RAM Celebrates the Anniversary of Our Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts – Bringing Art to Our Community and the World for 75 Years



Jennie E. Wustum

bequeaths her home, 13 acres of grounds, and a fund to the City of Racine to create an art museum

in memory of her husband, Charles.

1941

The Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts (Wustum) opens with Sylvester Jerry as Director who served for 28 years, 1941 – 1969.



1942

A one-acre formal garden designed by Alfred L. Boerner is created and maintained with a fund established by Jennie E. Wustum's niece, Etta North.



The first Racine Exhibition is presented, showcasing works made by K-12 students.

1943

264 Works Progress Administration (WPA)

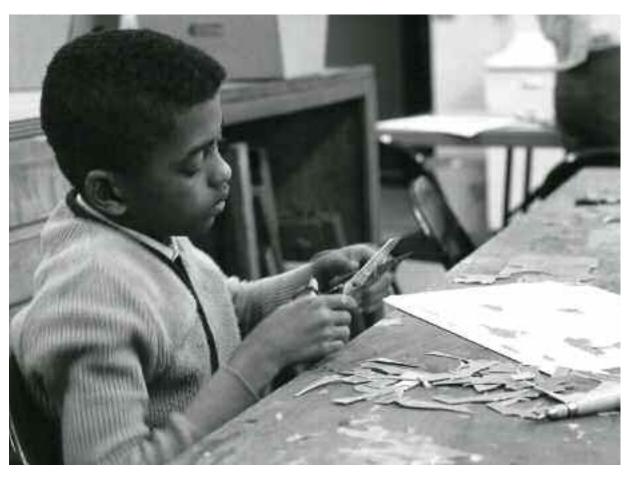
artworks arrive from the Federal government, establishing the first collection focus in works on paper.





1966

A classroom addition opens to accommodate the growing studio art program that began in the 1940s.

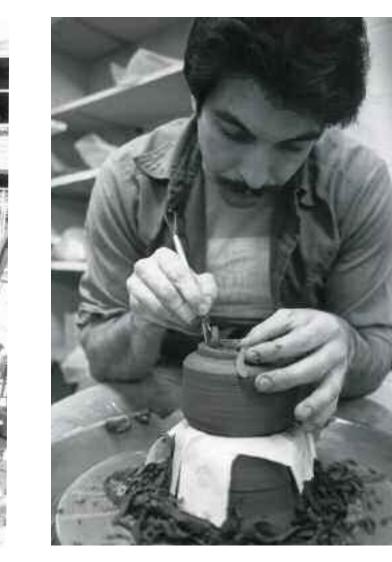




1966

The Junior League of Racine funds and presents the first Watercolor Wisconsin juried exhibition.



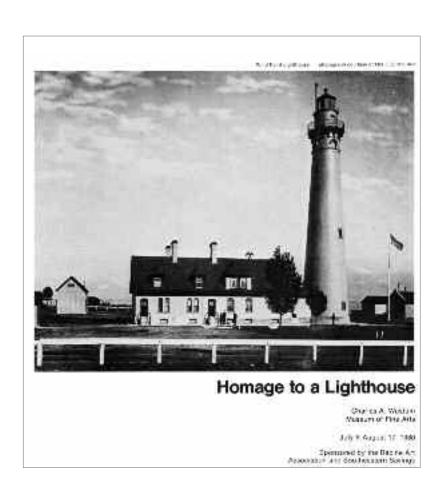


1980

The City of Racine contracts with the Racine Art Association (formed in 1938) to manage Wustum and all of its programming.

1980

A 20-year series of thematic exhibitions, that includes artists from across the US and receives national publicity, debuts with Homage to a Lighthouse.



Bruce W. Pepich, who joined the staff in 1974, is named as Wustum's Director.

1982

Wustum begins a formal training program for docents.

1984

Outreach 4, for fourth grade students, becomes Wustum's first non-studio art education program.

1986

Wustum is professionally accredited for the first time by the American Alliance of



Museums, making it among only 5% of museums with the honor nationwide.

1989

Local businesswoman Veronica D. Regas makes the largest individual endowment contribution since the museum's opening, adding to Wustum's history of women in prominent philanthropic roles.



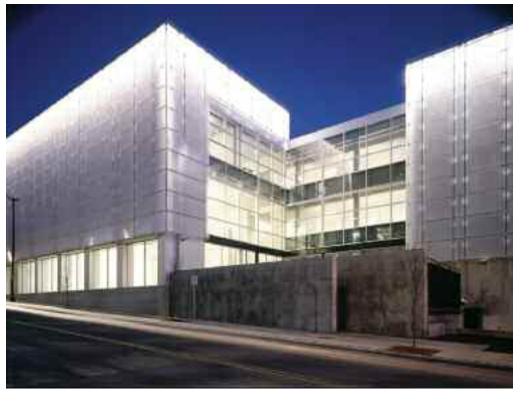


1991

After adding a second focus in contemporary craft in 1989, the collection experiences a huge leap forward when it receives a 200-piece craft collection from Karen Johnson Boyd.

2000

More than \$10 million is raised to endow and remodel the donated 50,000 square foot M & I Bank building in the heart of downtown Racine to become future home to the museum's growing collection.



2003

A second campus, Racine Art Museum (RAM) opens with no construction debt.



2005

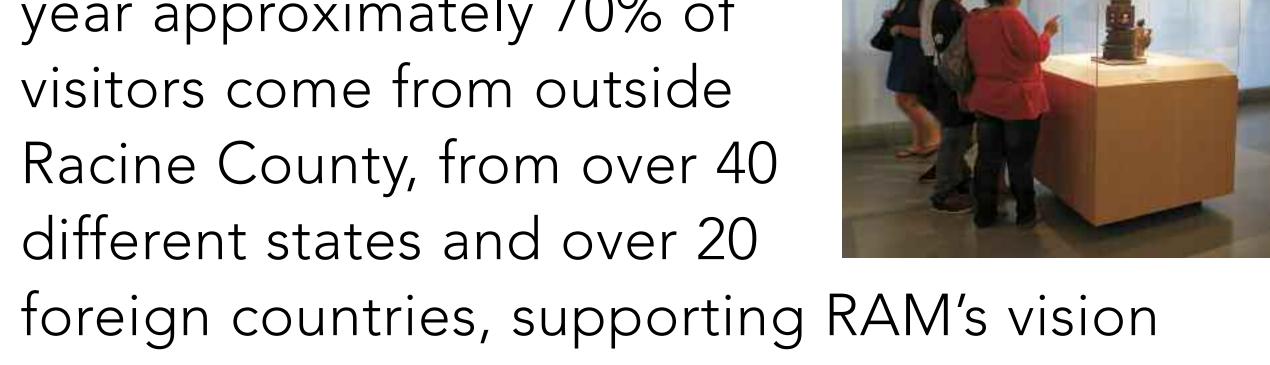
RAM begins a successful endowment campaign that raises \$5 million.

2006

RAM collaborates with the Israel Museum to present Women's Tales: Four Leading Israeli Jewelers. The show opens at RAM and travels to Seattle, Houston, Newark, and Jerusalem.

2008

Based on improved data analysis, RAM finds that each year approximately 70% of visitors come from outside Racine County, from over 40 different states and over 20





The SPARK! Program begins when RAM is one of five Midwest museums chosen by the Helen Bader Foundation of Milwaukee to provide arts programming for people with memory loss and their caregivers.

Bigger, Better, More: The Art of Viola Frey opens at RAM. Co-organized with the Gardiner Museum in Canada, the exhibition tours to Little Rock, Toronto, and New York City where it is positively reviewed in The New

2011

York Times.

RAM on the Road begins delivery of free hands-on art experiences to schools, day cares, community centers,



civic organizations, and senior centers, after Jay Price Ruffo leads a silent Board campaign to raise the necessary funds for the launch.

2011

RAM debuts a polymer artworks, inaugurating the opportunity for



serious, museum-based documentation of polymer as an art form. The debut exhibition, Terra Nova: Polymer Art at the Crossroads, is documented with a self-published, 128-page book.

2012

It is confirmed that RAM holds the largest collection of contemporary craft in the United States, with gifts from artists and collectors living in 32 states.



2015

RAM and Wustum welcome 64,198 visitors breaking all previous attendance records.



2016

Karen Johnson Boyd, age 91, dies January 29 at her Racine home. Her financial support

and gifts of nearly 2,000 works to the collection are significant factors that make RAM an internationally recognized cultural attraction.

2016

RAM's Wustum Museum hosts the 50th annual installment of the Watercolor Wisconsin competition.



2016

RAM's Wustum Museum begins a year-long celebration of its 75th Anniversary.

