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**Missoula Art Museum Receives Highest National Recognition  
Awarded Re-Accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums**

**Missoula, MT November 25, 2019 –**

**Missoula Art Museum** has again achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums, the highest national recognition afforded the nation's museums. Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, to governments, funders, outside agencies, and to the museum-going public. Missoula Art Museum was initially accredited since 1987. All museums must undergo a reaccreditation review at least every 10 years to maintain accredited status.

Alliance Accreditation brings national recognition to a museum for its commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards and continued institutional improvement. Developed and sustained by museum professionals for over 45 years, the Alliance's museum accreditation program is the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance, self-regulation and public accountability. It strengthens the museum profession by promoting practices that enable leaders to make informed decisions, allocate resources wisely, and remain financially and ethically accountable in order to provide the best possible service to the public.

"The accreditation process is a demanding pursuit but we found it a valuable experience that brought MAM's forward looking projects, such as the institutional plan, the collection development plan and planning around environmental controls and monitoring, into sharp focus. MAM is proud to have earned this honor for the third time on our 45 years." Laura J. Millin, Executive Director

Of the nation's estimated 33,000 museums, only 1,070 are currently accredited. Missoula Art Museum is one of only three museums accredited in Montana. Accreditation is a very rigorous but highly rewarding process that examines all aspects of a museum's operations. To earn accreditation a museum first must conduct a year of self-study, and then undergo a site visit by a team of peer reviewers. AAM's Accreditation Commission, an independent and autonomous body of museum professionals, considers the self-study and visiting committee report to determine whether a museum should receive accreditation.

"Accredited museums are a community of institutions that have chosen to hold themselves publicly accountable to excellence," said Laura L. Lott, Alliance president and CEO. "Accreditation is clearly a significant achievement, of which both the institutions and the communities they serve can be extremely proud."

**About MAM:** Founded in 1975 and accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1987, MAM is emerging as the leading contemporary art museum in the Intermountain West. MAM is a fully accessible, free public museum boasting eight exhibition spaces, a library, and education center in the heart of Missoula's historic downtown.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please call Laura J. Millin at 406.728.0447 or email [brandon@missoulaartmuseum.org](mailto:brandon@missoulaartmuseum.org).

**About the American Alliance of Museums:** *The American Alliance of Museums has been bringing museums together since 1906, helping to develop standards and best practices, gathering and sharing knowledge, and providing advocacy on issues of concern to the entire museum community. Representing more than 35,000 individual museum professionals and volunteers, institutions, and corporate partners serving the museum field, the Alliance stands for the broad scope of the museum community. For more information, visit [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org).*

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