

**WORCESTER ART MUSEUM APPOINTS NEW BOARD PRESIDENT,
ADDS FIVE NEW TRUSTEES WITH NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EXPERTISE**

**New Trustees Include Anne-Marie Soullière, former CEO, Fidelity Foundations
Andrew T. Jay, of Siemens Venture Capital, Boston,
Dana R. Levenson, former CFO, MassDOT, and
Worcester Philanthropists Susan M. Bassick and Ronald L. Lombard**

Worcester, MA—December 7, 2016—The Worcester Art Museum announced yesterday at its Annual Meeting that Lisa Kirby Gibbs of Worcester will be the next President of the Board, taking over from Joseph J. Bafaro, Jr., who has completed his Board term. Ms. Kirby Gibbs, who has been on the board for four years, is joined by five new Trustees: Susan M. Bassick, Andrew T. Jay, Dana R. Levenson, Ronald L. Lombard, and Anne-Marie Soullière.

Lisa Kirby Gibbs, who has resided with her family in Worcester since 1999, has served as chair of the Museum's Audience Engagement Committee and has sponsored free admission during the month of August for the past three years through The Kirby Foundation, of which she is CEO and Trustee. As a Worcester Art Museum trustee, she has been ardently supportive of programs and initiatives to build and engage new audiences. "The Board plays an important role in the sustainability of the Museum—both financially and culturally," she said. "It is our responsibility, on a high level, to make sure the institution takes care of the collection and, through programming and engagement, remains relevant and accessible to a broad range of people."

Ms. Kirby Gibbs also serves on the boards of numerous other Worcester cultural and community organizations. She is the owner of WorkCentral, an office business center in Westborough, MA, and consults as a career management and leadership coach.

"The Museum is fortunate to have Lisa's tremendous leadership as our new Board president, along with the support of incoming trustees Susan, Andrew, Dana, Ronald, and Anne-Marie," said Matthias Waschek, the C. Jean and Myles McDonough Director of the Worcester Art Museum. "One goal of the Museum's 2020 Long Range Plan is to strengthen our Board by growing and diversifying it. I am delighted that our new class of Board members will round out existing expertise in finance, art, and not-for-profit management."

Additional biographical information about the new trustees is as follows:

Susan M. Bassick is an active community volunteer, participating in number of organizations in Paxton, including literacy and youth programs. She is passionate about art and education, and is a WAM docent alumna. She has been a WAM Corporator since 2012 and has served on the Corporator Council since 2015. She and her husband, Jack, reside in Paxton and are both United States Coast Guard Certified Captains and members of the Salisbury Society.

Andrew T. Jay is a Managing Partner at Siemens Venture Capital. He is active in the world of healthcare finance and has worked in investment banking in the past. He is also founder and president of the Massachusetts Oyster Project, a non-profit focused on ecosystem health. He has been a WAM Corporator since 2015 and serves on the Investment and Collections Advisory Committees. He and his wife, Irene, reside in Boston, collect art, and are members of the Salisbury Society.

Dana R. Levenson is President and CEO of Southgate at Shrewsbury. He previously worked for the Royal Bank of Scotland and Bank of America, then went on to serve as the Chief Financial Officer of the City of Chicago and more recently, MassDOT. He has been on the boards of several organizations including the Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra and Worcester Academy. Dana has been a WAM Corporator since 2015 and serves on the Finance Committee. He is a Worcester native and resides here with his wife, Christine, and their two teenage children.

Ronald L. Lombard is the current owner of RL Ventures LLC, an independent consulting firm that provides executive-level service to clients. In the past, he co-founded Cybersheath Services International, LLC and Quantech Services Inc. Ron enjoys helping non-profit institutions and is an active volunteer for various organizations in the area. He has been a WAM Corporator since 2015 and serves on the Finance Committee. He and his wife, Angela, reside in Shrewsbury and are Salisbury Society members.

Anne-Marie Soullière served as chief executive of the Fidelity Foundations and the Edward C. Johnson Fund from 1987-2014, and as a trustee of the Fidelity Investments Charitable Gift Fund since its inception in 1991. She is a graduate of Wellesley College and UCLA, where she received her MBA, and studied medieval history at Johns Hopkins University. She has served on the boards of various non-profit organizations, foundations and universities. A resident of Chestnut Hill, she is a Worcester native and previously served as a WAM Corporator 1989-1999.

About the Worcester Art Museum

Founded in 1896, the Worcester Art Museum's encyclopedic 37,500 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 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 collect photography. As the first U.S. museum to focus on collaborating with local schools, it has been at the forefront of engaging audiences and giving them a meaningful and personal experience.

The Worcester Art Museum, located at 55 Salisbury Street in Worcester, MA, is open Wednesday through Friday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and every third Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is \$14 for adults, \$6 for children 4-17, \$12 for seniors 65+, and \$12 for college students with ID. Members and children under four are free. Parking is free. For more information, visit worcesterart.org.

CONTACT:

Worcester Art Museum
Julieane Frost
508-793-4373
JulieaneFrost@worcesterart.org

PAVE Communications & Consulting
Sascha Freudenheim / Alina Sumajin
sascha@paveconsult.com / alina@paveconsult.com
917-544-6057 / 646-369-2050