

Art Museum of South Texas

1902 N. Shoreline Blvd • Corpus Christi, TX • 361/825-3500 • Fax: 361/825-3520

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 16, 2010
Contact: Cynthia Anderson 361/825-3513
(cynthia.anderson@tamucc.edu)



AAM Accreditation

Art Museum of South Texas Receives National Recognition

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS -- The Art Museum of South Texas has achieved accreditation from the American Association of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition for a museum. Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, to governments, funders, outside agencies, and to the museum-going public.

Of the nation's estimated 17,500 museums, 775 are currently accredited. The Art Museum of South Texas is one of only 39 accredited museums in the State of Texas. The Art Museum is affiliated with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

"Museums enrich the culture of the communities they serve, and the Art Museum of South Texas brings excellent experiences and education to our many publics," said University President Flavius C. Killebrew. "Accreditation by the American Association of Museums provides AMST outstanding recognition among our nation's top museums, and we are very proud of this milestone in its history."

AAM Accreditation is the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance, self-regulation, and public accountability. It earns national recognition for a museum for its commitment to excellence in all that it does: governance, collections stewardship, public programs, financial stability, high professional standards, and continued

Affiliated with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Art Museum of South Texas
Page 2

institutional improvement. Developed and sustained by museum professionals for 35 years, AAM's Museum Accreditation program strengthens the profession by promoting practices that enable leaders to make informed decisions, allocate resources wisely, and to provide the best possible service to the public.

"This national recognition is so important because it shows our visitors and the larger community what many of us have always known – what a great treasure we have in the Art Museum," said Dan Pedrotti, chairman of the Art Museum of South Texas. "I have been involved with the Museum for over 30 years now, and I am very proud of our director and our staff for helping us to achieve this important status among the nationwide museum community."

The Art Museum of South Texas has been located on the Corpus Christi Bayfront since 1972, in a building designed by Philip Johnson. An addition designed by Ricardo Legorreta in 2006 doubled the size of the Museum. The Art Museum hosts educational programs, youth art classes and traveling exhibits throughout the year. Its 1,400-piece permanent art collection focuses on art of the Americas and of the region.

To earn accreditation, a museum first must conduct a year of self-study, then undergo a site visit by a team of peer reviewers. AAM's Accreditation Commission, an independent and autonomous body of museum professionals, review and evaluate the self-study and the visiting committee report to determine whether a museum should receive accreditation. While the time to complete the process varies by museum, it generally takes three years.

"AAM Accreditation is emblematic of a commitment to excellence in all that a museum does," said AAM president Ford W. Bell. "The Art Museum of South Texas has clearly demonstrated such a commitment, as evidenced by its service to the community. The people of Corpus Christi can take pride in the fact that, in their midst, they have one of America's greatest museums."

#####