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MEMO

To: Carol Webb, City Administrator

From: Melanie Alexander, Muscatine Art Center Director

Date: September 23, 2020

Re: Parent Letter of Support for Muscatine Art Center Reaccreditation

Introduction:

The Muscatine Art Center is currently in the process of completing its application for reaccreditation through the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). A document regarding the importance of the Muscatine Art Center to the City of Muscatine is a requirement. A draft letter, based on text provided by AAM, is provided. The Mayor of Muscatine, with City Council consent, is requested to certify the City's support for the Muscatine Art Center's mission.

Details:

A PowerPoint presentation about accreditation/reaccreditation through the American Alliance of Museums was made on January 10, 2019. The Muscatine Art Center was first accredited in 1993 and re-accredited in 2006. The reaccreditation process, ordinarily undertaken every 10 years, was modified by the American Alliance of Museums in the last 5 years, resulting in a delay in the Muscatine Art Center's current reaccreditation. The Muscatine Art Center has a deadline of November 1, 2020 to submit its self-study. A peer review visit will occur in spring 2021 followed by evaluation from the AAM Accreditation Commission.

**"I remember Muscatine for its sunsets. I have never seen any
on either side of the ocean that equaled them" — Mark Twain**

October 1, 2020

Accreditation Commission
American Alliance of Museums
2451 Crystal Drive, Suite 1005
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Accreditation Commission:

The City of Muscatine is proud of the work undertaken by its municipal museum, the Muscatine Art Center. The museum was first accredited by the American Alliance of Museums in 1993 and re-accredited in 2006. As the museum's Board of Trustees and staff begin another round of re-accreditation, the Muscatine City Council declares its support as the Muscatine Art Center works to preserve and present our community's cultural treasures of fine art and local history artifacts.

On May 20, 1965, the Mayor of Muscatine, Robert Bosch, signed a city ordinance establishing a municipal art museum and gallery. The museum is governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees. The Muscatine Art Center collects, preserves, interprets and exhibits objects of historical and aesthetic importance for the benefit of present and future generations. Educational programs are provided for people of all ages. The Board of Trustees is ultimately responsible for the Muscatine Art Center and engages professional staff to care for, preserve, and enhance the permanent collection, manage and maintain the facilities and grounds, and fulfill the educational mission and other objectives of the Muscatine Art Center.

On behalf of the governing authority of the City of Muscatine, the parent organization of the Muscatine Art Center, I certify that it:

- values the museum as an intellectual and educational resource.
- sees the museum and its collections as essential components of what it does.
- is committed to the museum's continued success in fulfilling its mission and meeting its public trust responsibilities, especially with regard to the collections.
- is committed to following American Alliance of Museums and museum field standards, particularly with regard to the museum's collections, the use of deaccession proceeds, and collecting and gift-acceptance policies.

Sincerely,

Diana Broderson
Mayor of Muscatine