



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**WADSWORTH ATHENEUM'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**STEP UP TO SUPPORT MUSEUM**  
*\$1.5 Million Raised in Year-End Challenge*

The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art's Board of Trustees announced this week that it had matched a challenge by an anonymous donor to raise a total of \$1 million by the end of last year. The unidentified patron came forth in late November with a \$500,000 pledge, on the condition that the museum's board raise twice that amount by Dec. 31, 2014.

Twenty two of the museum's trustees stepped up to meet the challenge, donating \$1 million to make the daunting task possible. In addition to the challenge gift, four trustees donated in the \$100,000 – \$250,000 range, and five trustees donated in the \$25,000 – \$50,000 range. In all, a total of \$1.5 million was raised in support of the museum and its massive renovation, set to reopen to the public in several phases beginning Jan. 31.

“This passionate outpouring of support proves that we have one of the most committed boards in Hartford,” said David W. Dangremond, President, Board of Trustees. “I am truly honored to lead the Wadsworth Atheneum with so many generous and loyal fellow trustees who recognize their responsibility for the care of our historic buildings and world-renowned collections of art and decorative arts.”

“The phenomenal and accelerated effort by our board and generous funder to bolster the presentation of our renewed museum to our local community and visitors from throughout the world is a timely and cherished windfall,” said Susan L. Talbott, Director and C.E.O. “We are proud and grateful to have trustees who are actively supporting the most major renovation in the museum's history.”

**About the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art**

Founded in 1842, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is the oldest public art museum in the United States. The museum's nearly 50,000 works of art span 5,000 years, from Greek and Roman antiquities to the first museum collection of American contemporary art. The museum's five connected buildings—representing architectural styles from Gothic Revival to modern International Style—are located at 600 Main Street in Hartford, Connecticut. Since 2010 the museum has been undergoing a major, \$33 million renovation, and will open newly refurbished spaces in 2015. Hours: Wed – Fri: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sat & Sun: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; First Thursdays: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Admission: \$5 – 10; discounts for members, students and seniors. Public phone: (860) 278-2670; website: <http://thewadsworth.org>.