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**FWMoA Celebrates 30 years at downtown location
Public invited to participate in prize giveaways April 1-20**

March 28, 2014 (Fort Wayne, IN) – The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is celebrating 30 years in its downtown location on April 15, 2014.

The Fort Wayne Museum of Art's present building site at 311 East Main Street was dedicated on April 15, 1984, after breaking ground in April 1982 for architects MSKTD to begin making designer Walter A. Netsch's vision a reality. A 39,000 square foot, three level brick façade building, designed to complement the Louis Kahn-designed Performing Arts Center to the west, was built with Fort Wayne needs in mind. Riverside sites were considered, but a new museum needed to be at the hub of activity, and the downtown location was chosen to enhance downtown revitalization and to make the opportunity to experience art easily accessible among other vital, daily experiences.

The Museum existed before 1984, but in the form of the residential homes of the Hamilton family, Theodore F. Thieme, and B. Paul Mossman beginning in the late nineteenth century which were used for classes and exhibitions. But by the 1950s the Fine Arts Foundation (now known as Arts United) began to develop ambitious plans for an arts campus, and in 1966, purchased land between Clinton and Lafayette Streets to the north. In the mid 1970s, feasibility studies were conducted, and in March of 1979, the Museum's Board of Trustees passed a resolution to build a new facility on the property owned by the Fine Arts Foundation. Nearly \$4 million was needed to fund this project, and through the efforts of the Museum and the Foundation, more than 800 local donors contributed to the campaign to build the first true art museum in Northeast Indiana.

For many in this community, this project was a dream come true. At the time, the program for the dedication described it as such: "The bricks and mortar, the works of art, the programs and festivities are the visible signs of a commitment to a philosophy which focuses on art as an essential element in the lives of all people. The dream '...to dedicate a place for art...where the spirit can be enlarged as well as sustained' for our community is a persistent one." Thirty years later, the Museum still wholeheartedly believes in this.

Since 1984, roughly 3 million people have visited the Museum, approximately 500 different exhibitions have been shown, and more than 600,000 K-12 students have toured the galleries or experienced an outreach program, and today, ambitious vision and strategic plans guide the work of the Museum to achieve even more growth over the next several years.

To celebrate, the Museum is inviting the public to take part in a giveaway. Visitors to the Museum from April 1-20, 2014 may enter their names and contact information for a drawing for 3 prizes. First prize includes a framed 22x26in. print of Cindy's Diner by Fort Wayne artist Diane Groenert, a Buddha Board, a hardback coffee table book *The Artists of Brown County*, and a handmade ceramic FWMoA magnet by artist Ralph Stuckman. Second Prize includes a Buddha Board and a FWMoA Family Membership. Third Prize is a FWMoA Family Membership. Must be 18 years old to enter. Must enter at FWMoA at 311 E Main Street. Need not be present to win.

About the Fort Wayne Museum of Art: Beginning with art classes in 1888 given by J. Ottis Adams and later William Forsyth, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art has evolved into a center for the visual arts community in Northern Indiana. Regularly exhibiting nationally acclaimed artists, the FWMoA also boasts an extensive permanent collection of American and related art. FWMoA is committed to the collection, preservation, presentation and interpretation of American and related art to engage broad and diverse audiences throughout the community and region, and add value to their lives. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is a funded partner of Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne.

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