

*****MEDIA ALERT*****

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CONTACT

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**LEED GOLD PLAQUE PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO TAKE PLACE AT THE
GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM ON FRIDAY, JUNE 20 AT 5:30 PM**

*Peter M. Wege To Accept Award Presented By David A. Ullrich, Executive Director of Great Lakes
and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative with Introduction by Mayor George Heartwell*

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., June 17, 2008 -- The new Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) is pleased to announce the official presentation of the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold plaque will occur in a **public ceremony** to commemorate this landmark occasion on **Friday, June 20, 2008 at 5:30 p.m** in the **Wege Pavilion** at the **Grand Rapids Art Museum**. GRAM was notified of its LEED Gold status in March 2008.

GRAM is honored to welcome Mr. David A. Ullrich, Executive Director of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI), an international organization founded by Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago. Mr. Ullrich will present the award to Mr. Peter M. Wege, lead donor and champion for the sustainable requirements of the new art museum. Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell will introduce Mr. Ullrich at the ceremony.

The GLSLCI shares best practices among the cities, towns, and counties of the region so that all have the benefits of the successful efforts of each other. The GLSLCI also works on restoration legislation, planning, and implementation. Mr. Ullrich works closely with Mayor Daley on matters concerning the Great Lakes area, and is traveling to Grand Rapids from Chicago to recognize the efforts of GRAM and the community of West Michigan as a whole in this achievement. With GRAM as a cultural centerpiece, Grand Rapids will always have the distinction of building the first LEED Gold certified art museum in the world, a commendable initiative that others surely will join.

In addition to the LEED Gold plaque presented to the Grand Rapids Art Museum, U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) certificates will be awarded to the members of the design and construction team for their contribution in achieving the LEED Gold rating.

The participants listed below will be available immediately following the brief ceremony for comments and insight regarding the achievement of Gold certification.

All media are invited to attend.

WHAT: Official USGBC LEED Gold Plaque Presentation

WHO: David Ullrich, Executive Director, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
George Heartwell, Mayor of Grand Rapids
Peter M. Wege, Lead donor and champion of sustainable requirements at GRAM
Celeste Adams, Museum Director
GRAM Board of Trustees Representatives
Design/Construction Team Representatives

WHEN: Friday, June 20, 5:30pm to 5:45pm

WHERE: Grand Rapids Art Museum
Wege Pavilion
Free and open to the public

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.

About David A. Ullrich

David Ullrich is the Executive Director of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. His responsibilities include working with U.S. and Canadian mayors from across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin to advance the restoration and protection of the resource. The Initiative shares best practices among the cities, towns, and counties so that all have the benefits of the successful efforts of each other. The Initiative also works on restoration legislation, planning, and implementation.

Prior to assuming his current position, Mr. Ullrich served for thirty years at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes regional office in Chicago, working on environmental issues in the six states of the upper Midwest. He worked in many capacities over the years, including Acting Regional Administrator, Deputy Regional Administrator, Waste Management Division Director, Deputy Regional Counsel, Air Enforcement Chief, and Water Enforcement Attorney. For six years, he was the U.S. Chair of the Water Quality Board for the International Joint Commission, and was a founding member and chair of the Midwest Natural Resources Group. He continues to serve on the Water Quality Board, and in 2006 was appointed by the President to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. In 1986, he completed a six month executive exchange assignment with the German Interior Ministry. U.S. EPA recognized Mr. Ullrich for a number of his accomplishments during his public service career.

Mr. Ullrich graduated from Dartmouth College in 1970 with a degree in English and received his law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1973, with an emphasis in environmental law. He is a runner and outdoor sportsman. He is married to Polly Ullrich, an art critic, curator, and ceramic artist, and their son Eric, who was born in 1990, is active in a variety of competitive and recreational sports.

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