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Fort Wayne Museum of Art Honors Eric Doden with Theodore Thieme Award

Fort Wayne, Ind., March 5, 2018 – At its annual fundraiser March 2, the ArtRageous Gala and Auction, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art honored Eric Doden, CEO of Greater Fort Wayne Inc. with its prestigious Theodore Thieme Award.

The Thieme Award, named for the first patron of the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, was established to honor individuals whose good work in the community has directly or indirectly contributed to the FWMoA's ability to be a vital part of Fort Wayne's cultural community. Theodore Thieme, an astute businessman and founder of the highly successful Wayne Knitting Mills, was the first person outside the art community to see value in what the fledgling museum could do for the community. Thieme thus proposed he would give a very significant gift to officially launch a professional art museum in Fort Wayne, if those involved would pledge to adopt and adhere to professional standards going forward.

For this reason, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art has recognized individuals since its founding in 1921 for their excellent work that raised the bar for the early museum and school, building a foundation for the nationally-accredited museum that it is today.

“Mr. Doden’s efforts to strengthen the greater Fort Wayne economy increases the vitality of downtown Fort Wayne and influences members of our community to invest in quality of place. These accomplishments have and will continue to impact the arts in Fort Wayne for the better,” said FWMoA President & CEO Charles Shepard.

Doden graduated from Hillsdale College and Valparaiso University School of Law. Prior to joining Greater Fort Wayne Inc., he spent two years as President of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. Building on his background in the automotive and steel industries, Doden is a partner in the boutique private equity firm Domo Development, LLC, which has developed more than \$200 million of market-rate apartments since 2012. He serves on the boards of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Ball State University Entrepreneurship Center, and Ambassador Enterprises.

As CEO of Greater Fort Wayne Inc., Eric has met with more than 180 business leaders across the country with the goal of creating strategic partnerships that will grow jobs, grow wages, and grow the economy in Allen County. He has also spearheaded the progress of several major community projects, including the \$440 million revitalization of the Electric Works campus (an innovation district), the \$100 million Riverfront Development, and the \$35 million rebirth of The Landing. During his tenure, Greater Fort Wayne Inc. has achieved unprecedented results. From 2015-17, the organization assisted with 79 business expansions and relocations in Allen County,

including expansions by General Motors (\$1.2 billion investment) and Fort Wayne Metals (\$51 million), and locations by Walmart (a \$181 million dairy processing facility) and Multimatic (\$39 million). These 79 deals resulted in a total of more than 4,200 new jobs and \$184 million in new annual payroll. In 2018, six projects worth approximately \$684 million are set for construction in downtown Fort Wayne alone.

Eric and his wife, Maci, have been married for 20 years. They live in Fort Wayne with their five children.

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 by Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne.

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