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GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM HOSTS LEADERSHIP CONVERSATIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE *CITIES IN TRANSITION* EXHIBITION THIS SUMMER

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., May 24, 2012 – Alongside the *Cities in Transition* exhibition on view from June 1 through August 26, 2012, the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) hosts a Leadership Conversation series. Leadership Conversations offer the opportunity for exchange with the urban innovators who are setting the stage for Detroit's next chapter. This series was developed in collaboration with Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and The Right Place, Inc.

"Our focus this summer is the vitality of the urban center—past, present, and future," said Dana Friis-Hansen, GRAM Director and CEO. "*Cities in Transition* positions the Museum as a platform for statewide dialogue about livable, sustainable, and innovative cities within Michigan, and beyond."

LEADERSHIP CONVERSATIONS SCHEDULE

Tuesdays, June 5, 12, and 19
5:00 pm – Doors open
5:30 pm – Program begins

Members free, Non-members \$5 admission
Cash bar available

Placemaking: Tuesday, June 5

Learn about varying approaches to the planning, design, and management of engaging public spaces.

Evening moderated by Sam Cummings, Managing Partner, CWD Real Estate Investment

- Dan Carmody, President of Eastern Market Corporation
- Faye Nelson, President & CEO of Detroit Riverfront Conservancy
- Phillip Cooley, Owner of Slows Bar BQ / Ponyride

Live/Work: Tuesday, June 12

Learn about innovative efforts that link employment and residential revitalization.

Evening moderated by Eddie T.L. Tadlock, Assistant General Manager, DeVos Place/DeVos Performance Hall (SMG)

- Doyle Mosher, Founder of Challenge Detroit
- Susan Mosey, President of Midtown Detroit, Inc.
- Austin Black II, President/Broker at City Living Detroit

Economic Redevelopment: Tuesday, June 19

Learn about initiatives that build a sustainable financial future for Detroit.
Evening moderated by Birgit Klohs, President & CEO, The Right Place, Inc.

- George Jackson, President & CEO of Detroit Economic Growth Corporation
- David Egner, Executive Director of New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan and President & CEO of Hudson-Webber Foundation
- David Blaskiewicz, President & CEO of Downtown Detroit Partnership and President of Invest Detroit

Visit artmuseumgr.org for more information on the Leadership Conversation series.

About *Cities in Transition*:

This suite of interdisciplinary exhibitions and programs explores the many ways art, design, and history shape our understanding and appreciation of the urban environment. A variety of vantage points provide insights into how the constant evolution of cities—responding to shifts in population, industry, and land use—brings both challenges and opportunities.

Exhibitions listed below, for additional programming visit artmuseumgr.org

What Happened Here? GRAM, Ecliptic, and Rosa Parks Circle

This exhibition reveals the rich human and architectural history at this important Grand Rapids intersection, featuring photographs, architectural models, and accounts of the changing character at the location where the Museum and public park now provide a cultural and community focus. Organized by the Grand Rapids Art Museum.

Detroit: Then/Now/Next

Connecting Detroit's rich urban architecture, design, and innovation history to its present and future, this exhibition presents case studies that illuminate the city's unique strengths. The significance of the factory and assembly line, automotive design at mid-century, adaptive reuse of older buildings, and the repurposing of unused space are explored in historical documents and contemporary photographs. Organized by the Grand Rapids Art Museum.

Detroit Disassembled: Photographs by Andrew Moore

These thirty monumental color photographs reveal the beauty and tragedy found in Detroit's urban core. With emotional impact and unexpected visual splendor, this internationally-recognized photographer documents active neighborhoods, eerie abandoned structures, and nature's resurgent power, illuminating the dilemmas and opportunities of the modern industrial city in transition. Organized by the Akron Art Museum.

Perspectives on the City: Four Centuries of Drawings, Prints and Photographs

Comprised of works from GRAM's collection, this exhibition examines how artists have depicted their surroundings, and from the founding of the first cities recorded their experience of the urban environment. Featuring cities in the U.S., Europe, and Egypt depicted in a broad range of media, styles, and scales, the show includes picturesque renderings of ancient ruins, wide-angle panoramas of cities seen from a bird's eye view, romanticized views of everyday scenes, and images documenting singular moments in the ever-changing life of cities. Beyond these traditional approaches, learn how artists have used the city as a setting for telling stories and as the basis for abstracted and imagined compositions. Organized by the Grand Rapids Art Museum.

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 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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