



-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

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NBAM CONFRONTS FISCAL CHALLENGES

Ongoing economic challenges have made it necessary for the Board of Trustees of The New Bedford Art Museum to announce a change in the management of the museum. In an effort to reduce operating costs, the board announced today that the position of Executive Director has been suspended effective March 1, 2009. Along with staff members, the museum board will be taking over the duties of the director, and is completely committed to continuing the museum's operation, including its exhibitions and free art programming for the children of greater New Bedford.

"The museum was critically impacted by the withdrawal of a state discretionary grant in October that totaled \$50,000, of the museum's annual budget," stated Anne Whiting, president of the board of trustees. In addition, fundraising is down substantially from the previous year.

The suspension of Ms. Karie C. Vincent's position was one of several difficult steps the Board has been forced to take to trim operating costs and expenses during these difficult and uncertain economic times. Karie has been the director of the museum for more than 8 years, and under her dedicated direction, the museum has grown to be an important and integral part of the creative economy of New Bedford and the SouthCoast.

Thanks to the hard work of Karie, Curatorial Consultant David B. Boyce, and the museum's Exhibition Committee, NBAM will be hosting many exciting exhibits over the next six months. Currently, selections from the collection the Cape Cod Museum of Art is on display, and later this month, more than 30 original Audubon bird prints from the New Bedford Free Public Library will be featured. In early June, the 30th Exhibition of the American Society of Marine Artists will offer contemporary marine art from more than 100 of its members. This exhibit comes to NBAM as the last venue of a 5-museum tour that has traveled since May of last year.

The board will be working closely with part-time staff and volunteers, as well as the City of New Bedford to ensure the museum continues to provide enjoyment and education for residents and visitors to the SouthCoast. Mayor Scott Lang offered his continuing support by stating, "The New Bedford Art Museum is an important cultural institution in our city. We will provide operational support to the museum while it conducts reorganization and fundraising efforts. I look forward to the upcoming Audubon exhibit, the Contemporary American Marine Art display, as well as an exciting exhibition schedule for this coming fall."

NBAM hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 12-5pm. Admission: Adults \$3, Senior Citizens & Students \$2, Children under 17, FREE . Children must be accompanied by their adult caregiver. NBAM is handicapped accessible. Visitor discretion is advised when visiting NBAM.

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