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**Grant S. Smith to Lead Development, Revitalize Fundraising Initiatives at
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art**



Hartford, Conn. (Sept. 23, 2016) – The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art announced this week the appointment of Grant S. Smith to the position of Director of Development. Following a national search that engaged leading philanthropy professionals who then nominated an exceptional group of candidates, Smith was selected for his strength in leadership and proven strategic direction in the areas of individual giving, corporate and foundation support, membership and events. Smith’s first day on the job is Sept. 26.

“I am excited to join the next generation of leadership at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art,” said Smith. “The museum’s renewed sense of energy is palpable. From the recent announcement of free admission for Hartford residents to its rich and varied upcoming exhibition schedule, it is clear that the Atheneum is on the move. I am thrilled to be a part of the momentum.”

“Grant’s arrival comes at a key moment for the Atheneum,” said Thomas J. Loughman, Director and C.E.O. “Rebuilding our capacity as a philanthropic interest is vital to our greater efforts to drive the institution forward. With Grant on board we can better articulate our impact and engage in the kinds of future-minded conversations essential to our long-term success with members and donors.”

Smith arrives with a robust history of accomplishments. His most recent position was as Director of Major and Leadership Gifts at the University of Hartford, where he supported the Barney School of Business and the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions by managing a portfolio of 150 donors and prospects, as well as by leading a major gifts team resulting in raising more than \$2 million in the last fiscal year. Prior to working there, he served as Senior Hotchkiss Fund Officer at The Hotchkiss School, directing the reunion giving program for the Class of 1977 and raising record-setting cumulative class gifts. Other past work includes the Hartford Art School, Miss Hall’s School and a variety of clients of the Charles Webb Company, Inc., a consulting firm specializing in fundraising and campaign counsel for fine and performing arts organizations.

About the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Founded in 1842, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is the oldest continuously operating 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 Wadsworth Atheneum's five connected buildings—representing architectural styles from Gothic Revival to modern International Style—are located at 600 Main Street in Hartford, Conn. Hours: Wednesday – Friday: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission: \$5 – 15; discounts for members, students and seniors. Free admission for Hartford residents with ID. Free “happy hour” admission 4 – 5 p.m. Public phone: (860) 278-2670; website: thewadsworth.org.

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