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**THE WOLFSONIAN-FIU ANNOUNCES \$500,000 GRANT FROM THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION**  
*Funds Will Enhance Museum's Academic Mission*

MIAMI BEACH, FL (January 8, 2009)—The Wolfsonian–Florida International University is proud to announce that it has been awarded a three-year, \$500,000-grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to strengthen the academic role of the museum's collections and programs. This prestigious grant will enable The Wolfsonian to establish a variety of programs, all designed to encourage more intensive use of the museum's resources by FIU faculty and students.

Among the initiatives that The Wolfsonian will undertake with support from this grant are the following: establishing a teaching gallery on FIU's main campus in collaboration with the Frost Art Museum, in which objects from The Wolfsonian's collection can be installed; providing stipends to faculty members so that they can integrate objects from the Wolfsonian's collections in their teaching, as well as develop new courses based upon the museum's resources; creating a fellowship program for Ph.D. candidates in the Department of History who will use The Wolfsonian's resources in their dissertation research; and establishing a semester-long visiting scholar program, which will bring distinguished scholars from around the country to The Wolfsonian in order to work with FIU faculty and students. With support from the grant, The Wolfsonian will work with students to organize a conference, which will give undergraduate and graduate students at FIU a formal opportunity to present research they have conducted at the museum.

The Mellon Foundation grant will also enable The Wolfsonian to enhance its staff capacity in order to undertake these initiatives. The museum will hire a full-time Mellon Coordinator of Academic Programs, who will have responsibility for collaborating with faculty members and students on projects that engage the museum's resources. It will also add a part-time staff member to its Registration Department, who will assist the Coordinator of Academic Programs in making the collection accessible to members of the academic community.

The Mellon Foundation has played a key role in strengthening the position of art museums on college and university campuses throughout the nation, especially by encouraging and supporting interdisciplinary use of museum collections for advanced research and teaching. Earlier rounds of grants have done much to enhance academic programs at university art museums and their parent institutions at Princeton, Williams, Smith, Harvard, Dartmouth, and the University of Chicago, among others.

“Since joining FIU in 1997, The Wolfsonian has worked hard to encourage use of its resources by faculty and students and to integrate the museum’s collections into teaching and advanced research,” said Cathy Leff, Wolfsonian–FIU director, upon learning of this award. “The Mellon grant will enable us to significantly strengthen the museum’s integration with the academic programs of the university.”

#### 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](http://www.wolfsonian.org).

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