GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM HONORED WITH MICHIGAN ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ART EDUCATION

GRAM Announces Award in Light of National Arts Education Week, September 8–14, 2013

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., September 12, 2013 – The Grand Rapids Art Museum was recently awarded the Michigan Art Education Association (MAEA) Distinguished Service Award, honoring GRAM's efforts to advance the importance of the visual arts in schools and serve as a resource for art educators and students. This annual award recognizes excellence in art education throughout the state.

In the nomination letter for this award, Suzanne Butler Lich, an art teacher at Northview Public Schools, wrote, "The museum provides quality and relevant professional development opportunities for art educators, K-12, and its education department staff is eager to work with area districts and teachers."

Dr. Cindy Todd of Kendall College of Art and Design added in the nomination letter, "GRAM has... [made] the museum inclusive for children and families, and [strengthened] their educational component. GRAM's board has supported this shift and fostered significantly stronger programming, financial support, and joint ventures. I applaud their efforts and sincerely appreciate the changes they have instituted."

"We are thrilled to receive this award," said Jon Carfagno, Education Director at GRAM. "Over the last few years, we've worked hard to position the museum at the center of best practices in art-centered teaching and learning. Through advancing our teacher workshops, expanding our school tours, growing the Language Artists school program and more, we have been able to champion the importance of the arts in curriculums statewide. We are excited to continue to expand programming for educators and students."

GRAM's Education Department team will officially receive the award on October 26, 2013, during the MAEA Annual Conference at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island.

Learn more about GRAM's educational programming at artmuseumgr.org/learning.

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 3,000 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.
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