FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Museum of Russian Icons Receives Highest National Recognition
Awarded Re-Accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums

CLINTON, MA (July 20, 2021)– The Museum of Russian Icons has been awarded re-accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums, the highest accolade given to the nation’s museums. Fewer than 5% of American museums are accredited. Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, to the museum-going public, and to governments, funders, and outside agencies.

“Earning AAM re-accreditation during the pandemic year is a testament to the dedication, commitment, and hard work of the Museum’s remarkable staff and board in preserving and sharing the treasures of the Museum of Russian Icons, as well as an affirmation of the vision of our late founder Gordon B. Lankton (1931-2021)” said Executive Director Kent dur Russell. “We are immensely proud to have been nationally recognized by an organization considered the ‘gold standard’ for museum excellence.”

The Museum of Russian Icons is the only Museum in the USA dedicated to Russian icons and it houses the largest, and finest, collection outside of Russia. Initially accredited by the AAM in 2016, just 10
years after opening its doors in October 2006, the Museum annually attracts over 10,000 visitors from around the country and the world.

Alliance Accreditation brings national recognition to the Museum for its commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards and continued institutional improvement. Developed and sustained by museum professionals for over 45 years, the Alliance’s museum 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 in order to provide the best possible service to the public.

In awarding accreditation, the AAM review commission called the galleries and icons on view “impressive.” They commended the Museum as “an international leader in scholarship through its Center for Icon Studies and Journal of Icon Studies,” and as “the preeminent center for the study of icons in the United States. It serves the local community as well as scholars around the globe.” The Museum of Russian Icons was cited for “making significant progress in its transition from a founder-led and founder-funded institution to an independently functioning nonprofit managed by an engaged board of trustees.” And, the commission recognized the institution for how they utilize exhibitions to promote understanding between the USA and Russia.

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.

Of the nation’s estimated 33,000 museums, over 1070 are currently accredited. The Museum of Russian Icons is one of only 67 museums accredited in Massachusetts.

“Accredited museums are a community of institutions that have chosen to hold themselves publicly accountable to excellence,” said Laura L. Lott, Alliance president and CEO. “Accreditation is clearly a significant achievement, of which both the institutions and the communities they serve can be extremely proud.”
ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The Museum of Russian Icons inspires the appreciation and study of Russian culture by collecting and exhibiting one of the world’s largest collections of Russian icons — sacred paintings used for worship in the Orthodox tradition. With more than 1,000 icons and related artifacts spanning six centuries, the Museum offers a unique and personalized experience rich with art, history, and culture.

The Museum serves as a leading center for research and scholarship through the Center for Icon Studies and other institutional collaborations. It is the only Museum in the US dedicated to Russian icons, and it is the largest collection of icons outside of Russia.

MUSEUM HOURS
Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 11am-5pm. Closed Monday–Wednesday.
Admission: Adults $12, seniors (59+) $10, Students $5, Children (13-17) $5, Children under 13 Free.

Follow the Museum of Russian Icons on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and Youtube, for the latest updates on the Museum, spotlight tours, children’s storytime, and read what the docents are saying about individual items from the collection.

Visit the website, www.museumofrussianicons.org, home of the Online Collection (including research papers on individual icons), a virtual tour of the Museum, the Journal of Icon Studies, and the British Museum’s Catalogue of Byzantine and Greek Icons.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF MUSEUMS

The American Alliance of Museums has been bringing museums together since 1906, helping to develop standards and best practices, gathering and sharing knowledge, and providing advocacy on issues of concern to the entire museum community. Representing more than 35,000 individual museum professionals and volunteers, institutions, and corporate partners serving the museum field, the Alliance stands for the broad scope of the museum community. For more information, visit www.aam-us.org.

Image credits: Museum of Russian Icons exterior view; Christ in Majesty, about 1580; Saint Paraskeva, about 1600