Friends of the Wadsworth Atheneum
(Formerly Women's Committee of the Wadsworth Atheneum)

Friends of the Wadsworth Atheneum was established in 2022 after a long and rich history of being known as Women's Committee of the Wadsworth Atheneum (WCWA). All are welcome to join FWA. The original organization (WCWA) was founded in 1950 by a former Director of the museum with just 20 women. Originally conceived as a service organization, the primary purpose of the group was to assist the museum staff with social functions, membership drives, and other projects requiring volunteer help. The major responsibility during the early years was the management of the Wadsworth Atheneum's publicity.

During the fifties, as membership expanded and projects broadened in scope, the WCWA began making profits on its social events. These profits were donated to the museum for specific purchases. In 1956-57, WCWA raised over $10,000 to benefit the museum's building fund and it was decided to amend the group's objectives to include fund raising. This led to the creation of the Champagne Ball, an extremely successful social and financial event, held annually until the early seventies.

During the sixties, the Women's Committee expanded its in-service volunteer work to include cataloguing artwork, researching archives, and assisting staff members in the museum. This has provided the WCWA membership with an avenue of service beyond luncheons, lectures, and social activities. In more recent times, as the museum's financial needs have exploded, the WCWA has responded to that situation by focusing most of its activities on fund raising events.

**Festival of Trees and Traditions**, inaugurated in 1974 to raise money for the museum's general fund, has provided annual donations exceeding $200,000… an accomplishment built on many WCWA member volunteer hours.

**Fine Art & Flowers** was first staged in 1982 specifically to raise monies to provide fresh flowers in the museum galleries throughout the year. This event, in recent years, has also met the challenge of the museum's ever growing financial requirements and has extended its goals to include a substantial monetary contribution to the museum as well.

In addition to attaining the financial goals set forth, volunteers for each of these events are striving, through community involvement, to heighten public awareness and support for the Wadsworth Atheneum.

As a member of the new Friends of the Wadsworth Atheneum, you will be a part of an organization with more than 100 individuals committed to serving the oldest operating art museum in the United States. You will be associating with a diverse group of people, each with many talents, who have a desire to serve the community through volunteerism. The FWA shares countless hours together involved with museum staff. FWA truly demonstrates, through its actions and over half a century of important work, an ability to benefit the Wadsworth Atheneum substantially.
Application for Membership
Friends of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Name: __________________________________________________________________
 Last                     First
Spouse/Partner (optional)
_______________________________________________________________________
 Last                     First
Address: ________________________________________________________________
City, State & Zip: _________________________________________________________
Work/Home Phone: ____________________ Cell Phone: _________________________
Preferred contact phone number: _____________________
Email Address: ______________________________________________________

Current Wadsworth Atheneum Membership Expiration Date: _____________
(Please use the back of this form if needed to provide additional information.)

Volunteer Experience:

Career Experience:

Special Skills and Interests: (Please comment on your reasons for wishing to join the Friends of the
Wadsworth Atheneum and indicate which committees you are interested in.

I have read the requirements of membership provided here and I understand my obligation as a member.
By-laws will be provided upon acceptance. I also acknowledge receipt of, and agree to, the Wadsworth
Anti-bullying policy.

Signature: _______________________________ Date: ______________________
FRIENDS OF THE WADSWORTH ATHENEUM
MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. All FWA members must have a current membership in the Wadsworth Atheneum which is to be paid directly to the Wadsworth Atheneum.

2. All Active members serve one term of four years. After that time, an Active member may elect to remain an Active member or may elect to become a Reserve member.

3. FWA dues ($50.00) for the upcoming year must be paid in the spring by June, after the annual meeting, to the FWA Treasurer and complete a membership renewal form.

4. Active members must attend a minimum of five regular general meetings per year. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month from September to April. There is no meeting in December. The annual meeting is held during the month of May. Inductions for new members are held at the annual meeting.

5. All Active members are required to volunteer for a minimum:
   a. Service on at least one major committee, fundraiser, or project such as Festival of Trees & Traditions, Fine Art & Flowers, Programming, or Day Art Tours.
   b. Three 3-hour volunteer shifts during the set up or during Festival of Trees & Traditions.
   c. One 3-hour shift during Fine Art & Flowers.

6. All Active members will report their volunteer hours to the Volunteer Committee co-chairs on a timely basis. Forms are available at the monthly meetings and in the FWA newsletter to facilitate this requirement.