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JULIANA NAHAS-VIILLO JOINS GRAM TEAM

Local non-profit thought-leader takes helm as Membership Manager

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAND RAPIDS, MI, March 24, 2015 – It is GRAM's pleasure to announce that Juliana Nahas-Viilo will be joining the team on March 24, 2015 as Membership Manager. Nahas-Viilo most recently served as Communications Coordinator at Varnum Consulting, working in social media, marketing, and external communications.

"Juliana brings wonderful energy and enthusiasm—for both GRAM and the community—to the role of Membership Manager," noted Elly Barnette-Dawson, Director of Advancement. "She has the talent and creative ideas essential to advancing GRAM's membership program, and we're excited to have her join our team."

With a diverse background in music, leadership education, marketing, and social innovation, Nahas-Viilo is passionate about promoting the arts as an essential component of a healthy, thriving community.

"I am thrilled to join the Grand Rapids Art Museum team as Membership Manager," shared Nahas-Viilo. "The arts are at the heart of what makes a city great, and GRAM has had an immeasurable impact on our local economy, education, and community. It's a dream come true for me to be part of a community focused, arts organization that shares my personal philosophy, and that is such a significant part of what makes Grand Rapids the great city that it is today. During my first few months at GRAM, I look forward to examining the current membership programming, creating opportunities for greater engagement, and providing members with a stellar ArtPrize experience this fall."

Nahas-Viilo graduated from Grand Valley State University in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with Minors in both Music Performance and French, and again in 2012 with a Master of Public Administration and Nonprofit Leadership. She received the 2012 Best Paper Award from the School of Public, Health and Nonprofit Administration and was the recipient of the David and Carol Van Andel Leadership Fellowship (2011), Valerie Eggart Distinguished Award in Philanthropy (2011), and Joyce Hecht Distinguished Award in Philanthropy (2010). From 2010-2012, she was an active fellow of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies Peter Cook Leadership Academy, and now serves as a mentor to current students.

Juliana resides in Eastown, Grand Rapids with her husband Tyler and their two dogs, Bruiser and Ellie.

About the Grand Rapids Art Museum

Focusing on art, design, and creativity, GRAM provides diverse platforms for experiences, ideas, and dialogue that enrich the human spirit and build practical learning skills. Through dynamic exhibitions, collections, learning initiatives, and community collaborations, GRAM increasingly serves as a cultural beacon and civic anchor. Established in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids, the 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.

For GRAM's hours and admission fees, visit artmuseumgr.org or call 616-831-1000.

Current Exhibitions:

Edward Burtynsky: Water

February 1, 2015 – April 26, 2015

Over a five-year period between 2009 and 2013, acclaimed fine art photographer Edward Burtynsky traveled the globe, shooting from the skies above North America, China, India, Iceland, and Spain, creating a body of work that addresses the various roles water plays in the world today. The images that he captured explore humanity's increasingly mediated relationship with our world's most vital natural resource: water. Sixty of these large-scale photographs will fill the first and second floor galleries of GRAM.

Michigan Artist Series: *David Greenwood*

February 12, 2015 – May 17, 2015

GRAM presents recent sculptures by Grand Rapids artist David Greenwood that demonstrate his use of symbols and allegory in reflecting on the human condition. The exhibition includes an array of Greenwood's inventive, realist works that demonstrate his confident handling of wood, metal, and other materials. He continues to straddle the boundary between the conscious and unconscious mind, "searching for those images that are both unique and universal." Greenwood was recently honored with the title of Professor Emeritus upon his retirement from Kendall College of Art and Design, where taught Sculpture and Functional Art for over 30 years.

GRAM Selects ArtPrize 2014: Encore

Through October 11, 2015

During ArtPrize 2014, GRAM's curatorial team explored the entries on view throughout the city and selected works from 11 different artists with strong resonances to other works in the Museum's collection. This year's collection features photography, installations, print, film, drawing, and sculpture. *GRAM Selects ArtPrize 2014: Encore* showcases these works throughout the Museum in context beside works in GRAM's permanent collection, encouraging guests to explore the connections between them. This curation of select works underscores the significance of Grand Rapids' annual ArtPrize event by presenting selected highlights from ArtPrize on a year-round basis. The chosen works will rotate on and off view with the Museum's permanent collection through ArtPrize 2015.

Museum Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 10am-5pm

Thursday: 10am-9pm

Sunday: 12pm-5pm

Closed Mondays

Museum Admission:

GRAM Members - Free

Adults - \$8.00

Senior Adults & College Students (w/ID) - \$7.00

Youth (ages 6-17) - \$5.00

Children under 6 - Free

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