



The Frost Art Museum Receives Highest National Recognition *Awarded Re-Accreditation from the American Association of Museums*

MIAMI, FL (January 3, 2012) – The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University 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 Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum was initially accredited in 1999.

“We are proud to announce that our exhibitions and didactic programming have been deemed excellent in their quality by our colleagues at AAM,” said Dr. Carol Damian, Director & Chief Curator of The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum. “This recognition validates that the museum has continued to operate as an institution of superior quality in our beautiful new building.”

Of the nation’s estimated 17,500 museums, 775 are currently accredited. The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum is one of only 50 museums accredited in Florida.

Accreditation is a rigorous process that examines all aspects of a museum’s operations. 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.

“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.”

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.

About The American Association of Museums

The American Association of Museums has been bringing museums together since 1906, helping to develop standards and best practices, gathering and sharing knowledge, and providing advocacy on issues of concern to the entire museum community. With more than 15,000 individual, 3,000 institutional, and 300 corporate members, AAM is dedicated to ensuring that museums remain a vital part of the American landscape, connecting people with the greatest achievements of the human experience, past, present and future. For more information, visit www.aam-us.org.

About Florida International University

Florida International University is one of the 25 largest universities in the nation, with more than 42,000 students. Nearly 130,000 FIU alumni live and work in South Florida. Its colleges and schools offer more than 200 bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs in fields such as engineering, international relations and law. As one of South Florida's anchor institutions, FIU is worlds ahead in its local and global engagement, finding solutions to the most challenging problems of our time. FIU emphasizes research as a major component of its mission. The opening of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine in August 2009 has enhanced the university's ability to create lasting positive change in our community. For more information about FIU, visit FIU Online (<http://www.fiu.edu/>).

About The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University

Approaching its 35th anniversary in 2012, The Frost Art Museum opened its current 46,000-square-foot state of the art building in November 2008. Over **85,000** people have visited The Museum in its new building since its opening in November, 2008. Admission to The Museum is always free. The Frost is an AAM accredited museum and Smithsonian affiliate and is located at 10975 SW 17th St across from the Blue garage and adjacent to the Wertheim Performing Arts Center on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday noon-5 p.m. Closed on Mondays and most legal holidays. For more information, please visit thefrost.fiu.edu or call 305-348-2890. Find The Frost Art Museum on Twitter (twitter.com/frostartmuseum) and Facebook (facebook.com).

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