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Flint Institute of Arts Receives Highest National Recognition Awarded Re-Accreditation from the American Association of Museums

Flint, MI (January 28, 2010) – The Flint Institute of Arts has again achieved accreditation by the American Association of Museums (AAM); the highest national recognition afforded the nation’s museums. Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, to governments, funders, outside agencies, and to the museum-going public. The FIA was last accredited in **1999**. All museums must undergo a reaccreditation review at least every 10 years to maintain accredited status.

AAM Accreditation brings national recognition to a museum for its commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards and continued institutional improvement. Developed and sustained by museum professionals for 35 years, AAM’s museum accreditation program is the field’s primary vehicle for quality assurance, self-regulation and public accountability. It strengthens the museum profession by promoting practices that enable leaders to make informed decisions, allocate resources wisely, and remain financially and ethically accountable – all in order to provide the best possible service to the public.

In its report the accreditation committee called the FIA “a first rate organization with the highest standards in collection care, public service and fiduciary responsibilities.” “The museum’s Board and Staff are particularly proud to be recognized for the strength of our collections, diverse exhibition schedule and our commitment towards engaging the entire community through our innovative education and outreach programs”, said John Henry the FIA’s Director.

Accreditation is a very rigorous but highly rewarding process that examines all aspects of a museum’s operations. Of the nation’s estimated 17,500 museums, 775 are currently accredited. To earn accreditation a museum first must conduct a year of self-study, then undergo a site visit by a team of peer reviewers. AAM’s Accreditation Commission, an independent and autonomous body of museum professionals, considers the self-study and visiting committee report to determine whether a museum

should receive accreditation. While the time to complete the process varies by museum, it generally takes as much as three years.

“Accreditation is emblematic of an institution’s commitment to public service and to overall excellence,” said Ford W. Bell, AAM president. “Attaining accreditation involves taking a hard look at yourself, allowing your peers in the field to do the same, and being judged to be superior in all areas. The people of Genesee County and mid-Michigan can take great pride in the fact that their local institution is one of America’s premier museums.”

The award winning Flint Institute of Arts is the second largest art museum in Michigan. It is open to the public Mon-Wed & Fri, 12p-5p; Thu, 12p-9p; Sat, 10a-5p and Sun, 1p-5p. Saturdays are Target Free. For information on the current exhibitions and classes visit the FIA website at www.flintarts.org or call (810) 234-1695.

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