



**FITCHBURG STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**Memorandum of Agreement  
Between  
Fitchburg State University  
&  
the Fitchburg Art Museum**



Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this document is to define an agreement to establish an integral and sustainable relationship between Fitchburg State University (Fitchburg State) and the Fitchburg Art Museum (FAM). This relationship is intended to directly benefit Fitchburg State students and FAM audiences, as well as communities in the City of Fitchburg and North Central Massachusetts.

Background

Fitchburg State University, located in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, is a public institution dedicated to integrating high-quality professional programs with strong liberal arts and sciences studies. Founded in 1894, the university now has more than 30 undergraduate programs and 22 master's degree programs, and 7,000 full and part-time students.

Fitchburg State is committed to excellence in teaching and learning and blends liberal arts and sciences and professional programs within a small college environment. Our comprehensive public university prepares students to lead, serve, and succeed by fostering lifelong learning and civic and global responsibility. A Fitchburg State education extends beyond our classrooms to include residential, professional, and co-curricular opportunities. As a community resource, we provide leadership and support for the economic, environmental, social, and cultural needs of North Central Massachusetts and the Commonwealth.

The Fitchburg Art Museum is one of the most treasured cultural institutions in Central New England, and serves the Cities of Fitchburg and Leominster, and surrounding communities in North Central Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire. FAM was founded in 1925, and its four-building complex, with over 20,000 square feet of exhibition space, features exhibitions from its art historical collections as well as special loan exhibitions focused on New England contemporary art. Collection strengths include 19<sup>th</sup> Century American Art, American photography, African Art, and Egyptian Art.

FAM plays a vital role in the cultural life of the region. Area schools, community groups, and artist organizations organize shows for FAM's Community Gallery, and the museum maintains active educational partnerships and programs. FAM also participates in efforts to stimulate the local creative economy. FAM is an engine for creativity, education, community building, and fun!

Institutional Responsibilities

Under this Letter of Agreement, Fitchburg State and FAM agree to engage in activities that are mutually beneficial, as well as activities that help support the economy, livability, and quality of life in Fitchburg and North Central Massachusetts. Moreover, Fitchburg State and FAM will work to sustain and improve this relationship so that the Fitchburg Art Museum becomes the *de facto* art museum for Fitchburg State University.

The Fitchburg Art Museum agrees to:

- Offer free admission to all Fitchburg State students, faculty, and staff during regular open museum hours.
- Make its professional staff, exhibitions, and collections available to Fitchburg State students, faculty, classes, and ALFA program.
- Participate in class/curriculum planning for Fitchburg State programs in Art, Communications and Media, Education, Humanities, and other relevant disciplines.
- Engage in a formalized relationship with the McKay Arts Academy to augment McKay's arts classes and programs, as outlined in a currently in-force Memorandum of Understanding.
- Provide high-quality immersive volunteer internships for Fitchburg State students.
- Provide free expert consultation on arts and culture issues.
- Provide free event rental in FAM galleries for Fitchburg State programs, when available.
- Participate in strategic, institutional, and academic planning at Fitchburg State.
- Collaborate with Fitchburg State and other partners on community development programs, cultural festivals, creative economy initiatives, and broad-based education initiatives. They include, but are not limited to, the Fitchburg Plan committee, the Upper Common Cultural District, the Fitchburg Cultural Alliance, the redevelopment of the B.F. Brown building and adjoining properties, the Main Street Arts Project, the Big Read, and the annual Blacksmith Art and Music Festival.
- Engage in collaborative programming, public relations and marketing.

Fitchburg State University agrees to:

- Provide FAM with occasional administrative, development, and information technology support.
- Provide FAM with access to faculty and professional staff for consultation on exhibition and program development.
- Provide free meeting space when available.
- Provide free classes to FAM staff for professional development, as approved by FAM Director.
- Allow free use of the campus Guest House to FAM professional visitors, when available.

- Provide FAM with annually negotiated financial support to help defray costs of free admission program and FAM staff time for Fitchburg State classes and programs.
- Participate in FAM strategic and institutional planning.
- Have the University President, or a direct report to the President, serve on the FAM Board of Trustees.
- Collaborate with FAM and other partners on community development programs, cultural festivals, creative economy initiatives, and broad-based education initiatives. They include, but are not limited to, the Fitchburg Plan committee, the Upper Common Cultural District, the Fitchburg Cultural Alliance, the redevelopment of the B.F. Brown building and adjoining properties, the Main Street Arts Project, the Big Read, and the annual Blacksmith Art and Music Festival.
- Engage in collaborative programming, public relations and marketing.

Mutual Understandings:

- Fitchburg State and FAM leadership shall meet regularly to sustain and improve this partnership.
- This Agreement may be supplemented, amended, or modified only by mutual agreement of the parties. No supplement, amendment, or modification of this Agreement shall be binding unless it is in writing and signed by both parties.
- Either party may terminate this Agreement with or without cause by giving the other party sixty (60) days prior written notice of its intention to do so.

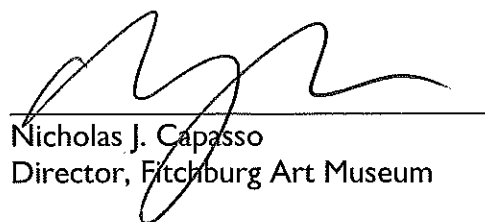
Effective Date and Signatures

This Memorandum of Agreement shall be in effect upon the signatures of authorized officials of Fitchburg State University and the Fitchburg Art Museum.



Robert V. Antonucci  
President, Fitchburg State University

4/29/2015  
date



Nicholas J. Capasso  
Director, Fitchburg Art Museum

4/29/2015  
date