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***GRAM ON THE GREEN* OUTDOOR SUMMER MUSIC EVENT RETURNS FOR A THIRD SEASON WITH NEW COLLABORATIONS**

GRAM on the Green Scheduled Every Friday Night from July 8 through August 19 and includes Partnership with GR Parks & Recreation and Downtown Alliance

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., May 24, 2011 – The Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids Parks & Recreation, and the Downtown Alliance announce a Friday night filled with free activities at Rosa Parks Circle and GRAM this July and August. The Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) brings back the popular outdoor summer series, *GRAM on the Green*, for a third season beginning July 8, 2011. Steelcase, Inc sponsors the live music series. New this year is collaboration with Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation, as well as returning partner, the Downtown Alliance. *GRAM on the Green* features special activities with games and sketching on the Wege Plaza, live music and a cash bar on the outdoor Terrace, and art conversations. Grand Rapids Parks & Recreation and the Downtown Alliance will offer a Zumba exercise class and Ballroom Dancing in Rosa Parks Circle. All activities outdoors are free of charge. Admission to galleries and special events inside the Museum is offered at the reduced Friday Night rate of \$5.00 after 5pm. Members and children 5 and under are always free.

GRAM on the Green will begin at 5:00pm every Friday, July 8 through August 19. From 5:00 to 9:00 pm, sketching and games, including giant versions of Jenga and chess, will be available on the Wege Plaza. Grand Rapids Parks & Recreation and the Downtown Alliance offer free classes and activities before and after the live music. The Zumba exercise class is offered from 5:15 to 6:00 pm, and ballroom dancing with available instructor will be from 8:30 to 10:30 pm, both in Rosa Parks Circle. Two sets of live music can be enjoyed on the Museum Terrace from 6:00 to 7:00 pm and from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. An eclectic variety of bands are offered from week to week. Special guest Big O's Café will drop by the Terrace with their cart and offer slices of pizza for sale during the musical entertainment. Between music sets, from 7:00 to 7:30 pm, guests can enjoy Friday Night Conversations with a theme focusing on different art forms each month. The Conversation location varies. Cash bar is open until 8:30 pm, and galleries are open until 9:00 pm.

GRAM ON THE GREEN

Schedule of events July 8 through August 19

Outdoor activities are free of charge. See schedule below. Grand Rapids Art Museum Galleries are open until 9:00pm every Friday night. Admission to galleries is only \$5.00 after 5:00pm and free for members and children 5 and under.

FREE OUTDOOR SKETCHING AND GAMES ON WEGE PLAZA

5:00 TO 9:00 PM

Peter M. Wege Plaza, situated between the Museum entrance and Maya Lin Ecliptic at Rosa Parks Circle, will have easels and materials available for outdoor sketching. Giant Jenga and chess sets will also be available, along with other normal sized board games.

FREE LIVE MUSIC FROM THE MUSEUM TERRACE

6:00 to 7:00 PM & 7:30 to 8:30 PM

July 8	Marshland Express (Randy Marsh/Jazz)
July 15	End Times Orchestra (Musical theater)
July 22	An Dro (Celtic-based, Globally-infused, World-beat)
July 29	Brandon Hill (Electronic, Dubstep, Bass)
August 5	Fauxgrass Quartet (Contemporary Bluegrass)
August 12	The Concussions (Surf)
August 19	Dave Hardin (Americana)

PARKS & RECREATION/DOWNTOWN ALLIANCE FREE ACTIVITIES IN ROSA PARKS CIRCLE

5:15 TO 6:00 PM & 8:30 TO 10:30 PM

Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation and the Downtown Alliance host Zumba exercise class and ballroom dancing.

Zumba Exercise Class	5:15-6:00pm
Ballroom Dancing	8:30-10:30pm

FRIDAY NIGHT CONVERSATIONS

7:00 TO 7:30 PM

July Conversations: **Dance**
August Conversations: **Film**

Each month features a different mode of expression. The location of each Conversation varies.

July 1: Intro to Ballroom Dancing – Want basic instruction or refresher? Join in!
July 8: Broken Flowers Revisited: A Butoh-inspired dance by Rachel Finan
July 15: A Modern Dance Experience choreographed by Shawn T. Bible, GVSU
July 22: The Art of Dance: A Focus on the Permanent Collection
July 29: Art Inspires Art: Grand Rapids Ballet Company

Aug 5: Animating Time: Video Postcards by Deanna Morse
Aug 12: A Cinematic Tribute to Audubon
Aug 19: WKTV: Your Perspective is Requested

About the Grand Rapids Art Museum

The mission of the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) is: to inspire discovery, enjoyment, and learning about art; to serve as a welcoming and inclusive cultural resource; to collect, conserve, and interpret authentic works of art of the finest quality. 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 more than 3,500 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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