



Wadsworth Atheneum Receives \$3 Million from Connecticut State Bond Commission

Award Provides Critical Funding for Phase II of the Museum's Comprehensive Renovation Project

HARTFORD, Conn., January 28, 2013 – The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art announced today that it has received a \$3 million grant from the Connecticut State Bond Commission. This award provides critical funding for Phase 2 of the Wadsworth Atheneum's ongoing comprehensive renovation project, which includes more than 54 Galleries and 20 public spaces, totaling 74,328 square feet throughout its historic facilities.

"As America's first public art museum," said Susan L. Talbott, Director and CEO, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, "the Wadsworth Atheneum is also one of the largest and most nationally and internationally recognized arts organizations in Connecticut, making this renovation a vital part of our efforts to drive tourism to the state. We are very grateful to Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Congressman John Larson, our State Legislators, and Hartford Mayor Pedro E. Segarra for their support as we seek to better serve Connecticut's diverse communities."

"The museum will remain open to visitors as the renovation takes place," Talbott continued, "enabling the public to witness our incredible transformation as we seek to restore our historic facility and provide greater access to our world-class collections."

"Our state's cultural institutions not only enrich our quality of life, they also serve as economic drivers in our cities and towns," said Governor Malloy. "This funding will allow the Wadsworth Atheneum to move forward with phase two of their renovation, ensuring that the museum will continue to be at the forefront of our state's cultural life."

The total cost of Phase 2 is \$11,801,419 million and the museum has now raised \$7,870,333 million, including the State's recent investments of \$2 million in June 2012 and \$3 million in January 2013, a \$1.4 million individual contribution, \$133,000 in rebates from CL&P, \$500,000 from a private foundation, \$325,500 from the National Endowment for the Humanities, \$282,000 in grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences and \$50,000 from The William and Alice Mortensen Foundation.

With the majority of funds now secured, the museum will move forward with a significant portion of Phase 2, including the refurbishment of 26 Galleries and seven public spaces, equaling a total of 26,715 square feet of renovated space. These spaces will include the remaining galleries on the second floor of the iconic Morgan building and the North and South galleries adjacent to the Morgan Great Hall.

Other highlights of Phase 2 include: upgrades to the museum's lighting systems to accepted industry practices, providing a higher conservation standard for the museum's outstanding collections; interior refurbishment of the museum's main amenities, and the implementation of a state-of-the-art system for

safely and efficiently storing large portions of the 50,000 works in the collection, which will free up critically needed galleries currently being used to offset the shortage of suitable storage.

Phase 2 will also result in significant improvements for visitors, including improved wayfinding, new interior and exterior signage, bi-lingual signage, and space for commissioned art on the exterior of the museum, in addition to the installation of durable, high quality flooring in a number of the museum's major exhibition galleries and upgrades in all galleries to finishes such as new paint, walls, casework, labels, and graphics.

In 2011, the museum's iconic Morgan Great Hall reopened, marking the completion of the first phase of the renovation. The complete renovation of Morgan Great Hall, one of the Wadsworth Atheneum's most prominent galleries, included the installation of ten new clerestory windows to manage the levels of natural light. The space has now been reinstalled for the first time with large-scale works from the museum's Contemporary art collection by artists such as Willem de Kooning, Helen Frankenthaler, Robert Rauschenberg, Sean Scully, and Frank Stella. Other components of Phase I included the refurbishment of the museum's front entrance on Main Street; waterproofing of the façade and roof on the Morgan, Avery and Goodwin buildings; below grade waterproofing of the Morgan building basement and the north side of the Wadsworth building; updates to the HVAC system, enabling significant energy savings; and the establishment of two green roof areas.

The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is located at 600 Main Street in Hartford, Connecticut. The museum is open Wednesdays to Fridays, 11 am – 5 pm and Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am – 5 pm, and the first Thursday of every month 11 am – 8 pm. Please visit www.wadsworthatheneum.org for more information.

Contact:

Kimberly A. Reynolds
Director Institutional Advancement
(860) 838-4055
kimberly.reynolds@wadsworthatheneum.org

Molly M. Kurzius
Resnicow Schroeder Associates
(212) 671-5163
mkurzius@resnicowschroeder.com