



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Polasek Museum Names Four New Board Members for 2017

WINTER PARK, Fla. –The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens has named four new members to its Board of Directors for 2017. Mildred Graham, Chris Leary, Lawrence Lyman, and Nyma Whitmire will join the 12-person board to serve three-year terms each. **Mildred Graham** is the Director of Advancement/Alumni Affairs at Florida A&M University College of Law; **Chris Leary** is a retired electrical engineer who recently relocated to Winter Park from Massachusetts; **Lawrence Lyman** is Vice President of Business Development and Government Relations for Tactical Electronics Corporation; **Nyma Whitmire** is a community volunteer having served on other boards in the Orlando area.

Debbie Komanski, CEO/Executive Director of the Polasek Museum said, “We’re excited to have these new members join the board and look forward to the fresh energy and diverse expertise they will bring to the museum.”

Current Polasek board member **Tris Filliez**, Vice President of Leading Edge Title, will become the board secretary for 2017. Other board members continuing their terms are: **Robert Sharpstein**, Financial Advisor at Northwestern Mutual (President); **Susan Vernon-Devlin**, Assistant Director of Public Relations at the UCF Rosen School of Hospitality Management (President-Elect); **Laura Walda**, Senior Associate at Lowndes, Drostick, Doster, Kantor, & Reed, PA (Treasurer); **Sarah Grafton**, Assistant Vice President, Senior Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch; **Alex Gourlay**, SVP, Wealth Management Advisor for Central and North Florida, Fifth Third Private Bank; **Scott Hillman**, President at Fannie Hillman + Associates; **Virginia Poe**, community volunteer.

About the Polasek Museum: The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens features guided tours of the world-renowned Czech-American sculptor's home and studio, more than 200 pieces of his exquisite art, and serene sculpture gardens. 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. The Polasek Museum also hosts the annual Winter Park Paint Out, a week-long festival that brings acclaimed *plein air* artists to Central Florida, making Winter Park a destination for art collectors as well as an educational hub with free art demos throughout the week.

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