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Paine Art Center and Gardens Maintains National Accreditation Status for 60 Years

Oshkosh, Wisconsin – The Paine Art Center and Gardens has once again achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums, the highest national recognition afforded to the nation's museums.

The Paine was among the first museums in the country to become accredited when national accreditation began in 1973. The organization has continuously maintained its status for fifty years, and this latest reaccreditation extends for another ten years.

The American Alliance of Museums (AAM) is the only organization representing the entire museum field, from art and history museums to science centers and zoos. Accreditation is a rigorous process that examines all aspects of a museum's operations to ensure it meets high professional standards.

“Accreditation is a monumental achievement,” said Marilyn Jackson, AAM President & CEO. “The process demonstrates an institution’s commitment to best practice and is flexible enough to be accomplished by museums of any size.”

In Wisconsin, there are currently 21 accredited museums. Of the nation’s estimated 33,000 museums, 1,112 are accredited. In Northeast Wisconsin, the EAA Museum in Oshkosh and the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass in Neenah also hold national accreditation.

Aaron Sherer, Executive Director of the Paine, says, “The Paine’s accreditation is especially unique. We were evaluated as three types of museums: a historic house, art museum, and botanical garden. We met the professional standards in all three areas, and this is unusual and formidable.”

Sherer also serves as a peer reviewer in the reaccreditation of other museums. “I have visited several museums and have enjoyed learning as much as I can about them and seeing what they’re doing well.” The experience of assessing other museums helped prepare Sherer for the Paine’s reaccreditation process, which extended over more than year.

“I was determined that we’d do a top-notch job, and I was especially proud when the accreditation official who reviewed our documentation said it was the most complete and comprehensive submission she had ever received.”

Two directors of other museums, the Des Moines Art Center and the San Jose Museum of Art, visited the Paine in July to assess the museum. In their report, they noted the Paine’s strong partnerships with other cultural and educational institutions.

Through ArtsCore, the Paine works with the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and the Oshkosh and Appleton school districts to offer professional development in arts integration for teachers. Each year, more than 3,000 students, from kindergarten to college, visit the Paine for free field trips.

This past spring, the Paine presented an exhibition of Hmong textiles by Mao Lor which was created in collaboration with the Hmong Studies program at UWO. The Paine also facilitates Wisconsin Art Destinations, a collaboration of sixteen art museums working together to raise the profile of visual art in the state.

About the Paine Art Center and Gardens

The Paine is a historic estate serving as a multi-faceted museum for learning and inspiration. The museum preserves the property’s historic architecture, with the mansion as the centerpiece, and many of its interiors as they were created by founders Nathan and Jessie



Kimberly Paine. Selections from the museum's art collection, much of which was acquired by Nathan and Jessie, are featured in the many rooms and settings of the estate. Outdoors, numerous display gardens act as "galleries" of horticulture with varied designs and thousands of plant specimens. The Paine presents a wide variety of changing art exhibitions, events and educational programs throughout the year. Learn more at www.thepaine.org.

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