

Worcester Art Museum honored for accessibility

*Achievements in arts, humanities, and sciences celebrated with
Massachusetts Cultural Council 2015 Commonwealth Awards*

February 24, 2015 (Worcester, MA) The [Massachusetts Cultural Council \(MCC\)](#) today presented the 2015 Commonwealth Awards, honoring exceptional achievement in the arts, humanities, and sciences. The Worcester Art Museum (WAM) received an award in the Access category, which recognizes exceptional initiatives or programs that make arts and culture accessible and inclusive for older adults, persons with disabilities, and other underserved populations. The Museum was honored for integrating universal design principles into its mission in ways that expand access to its collections and programs. WAM Director Matthias Waschek accepted the award for the Museum at a special Massachusetts State House ceremony this afternoon.

"Accessibility for us means that everyone has a place and is welcomed at the Worcester Art Museum. It's the very heart of our institution and what we strive for every day," said Mr. Waschek. "We couldn't be prouder to be recognized by the MCC for these efforts to break down barriers and build connections with all audiences."

"Once again the MCC is honored to shine a spotlight on the extraordinary institutions and individuals who make the Commonwealth's cultural life the envy of our nation," said MCC Executive Director Anita Walker. "Their achievements remind us that expanding the quality and availability of arts and cultural experiences to our citizens doesn't happen by accident. It takes leadership, generosity, and a commitment to excellence."

The complete list of 2015 award winners includes:

- Access: Boston Conservancy; Worcester Art Museum
- Achievement: Malcolm Rogers, Museum of Fine Arts; Beverly Morgan-Welch, Museum of African American History
- Creative Community: Town of Plymouth; City of Gloucester
- Creative Youth Development: John Macero and Trudy Macero, Winthrop; Barrington State Company, Pittsfield
- Cultural Philanthropy: Highland Street Foundation, Newton; Barr Foundation, Boston
- Leadership: Mayor Martin Walsh, Boston; Arts Boston
- Media: WBUR, Boston; WGBY, Springfield
- STEM to STEAM: The Enchanted Circle Theatre, Holyoke & The Hitchcock Center, Amherst; Cambridge Science Festival

Presented biennially since 1993, the [Commonwealth Awards](#) honor the extraordinary contributions made by the arts, humanities, and sciences to education, economic vitality, and quality of life in Massachusetts. The Commonwealth Awards ceremony also bring leaders from the nonprofit cultural sector together to assert the sector's value and make the case for public investment in its work. Past winners include leading artists and scholars such as Yo-Yo Ma, Olympia Dukakis, and David McCullough; world-renowned institutions like Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and the Peabody Essex Museum; and communities like Pittsfield, Barnstable,

and Lowell that have made arts and culture central to their revitalization efforts.

About the Massachusetts Cultural Council

The Massachusetts Cultural Council promotes excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences, in order to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents and contribute to the economic vitality of our communities.

MCC is a state agency committed to building a central place for arts and culture in the everyday lives of communities across the Commonwealth. It pursues this mission through a combination of grants, services and advocacy for cultural organizations, schools, communities and artists. MCC receives an annual appropriation from the state Legislature and funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and other sources. Learn more at www.massculturalcouncil.org.

ABOUT THE WORCESTER ART MUSEUM:

Founded in 1898, the Worcester Art Museum serves Worcester and the broader region. The Museum houses an encyclopedic collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings, and new media. WAM's collection has historically been strongest in European Renaissance paintings, but with recent acquisitions and donations, like Veronese's Venus Disarming Cupid and the integration of the collection from the Higgins Armory Museum, it continues to diversify and expand its curatorial and programmatic offerings. Symbolized by the opening of the Salisbury Street doors in 2012, the Museum continues toward its goal of accessibility for all visitors.

GENERAL INFO

The Worcester Art Museum, located at 55 Salisbury Street in Worcester, MA, is open Wednesday through Friday and Sunday from 11am to 5pm; Saturday from 10am to 5pm; and every third Thursday from 11am to 8pm.

Admission: The first Saturday of each month: Free Admission from 10am-noon.

General Admission: \$14 for adults, \$6 for children 4-17, \$12 for seniors 65+, \$12 for college students with ID. Members and children under 4 are free. Parking is free. For more information, visit worcesterart.org.

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