Hartford, Conn. (January 24, 2024) — The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art’s Board of Trustees has elected five new Trustees to join the Board of the nation’s oldest continuously-operating public art museum and elected a new slate of officers to lead the Board.

Elected to the Wadsworth’s Board were notable arts, community, and business leaders Susan Chandler, Burke Doar, Camile Simpson, Tamara Williams and Henry M. Zachs, all elected to a term ending in 2027. Re-elected to a second term ending in 2027 was Joseph R. Gianni.

Elected as Board Chair was Duffield Ashmead, IV; to be joined by Cheryl A. Chase, Vice Chair; Emilie de Brigard, Vice Chair; Hy J. Schwartz, Vice Chair; Brook A. Hazelton, Treasurer; and Lily DeJongh Downing, Secretary.

“The Wadsworth is a world-class institution and a remarkable resource for our community. It is an honor and a privilege to chair a board of dedicated leaders who support it generously with their time, their talent and their resources,” said Ashmead. “My colleagues and I welcome the new members of our Board; we look forward to working with them to advance the museum’s collections, marvelous programs and all the other initiatives that make the Wadsworth such a special and engaging place for all.”

Ashmead has been a member of the Wadsworth Board since 2004, most recently as Senior Vice-Chair and Treasurer. He has served on numerous committees, including eight years as Chair of the Curatorial Committee. He is senior partner at The Hand Center, a surgical practice dedicated to reconstruction of the hand and wrist. He has also served on the Boards of the Hartford Symphony and the Hartford Art School.

Newly designated ex-officio members, as defined in the Wadsworth’s by-laws, are Jane E. Britton, President of Friends of the Wadsworth; Ann B. Mulcahy, President of the Docent Council; and Aaron Crosson Sr., President of The Amistad Center for Art & Culture. Re-elected as designee of the Office of the Governor is Caroline Cunningham Young; a designee of the Mayor of the City of Hartford is pending. Immediate Past Board Chair Gerry Lupacchino will continue to serve as a member of the Board.

The Board also expressed appreciation to retiring members of the Board, Cynthia J. Bulaong, Mally Cox-Chapman, Alison D. Davis, David G. Jepson, Michael F. Klein and JoAnn H. Price.

The newly elected Wadsworth Board of Trustees members:
Susan Chandler has enjoyed membership in and volunteer services to the Wadsworth since moving to Connecticut in 1988. Her position as Historical Architect for the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office led to involvement with the Austin House, a National Historic Landmark, and she participated in the property’s restoration and with the work of the Austin House Committee for over two decades. She also serves on the Hill-Stead Museum’s Board of Governors.

Burke Doar has devoted his career to the manufacturing industry and works for TRUMPF. Inc, a global technology company based in Farmington. Promoted to Executive Vice President in 2022, he has been with the company in various roles for more than two decades. A West Hartford resident, and former town council member, he graduated from Princeton University and Albany Law School, and served as a Law Clerk for Louis J. Freeh in the United States District Court.

Camille Donald-Simpson is Senior Regulatory Counsel and Head of US Government Affairs at Beazley USA. She most recently was Head of Government Affairs and Industry Relations for American Equity Investment Life Insurance Company and before that served as Regional Vice President, State Government Relations, for the American Council of Life Insurers. Prior to her career at ACLI Ms. Simpson worked as Assistant Vice President, Associate Secretary and Counsel for MassMutual Financial Group for over 15 years. During her career, she worked for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce. Ms. Simpson earned her B.S. in Finance from Syracuse University and her J.D from Rutgers.

Tamara Williams is an insurance and financial services executive with 30 years of experience as a business strategist and leader of global programs for Fortune 500 companies. She recently retired as Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer for Prudential Financial’s Global Sales Practices Program and concluded a three-year tenure as Board President and Executive Committee Chair for The Amistad Center for Art & Culture. She earned an MBA in Finance from Seton Hall University, and a B.S. in Business Management at University of Maryland Global Campus.

Henry M. Zachs is the CEO of MCM Holdings LLC, Chairman of Ziplink Inc., and has been a pioneer in the telecommunications industry for more than sixty years. He has served as a Trustee of Trinity College, Williston Northampton School, Oak Hill School, The Bushnell, and the Jewish Community Foundation; was President of the Greater Hartford Jewish Federation and a Director of the United Way. Henry founded the endowment matching program, Endow Hartford 21, which has helped build endowments for more than 60 non-profits in Greater Hartford. In addition, Henry has built and renovated 4 Hillel Houses at Connecticut Universities. A graduate of Trinity College (B.A.) and the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School (MBA), he has been actively involved as a director or trustee of numerous organizations in Connecticut.
About the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art
Founded in 1842 with a vision for infusing art into the American experience, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is home to a collection of nearly 50,000 works of art spanning 5,000 years and encompassing European art from antiquity through contemporary as well as American art from the 1600s to today. The Wadsworth Atheneum’s five connected buildings—representing architectural styles including Gothic Revival, modern International Style, and 1960s Brutalism—are located at 600 Main Street in Hartford, Conn.

Current hours are noon–5pm Thursday–Sunday. The Auerbach Art Library is open by appointment only, 10am–5pm Friday. Bmuse Café will be opening in February. Admission: $20 with discounts for members, students, and seniors. Free admission for Hartford residents with Wadsworth Welcome registration. Advance ticket registration via thewadsworth.org is encouraged, not required. Phone: (860) 278-2670; website: thewadsworth.org.

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