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Bowers Museum Receives Highest National Recognition Awarded Re-Accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums

Santa Ana, CA December 2, 2020 – Bowers Museum has again achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums, the highest national recognition afforded the nation's museums. Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, to governments, funders, outside agencies, and to the museum-going public. Bowers Museum was initially accredited in 1993. All accredited museums must undergo a reaccreditation review at least every 10 years to maintain their elite status.

Alliance Accreditation brings national recognition to a museum for its commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards and continued institutional improvement. Developed and sustained by museum professionals for over 45 years, the Alliance's museum accreditation program is the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance, self-regulation and public accountability. It strengthens the museum profession by promoting practices that enable leaders to make informed decisions, allocate resources wisely, and remain financially and ethically accountable in order to provide the best possible service to the public.

“Bowers Museum is thrilled to once again receive this honor and will strive to continue to act as a leader among Orange County and California art institutions by providing world-class exhibitions and premiere programming for our entire community, despite all obstacles.” – Bowers President & CEO, Dr. Peter Keller.

Of the nation's estimated 33,000 museums, only 1070, or about 3%, are currently accredited.

Accreditation is a very rigorous but highly rewarding process that examines all aspects of a museum's operations. To earn accreditation a museum first must conduct a year of self-study, and then undergo a site visit by a team of peer reviewers. AAM's Accreditation Commission, an independent and autonomous body of museum professionals, considers the self-study and visiting committee report to determine whether a museum should receive accreditation.

“Accredited museums are a community of institutions that have chosen to hold themselves publicly accountable to excellence,” said Laura L. Lott, Alliance president and CEO. “Accreditation is clearly a significant achievement, of which both the institutions and the communities they serve can be extremely proud.”

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