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**GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM ANNOUNCES FRIDAY NIGHTS AT GRAM SUMMER SERIES
*GRAM ON THE GREEN***

Summer Programming Expands Into Maya Lin Ecliptic Park with Free and Low Cost Offerings of Music, Art-Related Activities and Extended Hours Every Friday Night from June 19 - August 28

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., May 10, 2009 – The Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) announced today that it will expand its popular Friday Nights at GRAM programming into the outdoor areas of Maya Lin *Ecliptic* Park during June, July and August with evenings of entertainment and art-related events that are free or low cost to the public. Jade Pig Ventures will continue as Friday Nights at GRAM sponsor.

The summer series, GRAM on the Green, will add an exciting new aspect to Friday Nights at GRAM, turning the weekly program into an indoor/outdoor event that will flow from the Art Museum galleries, auditorium and Café Terrace out into the Wege Plaza, Rosa Parks Circle and Maya Lin *Ecliptic* Park. Enjoy the Art Museum's offering of music, food and drink, gallery viewings and art-related talks and demonstrations during the warm summer nights in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids. From June 19 through the end of August, each month will feature a theme. See Art Forum schedule for more details.

Each Friday evening will begin with live music from the Rosa Parks Circle stage in Maya Lin *Ecliptic* Park beginning at 5:00 pm. Guests can listen to a great diversity of musical offerings while relaxing in the park, sketching at one of the GRAM easels, perusing the Museum Store tables, or enjoying a beverage and appetizer or meal on the Museum Terrace.

Inside the Art Museum, the galleries are open and inviting, and guests will delight in the works of Alexander Calder, Ellsworth Kelly and Eero Saarinen on special loan as well as enjoy works from the permanent collection. As the live music outside wraps up, the Art Forum begins at 7:00pm in the Cook Auditorium for a 45-minute lecture, demonstration, gallery talk or panel discussion. Back out in Maya Lin *Ecliptic* Park, the Art Museum welcomes its special Friday Nights at GRAM guests, the Grand Rapids Original Swing Society beginning at 7:45 pm, to dance the night away. The group will include swing, ballroom and line dancing with a variety of instructors, performances and live and recorded music. Watch the www.artmuseumgr.org website for announcements on late night outdoor movie screenings in the Wege Plaza and Park. A full evening of indoor/outdoor art and entertainment awaits the community at the Friday Nights at GRAM Summer Series, GRAM on the GREEN.

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GRAM on the Green Schedule of events June 19 through August 28, 2009

Grand Rapids Art Museum Galleries and Café are open extended hours until 10:00 pm. Special Friday Nights at GRAM admission to the Museum Galleries, Auditorium and Café Terrace is just \$5 for non-members beginning at 5:00 pm, museum members are free. Activities in Maya Lin *Ecliptic* Park are FREE. Dinner buffet, small plate menu and cash bar available.

LIVE MUSIC FROM ROSA PARKS CIRCLE STAGE FROM 5:00 to 6:45 PM

June 19	The Concussions: High energy surf music
June 26	Grupo Aye: Salsa music
July 3	DJ Super Dre: Techno mixed live
July 10	Organissimo: Organ trio
July 17	La Famiglia: Hip hop fusion
July 24	Side Pocket: Fusion and sophisticated R&B
July 31	Nobody's Darlin': Bluegrass music
August 7	The Groove Merchant: Original cutting edge urban beats
August 14	Pangea: Steel drum band
August 21	Power Play: Classic funk and rock
August 28	Ensemble Al-Asdeka: Middle Eastern fusion

OUTDOOR SKETCHING ON WEGE PLAZA FROM 5:00 to 6:45 PM

Peter M. Wege Plaza, situated between the Museum entrance and Maya Lin *Ecliptic* Park, will have easels and materials available for outdoor sketching. Tables and chairs for relaxing and soaking in the downtown atmosphere can be found along the Plaza, and visitors can explore an outdoor Museum Store.

ART FORUM IN COOK AUDITORIUM FROM 7:00 to 7:45 pm

June: Calder, Kelly and Public Art

Art talks featuring works from the collection and on special loan from local collections, Calder Foundation, Ellsworth Kelly, and Cranbrook Academy as well as a discussion of this year's Celebration on the Grand Poster.

June 19	Gallery Walking Tour: Calder, Kelly and the Permanent Collection with Chris Overvoorde, professor of art emeritus, Calvin College.
June 26	Lecture: Architecture's Influence on the Arts with Gretchen Minnhaar, artist and architect, creator of 2009 Celebration on the Grand poster.

Special Art Forum Event

July 3	Exhibition opening and reception with artist lecture by Michigan artist Monte Nagler
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July: The Art of Entertaining

The Art of Entertaining is featured including outdoor dining options. GRAM chef Mark Williams demonstrates how to prepare fresh summertime fare including advice on wine and local beer ideas to pair with each selection. Food and beverages discussed will be available for purchase in the Museum Café

- July 10 Summertime Soup and Salads: Roasted Corn Salad, Chilled Avocado Soup and Watermelon Salad
- July 17 Mediterranean Tapas: Shrimp and Chorizo with Pear, Kalamata Lamb Chop with Fig
- July 24 Creative Grilled Entrees: Citrus Sage Salmon, Fire Rubbed Beef Tender
- July 31 A Passion for Desserts: Peach and Blackberry Cobbler, Vanilla Ice Cream with Strawberry, Balsamic Glaze in Papaya

August: The Art of Cinema

Welcome to The Art of Cinema month, with all things movie-related for filmmakers and film enthusiasts alike. Workshops, lectures, panel discussions and screenings (indoor and outdoor) are planned in collaboration with regional organizations involved in the exciting new film industry of Michigan. Each week focuses on a different theme culminating in an end of the month hosting of the Michigan Film Festival, an all day Saturday event with a kick-off party on the Friday Night prior. Michigan Film Festival campus will include GRAM and UICA.

- August 7 **Behind the Scenes: Special Effects** with Chris Randall, Fulvew Productions and Mark France, Sandstorm FX & Productions.
- August 14 **Michigan Film Incentives 101** with Deb Havens, West Michigan Film Video Alliance Chair and Co-founder
- August 21 **West Michigan Atmosphere: 'Extra' Work in the West Michigan Film Industry**, a panel discussion led by Maureen Fahey-Dreher, casting agent.
- August 28 **A Veteran Michigan Filmmaker's Perspective** with Rich Brauer, Brauer Productions, Inc. Stay late for a special outdoor screening of Brauer's latest film *Mr. Art Critic* to kick off the Michigan Film Festival.

SWING, LINE AND BALLROOM DANCING IN MAYA LIN ECLIPTIC AND ON WEGE PLAZA STARTING AT 7:45 PM

Join the Art Museum's special Friday Nights at GRAM guest, the Grand Rapids Original Swing Society, at 7:45 pm where each week brings not only their popular swing-dancing event but also mixes in ballroom and line dancing for good measure. Surprise performances are planned.

- June 19 Swing Dance Live Music with Swing Band Java Jive
- June 26 Ballroom Music Mix with ballroom instruction
- July 3 Swing Dance Music Lindy Dance Mix with instruction
- July 10 Line Dancing with Lia and additional mix of music
- July 16 Ballroom Dancing with live band
....additional themes announced soon!

Watch the Grand Rapids Art Museum schedule at www.artmuseumgr.org for additional information on late night movie screenings.

Friday Nights at GRAM is sponsored by Jade Pig Ventures.

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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 gold LEED 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.