



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Polasek Museum Receives \$81,000 Grant from State of Florida
*Cultural Affairs Grant to Support Polasek's Museum Conservation and Programming***

WINTER PARK, Fla. –The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens has been awarded a General Program Support (GPS) grant from the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs. This grant will support conservation work, programming, and educational outreach at the Polasek Museum from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

The museum will receive a total of \$81,886 to support the museum's mission of preserving the works of Czech sculptor Albin Polasek, celebrating representational art, and exhibiting regional and international artists. The museum also hosts the annual Winter Park Paint Out, a week-long *plein air* art festival that highlights 25 artists from around the country.

"The Polasek has been fortunate to receive this funding from the State of Florida in addition to the generous support we receive from private donors," said Executive Director Debbie Komanski. "As a result of this grant, the museum will be able to elevate our programming, exhibits, and educational offerings to our community and growing number of visitors from all over the world in the coming year."

The GPS grant is designed to fund general program activities of organizations that are realizing their stated missions and furthering the state's cultural objectives. Not-for-profit cultural organizations, museums, and recurring cultural programs are eligible for this grant.

About the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens: Founded in 1961, the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens holds an art collection focusing primarily on American representational sculpture, with more than 200 works by Czech-born American sculptor Albin Polasek. The museum offers guided tours of the historic Polasek residence and chapel, an outdoor sculpture garden and a gift shop. The museum was the retirement home of Polasek until his death in 1965. Polasek was a 2004 Florida Artists Hall of Fame recipient, and his home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The museum is also home to the historic 1885 Capen-Showalter House that was saved from demolition, renovated, and re-opened to the public as an event and meeting space in 2015.

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