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**PRESS CONTACT**

Jessica Z Schafer  
Marketing and Publications Manager  
262.638.8300  
jzschafer@ramart.org

**Racine Art Museum Presented with Prestigious Governor's Tourism Award**

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Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker presented the Racine Art Museum (RAM) with the prestigious Governor's Tourism Award for Arts, Culture & Heritage on Tuesday, March 17. This award is given to the Wisconsin destination or business that best showcases arts and culture while enhancing the tourism experience and contributing to the economic well being of their community. Governor Walker presented five recipients with Tourism Awards for their outstanding contributions to the state's hospitality and travel industry during the closing dinner at the Governor's Conference on Tourism in La Crosse.

"Wisconsin's scenic beauty and iconic attractions draw travelers to the state, but it's the passion of individuals and organizations in the hospitality industry that keep people returning here year after year," said Gov. Walker. "These five honorees take on the hard work, great customer service and creative projects that grow the tourism economy."

Sponsored by the Governor's Council on Tourism, the awards recognize individuals, organizations and businesses for their commitment to excellence, achievements, dedication and leadership, which have an impact on Wisconsin's travel and hospitality industry.

Together, the Racine Art Museum and RAM's Wustum Museum of Fine Arts offer gathering spaces for visual arts education and internationally recognized art exhibitions. RAM has the largest collection of contemporary crafts in the United States. The two-campus organization welcomed nearly 60,000 visitors in 2014 with programming that included exhibitions, studio arts classes and outreach programs to facilitate community-based arts instruction. Last year, more than 50,000 children and adults

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participated in free outreach art experiences, including a mobile expansion through RAM on the Road that presented 70 children’s art programs throughout Racine County.

“This year we had a total of 36 nominations, and these are the people who work day in and day out to make Wisconsin the premier destination for fun in the Midwest,” said Stephanie Klett, Wisconsin Secretary of Tourism. “Each and every nominee sets the bar high for their peers in the tourism industry. Our five honorees should be proud to have been selected from such an amazing pool of talent.”

More information about the Governor’s Tourism Awards is available at [www.wigcot.org](http://www.wigcot.org).

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Together, the two campuses of the Racine Art Museum, RAM in downtown Racine at 441 Main Street and the Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts at 2519 Northwestern Avenue, seek to elevate the stature of contemporary crafts to that of fine art by exhibiting significant works in craft media with painting, sculpture and photography, while providing outstanding educational art programming.

Docent led contemporary craft and architectural tours of the museums are available. Both campuses of the Racine Art Museum, are open Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, and are closed Mondays, Federal holidays and Easter. RAM is open Sunday Noon – 5:00 pm, while Wustum is closed Sundays. An admission fee of \$5 for adults, with reduced fees for students and seniors, applies at RAM. Admission to Wustum is free. Members are always admitted without charge to either campus.