

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fort Wayne Museum of Art

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**In Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art
is Closed Temporary to the Public**

*In Service to the Public, Staff, and Volunteers, Museum Leadership Has Chosen to
Close to the Public and Suspend all Public Programming*

[FORT WAYNE, IN] — March 18, 2020 — The Fort Wayne Museum of Art today announced that it has taken preemptive measures to protect staff, volunteers, and the public from the rapidly evolving exposure to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) by temporarily discontinuing public admissions to the Museum and suspending all public programming until at least April 13. To date, the Museum has not had any reported cases of infection on its premises.

“As the most visited cultural institution in the city, we are compelled to follow the science and the best practices as outlined by government agencies and the World Health Organization to ensure the well-being of our community,” said Museum President and CEO Charles Shepard. “While we have taken prudent measures to protect our visitors, staff and volunteers, the additional measure of temporarily closing are necessary to adequately protect everyone.”

Museum leadership have concluded that reopening will only occur when the risk to public health has declined. While the Museum will be closed to the public, staff will continue to work both on and off-site, maintaining best practices such as social distancing, and cleaning and disinfecting both public and behind-the-scenes spaces.

The 2020 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards exhibition will unfortunately be closed from this point and not be available for in-person viewing through its scheduled close on April 11. Pick-up of the artwork is still scheduled for the week of April 13-17. The Museum will work to offer digital engagements of the affected exhibitions, so please keep checking our social media sites.

The Museum will continue to monitor this quickly evolving situation and make decisions as needed regarding instituting additional measurements. “This decision was not made lightly and we thought long and hard about the impact this will have on our community and those we serve. However, as the details of this pandemic are changing moment by moment and as we continue to review the science, research suggests that the wisest course of action is to limit social interaction,” said Shepard.

Those with questions can visit the Museum’s dedicated webpage for more details:

<https://www.fwmoa.org/Event/COVID-19>

About the Fort Wayne Museum of Art

Beginning with art classes in 1888, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art has evolved into the leading visual arts institution in Northeast Indiana. Regularly exhibiting nationally acclaimed artists, the FWMoA also

boasts a permanent collection including works by Mark di Suvero, Andy Warhol, and Kara Walker. The FWMoA is committed to the collection, preservation, and presentation of American and related art to engage and educate broad and diverse audiences throughout the community and region, and add value to their lives. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is funded in part by Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne.

www.fwmoa.org

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