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SBMA Receives Charity Navigator's Four-Star Rating and Ranks Second Nationally Among Art Museums

Museum Also Ranks Fourth Among All Arts, Cultural, and Humanities Organizations

December 4, 2015—The Santa Barbara Museum of Art (SBMA) has been recognized as a “Four Star Charity” by top, non-profit evaluator Charity Navigator. SBMA earned the second highest rating in the country among art museums—second only to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In addition, the Museum is fourth in the country among all arts, cultural, and humanities organizations (including museums, performing arts, libraries, and public broadcasting) as determined by Charity Navigator’s criteria of fiscal efficiency (administrative costs and overhead vs. programs and output) and financial transparency.

“We are pleased to be recognized for the efficacy and efficiency of our hard-working staff and volunteer groups, especially as we head in to the most significant renovation project in the Museum’s history,” notes Larry Feinberg, SBMA’s Robert and Mercedes Eichholz Director. “As we continue to friend-raise and fundraise, we can point to this as a demonstration to current and prospective donors that their contributions are used carefully and responsibly and their money will be applied very effectively—with real results in the community.”

Founded in 2001, Charity Navigator has become the nation's largest and most-utilized evaluator of charities. In their quest to help donors, their team of professional analysts has examined tens of thousands of non-profit financial documents. They use this knowledge to develop an unbiased, objective, numbers-based rating system to assess over 8,000 of America's best-known and some lesser known, but worthy, charities.

Specifically, Charity Navigator's rating system examines two broad areas of a charity's performance; their Financial Health and their Accountability & Transparency. Ratings show gives how efficiently they believe a charity will use their support today, how well it has sustained its programs and services over time and their level of commitment to good governance, best practices, and openness with information.

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is a privately funded, not-for-profit institution that presents internationally recognized collections and exhibitions and a broad array of cultural and educational activities as well as travel opportunities around the world.

Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA.
Open Tuesday - Sunday 11 am to 5 pm, Chase Free Thursday Evenings 5 – 8 pm
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