

NEWS

from the Worcester Art Museum

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WORCESTER ART MUSEUM CREATES NEW HOME FOR COMMUNITY MOSAIC Public Invited to Rededication Ceremony Sept. 24

(WORCESTER, Mass., Sept. 9, 2005) — The Worcester Art Museum welcomes the public to join in a rededication celebration on Saturday, Sept. 24 for a colossal community achievement, the 45-foot-long Worcester Community Mosaic.

The Mosaic, created five years ago with the help of more than 1,000 people and 14 community schools and agencies, was moved this summer from its Lancaster Street location to the Worcester Art Museum's Stoddard Garden Court. In its new location, the Mosaic will provide inspiration to year-round Museum students, ambience to summer Café diners, and a backdrop for myriad community events.

The rededication celebration marks the fifth anniversary of the Mosaic's creation and debuts the Mosaic's new courtyard installation. A program beginning at 1:30 p.m. will feature remarks from Worcester Art Museum Director James A. Welu, Community Mosaic sponsors from Fallon Foundation and Fallon Healthcare System, and Edla Bloom, director of AIDS Project Worcester, an organization that participated in making the Mosaic. The free celebration also will include music and refreshments.

"The Community Mosaic has become a touchstone for the community—there are many stories about how making the mosaic had an unbelievable impact on people's lives," said Honee A. Hess, the Museum's director of education. "We look forward to sharing those stories at the rededication."

Inspired by the Worcester Art Museum's renowned collection of floor mosaics unearthed from the ancient city of Antioch, the 45-by-8-foot Worcester Community Mosaic reflects the themes of "Worcester" and "community." Its design celebrates the city's diversity, learning institutions,

inventors, neighborhoods and culture, including representations of all four seasons, a triple decker, a rocket, books, and, of course, the heart of Massachusetts. To create the mural, the Worcester Art Museum commissioned California artist Kim Emerson to work in residence with two apprentices and enlisted the help of more than 1,000 community members ranging in age from 5 to 80. Children and adults at 14 community schools and organizations—including May Street, Elm Park and Clark Street schools; Quinsigamond Community College Women’s Center; YouthNet; Fallon Healthcare; AIDS Project Worcester; The Antioch Association of Worcester; Office of Elder Affairs; Black FBI; Centro Las Americas; Italian American Society; Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Worcester; and Arts Worcester—worked with Emerson on the 3-by-5-foot, 300-pound Mosaic panels. Meanwhile, community members took part in tile-painting parties around the city to hand-paint nearly 700 individual 3-inch-square tiles that comprise the Mosaic’s border. The mosaic was first unveiled on Sept. 16, 2000.

The Worcester Community Mosaic was sponsored by Fallon Foundation and supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Worcester Cultural Commission, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

About the Worcester Art Museum

The Worcester Art Museum, which opened to the public in 1898, is world-renowned for its 35,000-piece collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings and new media. The works span 5,000 years of art and culture, ranging from ancient Roman mosaics to Colonial silver, Impressionist paintings and contemporary art. Dedicated to the promotion of art and art education, the Museum offers a year-round studio art and art appreciation program that enrolls over 6,000 adult and youth students each year. Public tours are offered Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m., September through May. Audio tours are also available in English and Spanish.

Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. (evening hours sponsored by Commerce Bank), and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and full-time college students with current ID, and FREE for Members and all youth 17 and under. Admission is also FREE for everyone on Saturday mornings, 10 a.m.-noon (sponsored by The TJX Companies, Inc. and Massachusetts Electric, a National Grid Company). The Museum is located at 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, Mass., easily accessible from the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90), Route 290 and Route 9. Free parking is available near entrances on Salisbury, Lancaster and Tuckerman streets. For more information, call (508) 799-4406 or visit the Museum web site at www.worcesterart.org.

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