



## GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM FACT SHEET

### MEDIA CONTACT

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#### Project Description

The Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) building is the first art museum in the world whose entire facility is built to LEED standards. The new \$75 million, 125,000 square foot building opened on October 5, 2007, providing the Midwest with a premier museum facility and Grand Rapids' first museum space created specifically for presenting works of art.

The Grand Rapids Art Museum was recently cited by *Newsweek* as one of the world's six best new buildings of 2007 by architecture critic Cathleen McGuigan.

#### Completed

October 5, 2007, Grand Opening Day

#### Location

101 Monroe Center NW  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

#### Architect

Kulapat Yantrasast, Yo Hakomori, Aaron Loewenson,  
wHY Architecture

#### Square Footage

125,000

#### Project Cost

\$75 million; total fundraising complete

#### Founding Date

1910 (as the Art Association of Grand Rapids)

### LOCATION

The new GRAM facility is built on a previously underdeveloped site in the heart of the city's downtown. The facility is adjacent to Maya Lin's *Ecliptic*, a recently designed urban sculpture and park. The central location of the new GRAM facility encourages access by public transportation and bicycle.

### EXTERIOR DESIGN

The building features a three-story stacked design that leaves the site's front section open for use as green space, blending the museum facility with the adjacent urban park, *Ecliptic*. Parkland, plantings, and water features have been maximized to reduce the urban "heat island" effect caused by paved surfaces. The museum's exterior landscaping and plantings are plotted to make the most efficient use of water and other resources.

### GALLERY WING

A three-floor gallery wing provides nearly 20,000 square feet of exhibition space for the museum. Topped with glass skylight lanterns that rise behind the central pavilion, GRAM's permanent collection is presented in a series of seven galleries located on the third floor. The second floor of the gallery wing features temporary exhibitions and revolving works on paper. In addition, there is a gallery dedicated to design and modern

craft on the main floor adjacent to a gallery devoted to regional art.

#### **Collections and Traveling Exhibitions**

The permanent collection consists of 5,000 works of art, of which more than half are works on paper. The collections, dating from 1500 to the present, are primarily European and American with 20th century collections of international scope. The strength of the painting collection is modern art, which includes Richard Diebenkorn's major early work *Ingleside*, 1963.

#### **Interior**

- Permanent Collection & Temporary Exhibitions Galleries: 20,000 sq. ft.
- Education (studios and orientation areas): 5,000 sq. ft.
- Lobby/Reception Area: 4,500 sq. ft.
- Auditorium: 285 seats
- Retail Shop: 2,400 sq. ft.
- Café (including outdoor terrace): 1,500 sq. ft., seating for 100

### **GREEN ELEMENTS**

<b>Air</b>	The building's air conditioning and filtration systems include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• passive air conditioning via vapor misting</li><li>• no HCFC (hydrochlorofluorocarbon) emissions</li><li>• strict CO<sub>2</sub> emissions monitoring throughout museum</li></ul>
<b>Lighting</b>	The building's lighting systems include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an interior shading system to diffuse natural light through the museum</li><li>• lantern skylight system in galleries</li><li>• built-in skylight louvers in galleries, adjustable to accommodate varied exhibitions</li></ul>
<b>Water</b>	Recycled rainwater is used in systems throughout the facility, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• toilet flushes</li><li>• planting irrigation</li><li>• fountain</li></ul>
<b>Insulation</b>	The building's insulation systems include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• light-colored concrete walls</li><li>• three-layer UV filter glass in windows</li><li>• insulating Argon gas between glass window panels</li><li>• low-emission coatings on all components</li></ul>
<b>Recycling</b>	The museum operates a strict recycling policy to decrease day-to-day environmental impact

### **GRAM STORE ITEMS**

- Earth Friendly recycled paper notebooks, pens, shirts and aprons
- Outdoor items—logo picnic blanket and umbrella
- Furniture by Herman Miller for Home—including the Eames Lounge Chair
- Expansive art book and children's book sections

### **OUTDOOR SPACE**

Along the front of the building on the lower plaza level is an outdoor pocket park. A large portico with an expansive roof canopy cantilevered toward Maya Lin's *Ecliptic* urban park extends the building's connection to the park and the ice rink at its center. Among other public amenities are an area for ice skate rental and a storage area for a Zamboni used to clear *Ecliptic*'s skating rink, open during winter months.

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

[www.gramonline.org](http://www.gramonline.org) or (616) 831-1000