. He is listed in *Best Lawyers in America* and is a past Chair of the Probate and Estate Planning Section of the State Bar of Michigan. He is married to Victoria (Vickie) Hoffius. Dirk has been active in the Grand Rapids community for almost forty years. He is a past Chair of Planned Parenthood Centers of West Michigan, Kendall College of Art and Design, The Grand Rapids Community Foundation, and currently, the Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation. He is also serving on the Board of Trustees of the Sweet House Foundation and the Meijer Gardens Foundation.

Michael Love is president of Nurture by Steelcase, a company dedicated to developing research-driven, evidence-based solutions for the healthcare industry. Named to this position in May 2006, Mike is responsible for leading the new company focused on making healthcare environments more comfortable, more efficient and more conducive to the healing process. Nurture offerings include original pieces and products from the Steelcase family of companies. From 2000-2006, Mike served as president and CEO of the Steelcase Design Partnership (SDP). SDP is a group of five brands focused on higher end design furniture products and niche applications. From 1994 to 2000, Mike was president of Vecta, an SDP company in Grand Prairie, Texas, where he was responsible for overall performance of Vecta, as well as sales, marketing and operations. From 1984 to 1994, Mike directed the sales and distribution efforts for Steelcase in Florida as regional sales manager. He joined Steelcase in 1981 as district sales manager with sales responsibility for the financial market in New York. Before coming to Steelcase, Mike worked in various sales positions for 11 years at Xerox Corporation in New York City. He earned a BA in economics from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1970. He earned a master's degree in business administration from Pace University in New York City in 1976. Mike currently lives in Ada, Mich., with his wife Carol. They have two grown children

Chris Stoffel Overvoorde graduated from Kendall School of Design, and from the University of Michigan, BSD 1964 and MFA 1966. He is a Professor of Art Emeritus from Calvin College where he was the Director of Exhibitions, Chairman of the Art Department, Director of the Baroque Festival Year, and Director of the Multicultural Year. Chris has written a book; *PASSING THE COLORS: Engaging Visual Culture in the 21st Century* in April of 2002. Chris Stoffel has exhibited his work in more than 150 group, invitational, and juried exhibitions; received more than thirty awards, and has presented over fifty solo exhibits including: *Chris Stoffel Overvoorde: A Life in Art*, at the Grand Rapids Art Museum in 2003. Chris is married to Greta Duifhuis and they have four grown children and seven grand children. Chris has served on the Visual Arts Advisory Panel for the Michigan Council for the Arts, the Grand Rapids Arts Council, the Municipal Art Advisory Commission, Turning Pages; The Grand Rapids Reading Institute, and the Board of Trustees of the Art Museum (1999-2000) (1976-1984). He has served as a deacon and as an elder at Grace Christian Reformed Church.

Jason Pater is Vice President, Westwater Group, an investment /management company. His work includes oversight of a number of diverse real estate holdings, acquisitions and the recent launch of Grand River Preparatory High School, a charter high school in West Michigan. He also serves the firm as the director of a number of programs the organization supports worldwide. Prior to joining Westwater Jason worked in new business development at National Heritage Academies, which now operates fifty-seven K-8 charter schools in six states. He is a graduate of the Hope College business program, fluent in Spanish and earned his MBA at Michigan State University. Jason is President of the Potter's House School board, a board member of the Institute for Theological Studies, and a coordinating member of the inaugural 2008 Regional Policy Conference for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.

Jeff Reuschel is Director of Global Design at Haworth. He is a 1981 graduate of Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo with a BS in Industrial Design and has enjoyed over twenty-five years in the contract office furniture in a variety of roles. He is married to Laurie and he has two children in college. He has won numerous design awards, has several U.S. patents to his credit, has been a member of the Industrial Designers Society of America for over twenty years and is a Regional Advisor for Design West Michigan. In 2002, he was elected to the Grand Rapids Furniture Manufacturers Hall of Fame. The year prior, Jeff was commissioned by the Museum of Modern Art in New York City to design a piece for their Workspheres exhibition. He was featured on the cover of Fast Company magazine in 1996 and interviewed by NPR.

Mitchell Watt is Principal with Triangle Associates, and serves as Vice President, Chief Business Development Officer, and Project Executive. Prior to joining Triangle, Mitch worked for over twenty-three years in various design and management capacities with URS Corporation, most recently as Vice President and Managing Principal of the Michigan Operations. He is a licensed

architect and holds a BS in Environmental Design and BS in Architecture from the University of Kansas. Mitch's professional associations include the American Institute of Architects, Michigan Society of Architects, American Marketing Association, Council of Educational Facility Planners International, and the International Council of Shopping Centers. He is a committed community advocate who currently serves on the Grand Valley State University Foundation Board of Trustees, the GVSU Leadership Committee, the Grand Rapids Symphony Board of Directors, the Economic Club of Grand Rapids Membership Committee, and the John Ball Zoological Society Board of Directors, most recently serving as President. Mitch and his wife Stacey have been married for twenty years and have three children.

Scott Wierda is Principal and Managing Partner of CWD Real Estate Investment. He oversees acquisitions, leasing, management, asset repositioning and development activities. He is also co-owner and founder of Jade Pig Ventures, a West Michigan-based full service commercial real estate investment and development firm established in 1995. Previously, he served as vice president of sales for S.J. Wisinski & Company. Scott graduated from Hope College with his BA in Business Administration. He is licensed as an Associate Real Estate Broker. He is a member of the Michigan Association of Realtors, National Association of Realtors, International Council of Shopping Centers, and Commercial Association of Realtors (West Michigan). He was previously a West Michigan finalist for Ernst & Young's *Entrepreneur of the Year*. Scott and his wife Rebecca have been married for sixteen years and have three children.

Meg Miller Willit graduated from Hope College in 1986 with a major in communications and followed this career path with Smith Bucklin & Associates and Seyferth & Associates until 1997. Following these ventures, Meg began her own consulting business, MW Consulting, and continued for two years before shifting her focus to her growing family. Meg is married to Greg Willit and they have two boys, Nathan, nine years old, and Andrew, five years old. Meg has volunteered in the Grand Rapids community for over fifteen years. Grand Rapids Magazine named Meg one of the "Top 20 to Watch" in their 2002 issue, and Grand Valley State University honored her with their Leadership Award in 2003. Meg serves on the boards and committees for the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, Frederik Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids Symphony, Grand Rapids Children's Museum, and Grand Valley State University.

About the Grand Rapids Art Museum

The mission of the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) is to provide a gathering place where people of all ages and backgrounds can enrich their lives through interaction with works of art in a thought-provoking and creative way. Established in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids, the new art museum is internationally known for its distinguished design and LEED Gold certified status. Established in 1910 as the Grand Rapids Art Association, GRAM has grown to include more than 5,000 works of art, including American and European 19th and 20th century painting and sculpture and over 3,000 works on paper. Embracing the city's legacy as a leading center of design and manufacturing, GRAM has a growing collection in the area of design and modern craft.

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