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**THE WOLFSONIAN–FIU ANNOUNCES GRANT FROM THE MACARTHUR FOUNDATION
TO SUPPORT NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DIGITAL MEDIA**

MIAMI BEACH, FL (January 12, 2009)—The Wolfsonian–Florida International University (FIU) announces it has been awarded a \$45,000 grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to support the museum’s role in convening the 2009 WebWise Conference. Funds will be used to feature research in the field of digital media and learning. The grant complements the conference’s goal of sharing research and ideas related to the impact of technology among museums and libraries—content holders—and researchers from the field.

The 2009 WebWise Conference, whose theme is *Digital Debates*, will address such issues as institutional control, collaboration, and copyright during its sessions. The conference will engage panelists and attendees in the complicated and sometimes problematic “Big Issues” faced by museums, libraries, archives, and other cultural institutions in terms of emerging technologies. Questions to be explored include: what happens to an institution’s control when audiences become collaborators? What are the rights and responsibilities of cultural institutions when it comes to digital technologies and an online presence? How can cultural institutions collaborate with users, peer institutions, and/or corporate entities without compromising their own identity/integrity? When should museums and libraries invest in technologies, and when are such investments extraneous to an institution’s core mission?

In addition to the main conference sessions held on February 26 and 27, a pre-conference workshop will be held the afternoon of February 25.

The annual IMLS *WebWise* conference is a premier forum for nationally recognized experts to demonstrate and discuss the growing convergence between the practices and needs of libraries and museums and digital technology in order to remain relevant to 21st century audiences. It brings together approximately 300 professionals from cultural institutions across the country.

In 2007, the Institute of Museum and Library Services awarded \$499,702 to The Wolfsonian–Florida International University to plan and co-host the 2008 and 2009 WebWise Conferences. The 2008 conference was held last March in Miami Beach, and its theme was *Web 2.0: The Power of Community*.

About The MacArthur Foundation

The MacArthur Foundation supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. In addition to selecting the MacArthur Fellows, the Foundation works to defend human rights, advance global conservation and security, make cities better places, and understand how technology is affecting children and society. MacArthur’s \$50-million digital media and learning initiative is exploring how digital media are changing how young people learn, play, socialize, and participate in civic life. More information is available at www.digitallearning.macfound.org.

About IMLS and WebWise

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums in the United States. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local institutions and organizations to sustain heritage, culture and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. For further information visit the website at www.imls.gov.

WebWise is a signature initiative of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Each year it brings together representatives of museums, libraries, archives, information and systems science, and other fields interested in the future of high-quality online content for inquiry and education. The annual conference shares new research and innovations in digital technology with technical experts and thought leaders from the library, archives and museum fields, in order to enhance technology transfer among cultural heritage institutions nationwide and promote institutional collaboration. The conference, which has been hosted by cooperating organizations that have included the University of Missouri at Columbia, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and OCLC, Inc. (in partnership with the J. Paul Getty Trust), also provides grant recipients the opportunity to showcase exemplary projects and to demonstrate the impact of federal funding on the development and improvement of library and museum services. For further information on the 2009 WebWise conference visit <http://webwise2009.fcla.edu/>.

About The Wolfsonian–Florida International University

The Wolfsonian-FIU, located in the heart of Miami Beach, is a museum, library and research center that uses its collection of approximately 120,000 objects to illustrate the persuasive power of art and design. For over one decade, now, The Wolfsonian has been a division within Florida International University, which, as one of the youngest, most dynamic and fastest growing urban universities in the United States, has developed an outstanding reputation for its teaching, advanced core curriculum and honors program; and it continues to expand each year in both size and stature. The Wolfsonian’s curatorial goal and multidisciplinary approach explores what it means to be modern and tells the story of social, historical, and technological changes that transformed the world during the period 1885 to 1945. Encouraging people to see objects in new ways and to learn from the past as they shape the present and influence the future, the museum seeks emerging technologies to make its unique collection accessible to a tech-savvy public. For further information visit the website at www.wolfsonian.org.

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