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## **GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM CHANGES EXHIBITION SCHEDULE TO ACCOMMODATE ECONOMIC CLIMATE**

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., March 11, 2009** – *Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future*, a major retrospective exhibition scheduled at the Grand Rapids Art Museum from June 2 – August 30, 2009, has been replaced in the Museum’s schedule by a loan from Cranbrook Art Museum with works by Eero and his father Eliel Saarinen. The works will be shown in the Museum’s Gallery of Design and Modern Craft June 2 – September 27, 2009. A Museum members trip to Cranbrook on May 7 will go as planned, and the director of the Cranbrook Art Museum will speak at GRAM on Friday, September 11 on the topic of the Saarinen family of architects and designers. The Museum replaced the larger touring exhibition with a small special loan installation in response to the current economic climate.

Director Celeste Adams stated, “We are managing challenging economic times and are being careful about committing to the costs associated with large exhibitions right now. We have a Centennial Year coming up in 2010, and we want the Museum to be financially stable and ready to celebrate with the community.” The exhibition *Shaping the Future* was shared by two museums in Minneapolis and would have occupied 6,000 square feet in the Museum’s recently opened new facility.

“Our schedule this summer is lively with a new outdoor format for Friday Nights at GRAM, Saturday Art in the Park activities for families, and a delightful exhibition on Alexander Calder in the Collection celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *La Grande Vitesse*,” continued Adams. In addition to the exhibition, GRAM will sponsor the Calder Stage during Festival of the Arts and a highly anticipated Calder symposium will be held mid-summer at the Museum. Featured guest speakers include the director of the Calder Foundation, who is the artist’s grandson, along with visiting scholars and experts on Calder’s work. Added

Adams, “Combined with special loans of art and a host of new programs, the Museum’s summer schedule offers visitors an exciting summer of art.”

### **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 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

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