

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTS FIVE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Worcester, MA—November 14, 2022—The [Worcester Art Museum](#) (WAM) elected five new members to its Board of Trustees at its 126th annual Corporators meeting, held virtually on Wednesday, November 9. The newly elected trustees are **Edward M. Augustus, Jr., Kent dur Russell, Michael B. Fox, Thomas S. Michie, and Carmen “Dolly” Vazquez**. The meeting also included a presentation from founder and Creative Director of WHY Architecture, Kulapat Yantrasast, who discussed his work with WAM and gave insights into designing a space for a 21st-century cultural institution.

More than 125 attendees joined the Zoom meeting and heard from several of the Museum’s leaders, including Jean and Myles McDonough Director Matthias Waschek, Board President Dorothy Chen-Courtin, Treasurer Sarah G. Berry, Trustee Nominating Chair Anne-Marie Soullière, Corporator Council Chair Tracy Craig, and Corporator Nominating Committee Chair David Fort. The speakers celebrated WAM’s accomplishments over the past year, reviewed the challenges faced, and looked toward the Museum’s vision for the future. Waschek reported on an increase in the Museum’s overall reach: visitor attendance has increased to nearly pre-pandemic levels and 1.1 million visitors saw loans from WAM in exhibitions worldwide. Chen-Courtin recognized the continued impact of construction and changes to the WAM campus that will improve accessibility and allow for growth in the future.

“In 2022, the Museum broke its 126-year history in terms of funds raised,” said Chen-Courtin. “We will work hard to deserve the continued confidence and support of the philanthropic community.”

The meeting included a financial report, which demonstrated the Museum’s ability to stay nimble in the face of unprecedented economic change. Over the past year, WAM’s operating expenses were kept under budget. The Museum’s draw on the endowment was at an historic low, and the endowment continues to beat benchmarks. Overall, the success over the past fiscal year solidifies a foundation for the Museum to continue critical capital improvement and deferred maintenance projects.

During the meeting, 17 new Corporators were also elected: Leslie S. Fish of Worcester, MA; Michael B. Fox of Concord, MA; Margaret A. Grasselli of Duxbury, MA; Ivan R. Green of Worcester, MA; Noreen Green of Worcester, MA; Jerry H. Gurwitz of Worcester, MA; Michael R. Hale of Shrewsbury, MA; Peter M. Hurley of Stow, MA; Olu Ibrahim of Lowell, MA; Timmary L. Leary of Worcester, MA; Mary Beth Leonard of Worcester, MA; Andrea T. Little of Westborough, MA; Charlene L. Nemeth of Worcester, MA; Victoria A. Nessen of Lexington, MA; Sahdev Passey of Holden, MA; Natalia Pavlova of Shrewsbury, MA; Martha E. Simmons of Chestnut Hill, MA; Heather C. Treseler of Newton, MA; Rebecca A. Wilsker of Jamaica Plain, MA; and Lauren Yeaton Hunt of Newton, MA. These appointments bring the total number of Worcester Art Museum Corporators to 231.

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

About the Newly Elected Trustees

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.

Edward M. Augustus, Jr. is a native of Worcester. He is a graduate of St. John's High School in Shrewsbury, Suffolk University and holds a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University. Ed has worked in public service for more than thirty years. His career began at the age of 23 when he was appointed to the City of Worcester's Human Rights Commission. A few months later, he was elected to the Worcester School Committee, becoming the youngest person to ever hold an elected office in Worcester. After he served two terms on the School Committee, he moved to Washington, DC where he worked in President Bill Clinton's United States Department of Education from 1992-1998. From 1998-2004 he served as U.S. Congressman Jim McGovern's Chief of Staff in Washington, DC. He also served two terms in the Massachusetts State Senate, representing Worcester's 2nd District. Ed then served as Director of Government and Community Relations at the College of the Holy Cross. He was appointed City Manager of Worcester in January 2014 and served until early 2022. Ed is currently serving as the first ever Chancellor at Dean College in Franklin, MA.

Kent dur Russell

Kent dur Russell is a native of New York City, who was educated throughout Europe from an early age. He received his B.A. and M.A. from Trinity College Dublin and received a Graduate Certificate in the History of European Painting from Trinity. He has a graduate degree in Art History from CCNY where his research focused on Mark Rothko. Kent has been the Executive Director of the Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton since 2006, but recently retired this past summer. Prior to that, he was the Director of the Higgins Armory Museum in Worcester for 11 years. Kent has held several curatorial positions at both European and United States institutions and museums. He has also been an adjunct and Associate Professor at several area colleges and universities. He is involved in many civic, social, and cultural organizations in and around the Boston area. He lives with his wife Aisling in the oldest house in Lunenburg, MA (1723) and has two grown sons.

Michael B. Fox

Michael B. Fox is a native of Worcester, having grown up in the Grafton Hill and Greendale areas of the city. He attended Wharton School of Finance, obtained a CPA, and earned a Law Degree from Georgetown University. Mike has held senior leadership positions at Wang Laboratories and Fidelity Investments both in operations and in finance. He is a current Corporator for the Massachusetts Historical Society and Belmont Hill School. Mike is retired and currently resides in Concord with his wife Mary.

Thomas S. Michie

Thomas Michie retired in 2021 as Senior Curator of European Decorative Arts and Sculpture at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. While there, he oversaw numerous gallery renovations, including English and Scottish period rooms and the Kunstkammer, or cabinet of curiosities. He previously held curatorial positions at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and at the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design. A graduate of Williams College, he holds an M. Phil degree in

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

the history of art from Yale University. In addition, Thomas has served on several non-profit boards and collections committees at several major institutions.

Carmen “Dolly” Vazquez

Carmen “Dolly” Vazquez was born and raised in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. She came to Central Massachusetts from San Francisco, CA and began her cultural involvement in Worcester by volunteering at ACUW community radio station where she hosted a bi-weekly radio show, Herencia Puertorriqueña, for 13 years. She was first hired in 1993 by Centro las Americas to help manage their Latin American Festival, and she was subsequently asked to head the organization’s new Cultural Department. Since that time, she has co-produced the annual Latin American Festival, the annual Latino Film Festival and the biennial Viva El Arte are show, among other endeavors. Dolly retired from CENTRO after 22 years of service. She is a former board member of YOU, Inc. and is a current member of the Hispanics Achieving and Celebrating Excellence and Latino Dollars for Scholars. In addition to her serving as a Corporator at WAM for several years, Dolly has been an incorporator at the YWCA, the Joy of Music Program, and the Worcester Historical Museum and for eleven years she has served as a board member of the Mass Cultural Council.

About the Worcester Art Museum

The Worcester Art Museum creates transformative programs and exhibitions, drawing on its exceptional collection of art. Dating from 3000 BC to the present, these works provide the foundation for a focus on audience engagement, connecting visitors of all ages and abilities with inspiring art and demonstrating its enduring relevance to daily life. Creative initiatives — including pioneering collaborative programs with local schools, fresh approaches to exhibition design and in-gallery teaching, and a long history of studio class instruction — offer opportunities for diverse audiences to experience art and learn both from and with artists.

The Worcester Art Museum, located at 55 Salisbury Street in Worcester, MA, is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$14 for seniors 65+ and for college students with ID. Admission is free for Museum Members and children ages 0-17. On the first Sunday of each month, admission is free for everyone. Museum parking is free. Tickets may be purchased in advance at worcesterart.org.

For more information, please contact:

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