

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, IL 62701-1507
217/524-7080 • 217/558-1512
www.illinoismuseums.org

September 25, 2009

Northern Illinois University Art Museum
Peter Olson
Altgeld 16, Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115


Dear Peter,

Congratulations! The Northern Illinois University Art Museum has been awarded an Award of Excellence for its exhibit, *Moonlight Cocktails*, by the Illinois Association of Museums. The awards committee was duly impressed with the beauty of the exhibit design-the display of the 12 copper plates was an attention grabber! We were also very pleased to see the attention that was given to evaluation. While already a strong proposal, we suggest that the proposal could have been even stronger by focusing the evaluation efforts on what visitors learned and how. While visitor opinions were surveyed, that is quite different from assessing what visitors gained and how that may or may not have been different for the various audiences this exhibit sought to reach, i.e. K-12, as well as adults. We hope to see future award submissions from your organization! Again, we commend you and your organization on your excellent work.

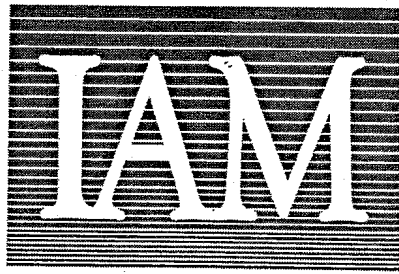
The Awards will be presented at our annual awards banquet as part of our conference in Bloomington at the Chateau Hotel and Convention Center on Friday, October 2, 2009, at Noon. We hope that you and your staff will join us for the celebration. As an award winner you will receive one complimentary lunch at the Awards luncheon. Please let us know the name of the person who will be attending for your institution. If you wish to bring additional guests from your museum for lunch the cost is \$35.

Again, congratulations, and we look forward to seeing you at the Awards Banquet and Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,



David Becker
IAM Vice President
Awards Chair



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September 25, 2009

Northern Illinois University Art Museum
Rachel Walters
Altgeld 116, Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115

Dear Rachel,

Congratulations! The Northern Illinois University Art Museum has been awarded an Award of Merit for its exhibit, *Belief Made Tangible*, by the Illinois Association of Museums. The awards committee commends you on your wonderful use of space design and staging as an interpretive element. It was clearly a beautiful exhibit of a unique collection. The committee would like to suggest that the proposal could have been made stronger by including a description of the planning and development process, including how was involved and how the exhibit was implemented. Also, the overall project could have been strengthened by including visitor study that could have been designed to inform as to whether the intended audience had been reached and what the audience learned, as well as an assessment of which parts of the exhibit worked well, which did not, and what could be done in the future. We hope to see future award submissions from your organization! Again, we commend you and your organization on your fine work.

The Awards will be presented at our annual awards banquet as part of our conference in Bloomington at the Chateau Hotel and Convention Center on Friday, October 2, 2009, at Noon. We hope that you and your staff will join us for the celebration. As an award winner you will receive one complimentary lunch at the Awards luncheon. Please let us know the name of the person who will be attending for your institution. If you wish to bring additional guests from your museum for lunch the cost is \$35.

Again, congratulations, and we look forward to seeing you at the Awards Banquet and Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'David Becker', is written in dark ink.

David Becker
IAM Vice President
Awards Chair