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## Fitchburg Art Museum named 2016 Finalist for National Medal for Museum and Library Service

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### About FAM

The Fitchburg Art Museum serves the cities of Fitchburg and Leominster and the surrounding communities in North Central Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire. FAM was founded in 1925, and its five-building complex, with over 20,000 square feet of exhibition space, features exhibitions from its art historical collections as well as special exhibitions focused on New England contemporary art. FAM plays a vital role in the cultural life of the region and the Museum maintains active educational partnerships with the local school systems, as well as Fitchburg State University. FAM is an engine for creativity, education, community building and fun!



The Institute of Museum and Library Services today announced that the Fitchburg Art Museum is among 30 finalists for the 2016 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries for service to the community. For 22 years, the award has celebrated institutions that demonstrate extraordinary and innovative approaches to public service and are making a difference for individuals, families, and communities.

“The 2016 National Medal finalists make lasting differences in their communities by serving and inspiring the public,” said Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. “We proudly recognize these museums and libraries for their invaluable work to provide citizens with educational resources, 21st century skills, and opportunities for lifelong learning. As key stewards of our nation's future, we salute the 30 finalists for their excellence in engaging our citizenry and expanding learning of all kinds.”

Finalists are chosen because of their significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. IMLS is encouraging community members who have visited the Fitchburg Art Museum to share their story on the IMLS Facebook page. To *Share Your Story* and learn more about how the finalist institutions make an impact, please visit [www.facebook.com/USIMLS](http://www.facebook.com/USIMLS).

FAM was nominated for the National Medal by United States Congresswoman Niki Tsongas. “The Third District community has long been known for its diverse sense of creativity, and as an institution dedicated to creativity, community and cultural pride since 1925, Fitchburg Art Museum exemplifies that spirit,” said Congresswoman Tsongas. “For almost a century, the museum has helped to strengthen the Third District by preserving and sharing the diverse traditions that make our corner of Massachusetts so unique, including their efforts to be accessible and engaging through multicultural programming and experiences. The National Medal for Museum and Library Service is an honorable distinction



**Museum Hours:**

Wednesday 12-4 PM  
Thursday 12-4 PM  
Friday 12-4 PM  
Saturday 11-5 PM  
Sunday 11-5 PM

**FREE First Thursdays:**

On the First Thursday of every month, the Museum is free to the public from 3-7 PM.

**Admission is free for:**

FAM Members, children under 12, Fitchburg State University and Fitchburg Public School students, faculty and staff, Fitchburg Residents of Ward 4B, AAM & NEMA Members +1, Active Military and their family, Corporate Members' and their employees & family.

**General admission:**

\$9 for adults  
\$5 for seniors (62+)  
\$5 for students (13+)

intended to recognize exceptional cultural institutions that define our country, and I congratulate Fitchburg Art Museum on being a finalist in acknowledgment of their dedication to the arts in our community.”

“It is a true honor to be recognized at a national level and in the company of so many other impressive institutions for the work that we have done and are continuing to pursue,” said FAM Director Nick Capasso. “All decisions, initiatives, projects, and programs at the Fitchburg Art Museum reflect our commitment to education and the greater community.”

This honor recognizes the contributions of FAM’s community-focused and collaborative programs, including the Main Street Public Art project, our Community Gallery, our continued partnerships with the City of Fitchburg, Fitchburg State University, and NewVue Communities, and our many creative initiatives in support of our regional creative economy. We are grateful and are honored to be recognized as a 2016 finalist. To learn more visit our website [www.fitchburgartmuseum.org](http://www.fitchburgartmuseum.org).

The National Medal winners will be named later this spring, and representatives from winning institutions will travel to Washington, D.C., to be honored at the National Medal award ceremony. To see the full list of finalists and learn more about the National Medal, visit [www.imls.gov/2016-medals](http://www.imls.gov/2016-medals).

***About the Institute of Museum and Library Service***

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Their mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Their grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit [www.imls.gov](http://www.imls.gov) and follow them on Facebook and Twitter.

