

# WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

## **Worcester Art Museum Selected for the Barr-Klarman Massachusetts Arts Initiative**

*A \$25 million investment in 29 arts organizations from across Massachusetts over six years to strengthen their financial health and “adaptive capacity.”*

Worcester, MA (October 25, 2018)—The Worcester Art Museum announced today that it was selected to participate in the Barr-Klarman Massachusetts Arts Initiative. A partnership between two Boston-based foundations - Barr and The Klarman Family Foundation – the initiative is a \$25 million, six-year investment in 29 arts and cultural organizations from across Massachusetts. Participating organizations receive flexible, multi-year operating support grants, in addition to training and technical assistance from TDC, a nonprofit consulting and research firm. Worcester Art Museum’s engagement in the initiative begins with two grants totaling \$600,000 from Barr and the Klarman Family Foundation over three years.

“This multi-year award represents an important investment in an institution that is vital to the entire Worcester region. It will contribute significantly to the Museum’s capitalization and long-term financial health, which will in turn support transformative art programming for all segments of our community,” said Matthias Waschek, the C. Jean and Myles McDonough Director of the Worcester Art Museum. “We are grateful to the Barr and Klarman Family Foundations for their commitment to the region’s creative, educational, cultural, social, and economic wellbeing.”

“Organizations like the Worcester Art Museum are the cultural hearts of their communities,” said San San Wong, Director of Arts & Creativity for the Barr Foundation. “They are sites of public assembly and dialogue, often working to foster understanding and connection across cultural differences. It is our privilege to support the Worcester Art Museum in this journey to further strengthen its financial health and capacity to adapt to change – that it might deepen and continue this work for years to come.”

“Arts organizations, including the Worcester Art Museum, play a critical role in the health of our communities,” said Laura Sherman, Director, Greater Boston Grantmaking for The Klarman Family Foundation. “We are committed to strengthening this cohort of 29 arts organizations across the Commonwealth that have the ability to connect and enliven communities through culture, tradition and creative expression, and we are proud to be a part of this initiative.”

Representing diversity across artistic disciplines, geographic reach, stages of organizational development, and budget sizes, the 29 organizations participating in the Barr-Klarman Massachusetts Arts Initiative are:

- Academy of Music Theatre (Northampton)
- A Far Cry (Boston)
- Barrington Stage Company (Pittsfield)
- Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (Boston)
- Boston Modern Orchestra Project (Malden)

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- Cape Ann Museum (Gloucester)
- Community Access to the Arts (Great Barrington)
- Community Art Center (Cambridge)
- Community Music School of Springfield (Springfield)
- Company One Theatre (Boston)
- The Dance Complex (Cambridge)
- Design Museum Boston (Boston)
- Double Edge Theatre (Ashfield)
- Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts (Boston)
- Featherstone Center for the Arts (Martha's Vineyard)
- Fitchburg Art Museum (Fitchburg)
- Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center (Great Barrington)
- Merrimack Repertory Theatre (Lowell)
- New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! (New Bedford)
- New Bedford Symphony Orchestra (New Bedford)
- Norman Rockwell Museum (Stockbridge)
- Now + There (Boston)
- Payomet Performing Arts Center (North Truro)
- Provincetown Art Association and Museum (Provincetown)
- Raw Art Works (Lynn)
- The Record Co. (Boston)
- SpeakEasy Stage (Boston)
- Worcester Art Museum (Worcester)
- Zeiterion Theatre (New Bedford)

The Worcester Art Museum and each participant in this initiative will receive multi-year, unrestricted operating grants. Additionally, through a grant to TDC, a nationally recognized nonprofit consulting and research group, organizations will also receive customized training and technical assistance, and be eligible for supplemental funds for targeted research, capacity building, and/or pilot projects. Last week, the foundations made the first set of three-year grants under the new initiative, marking the beginning of what is expected to be a six-year journey of learning, collaboration, and growth.

For more information about the Barr-Klarman Massachusetts Arts Initiative page, including the ideas underlying the effort, key elements of the experience for participating organizations, selection criteria, and evaluation findings, visit <https://www.barrfoundation.org/news>

## **About Worcester Art Museum**

Founded in 1896, the Worcester Art Museum's encyclopedic 38,000 piece collection covers 51 centuries of art. Highlights include the Medieval Chapter House, Renaissance Court, and Worcester Hunt Mosaic, as well as the recently integrated John Woodman Higgins Armory

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collection of arms and armor. The Museum is internationally known for its collection of European and American art. It was the first in America to acquire paintings by Monet and Gauguin and one of the first to exhibit photography as fine art. As the one of the first U.S. museums to focus on collaborating with local schools, it has been at the forefront of engaging audiences and giving them a meaningful and personal experience for over a century.

The Worcester Art Museum, located at 55 Salisbury Street in Worcester, MA, is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and every third Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is \$16 for adults, \$6 for children 4-17, \$14 for seniors 65+, and \$14 for college students with ID. Admission is free on the first Sunday of each month. Members and children under four are free. Parking is free. For more information, visit [worcesterart.org](http://worcesterart.org).

**About the Barr Foundation:** The Barr Foundation's mission is to invest in human, natural, and creative potential, serving as thoughtful stewards and catalysts. Based in Boston, Barr focuses regionally, and selectively engages nationally, working in partnership with nonprofits, foundations, the public sector, and civic and business leaders to elevate the arts, advance solutions for climate change, and connect all students to success in high school and beyond. Founded in 1997, Barr now has assets of \$1.7 billion, and has contributed more than \$838 million to charitable causes. For more information, visit [barrfoundation.org](http://barrfoundation.org) or follow @BarrFdn on Twitter and Facebook.

**About The Klarman Family Foundation:** The Klarman Family Foundation seeks to identify areas of unmet need and advance solutions to addressing them. Underlying all of the Foundation's work is a passionate belief in the promise and importance of creative thinking, strategic leadership and strong organizations to help bring about change. As a way to learn and create greater impact, the Foundation values acting in partnership with other funders. Its work spans regionally, nationally and internationally and focuses on advancing understanding of the biological basis of health and illness; supporting the global Jewish community and State of Israel; expanding access to vital services and enrichment opportunities in Greater Boston; and ensuring a healthy democracy. Established in 1990 by Beth and Seth Klarman, the Foundation is located in Boston, MA. For more information, visit [klarmanfoundation.org](http://klarmanfoundation.org).

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