

Guild Hall

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Guild Hall Receives Highest National Recognition Awarded Re-Accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums



June 21, 2026 – East Hampton, NY: Guild Hall (158 Main Street, East Hampton) has again achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition afforded to the nation's museums. Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, to governments, funders, outside agencies, and to the museum-going public. **Guild Hall** has been accredited since **1973** and was one of the first museums to be accredited when the program began in 1971. All museums must undergo a reaccreditation review at least every 10 years to maintain accredited status. Of the nation's estimated 33,000 museums, roughly 1,100 are currently accredited. **Guild Hall** is one of only **172** museums accredited in **New York State**.

AAM accreditation brings national recognition to a museum for its commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards, and continued institutional improvement. Developed and sustained by museum professionals for over fifty years, the AAM's accreditation program is the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance, self-regulation, and public accountability. It strengthens the museum profession by promoting practices that enable leaders to make informed decisions, allocate resources wisely, and remain financially and ethically accountable to provide the best possible service to the public.

"Accreditation by a committee of our peers is a meaningful recognition of Guild Hall's stewardship and our dedication to serving the public through arts, culture, and

education,” said Melanie Crader, museum director and curator of visual arts. “The process affirmed the extraordinary commitment of our board and staff to advancing our mission and demonstrated that Guild Hall is welcoming and accessible to all, both in spirit and through our newly renovated facility.”

Accreditation is a very rigorous but highly rewarding process that examines all aspects of a museum’s operations. To earn accreditation, a museum first must conduct a year of self-study and then undergo a site visit by a team of peer reviewers. AAM’s Accreditation Commission, an independent and autonomous body of museum professionals, considers the self-study and visiting committee report to determine whether a museum should receive accreditation.

“Accreditation is a monumental achievement,” said Marilyn Jackson, AAM President & CEO. “The process demonstrates an institution’s commitment to best practice and is flexible enough to be accomplished by museums of any size.”

About Guild Hall

Guild Hall is the cultural heart of the East End of Long Island. A museum, performing arts, and education center, founded in 1931. We invite everyone to experience the endless possibilities of the arts: to open minds to what art can be; inspire creativity and conversation; and have fun.

Guild Hall has served four generations and introduced audiences to the most storied artists and performers of our time. As we approach our centennial, we have completed a state-of-the-art renovation to match the caliber of our artistry for twenty-first-century audiences. The facility-wide Capital Improvements Project & Campaign includes top-of-the-line physical and technological enhancements to better deliver on our mission as an artist-driven, interdisciplinary institution. For more information about Guild Hall, please visit GuildHall.org. Follow [@GUILD_HALL](https://www.instagram.com/GUILD_HALL) on Instagram.

About the American Alliance of Museums

The American Alliance of Museums (AAM) is the only organization representing the entire museum field, from art and history museums to science centers and zoos. Since 1906, we have been championing museums through advocacy and providing museum professionals with the resources, knowledge, inspiration, and connections they need to move the field forward. For more information, visit aam-us.org.

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