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NEWS RELEASE

March 31, 2008

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ASSESSMENT TEAM TO VISIT MONTANA MUSEUM OF ART & CULTURE MISSOULA—

The Montana Museum of Art & Culture at The University of Montana is participating in the Museum Assessment Program conducted through the American Association of Museums.

The consultative process is federally funded by the Institute of Museums and Library

Services to assist museums in evaluating their operations and to make recommendations on best practices and strategic planning.

Several types of assessments are offered by MAP, including institutional, collections, public dimension and governance. MMAC is participating in both the institutional and collections assessments and will host two consultants.

Susan Bandes, director of the Kresge Art Museum at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich., and Michael Panhorst, curator at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts in Alabama, will be at MMAC April 3-4, 2008. Bandes currently is at the helm of a major museum construction project funded by well-known philanthropist and art collector Eli Broad.

Both consultants bring with them years of extensive experience in museum management.

"The peer review of the Museum Assessment Program is a win-win situation that

enables museum professionals to share their knowledge and experience while learning from the challenges their colleagues face," Panhorst said. "The new perspectives of 'out-out-town experts' often enable a museum's staff to do what they do better."

The MAP team will tour MMAC's facilities and meet with a variety of museum stakeholders, including staff, faculty, UM executive officers, MMAC advisory board members and others.

Through careful examination of the museum's operations and collections and through discussions with stakeholders, the MAP team will assist MMAC with identifying goals and objectives as they relate to planning and the construction of a new facility.

The MAP process typically lasts two years -- from the initial stage of comprehensive institutional self-study, to the onsite visit by museum peers, to the final stage of implementation of objectives recommended by the consultants.

MMAC galleries are located in UM's Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center.

Museum hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays and 4 to 8:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Admission is free, and parking is available near the northwest corner of the PAR/TV Center.

For more information, call MMAC at 406-243-2019 or go online to http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum.

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