



Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site Receives Highest National Recognition Awarded Re-Accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums

INDIANAPOLIS (April 9, 2018) – The Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site has again achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition afforded the nation’s museums. Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, to governments, funders, outside agencies and to the museum-going public. The Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site was initially accredited in 2003.

“The Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site’s reaccreditation is a win for Indianapolis and speaks well for the robust cultural investment that takes place in our state” said Charlie Hyde, president & CEO, Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site. “Throughout this rigorous process, we have been commended for the care of the 23rd president’s home and collection, our innovative and engaging programming and for the outstanding community of supporters that make it all happen—board, staff and volunteers alike. There is a special appreciation that this cultural jewel is both locally relevant and nationally significant.”

Of the nation’s estimated 33,000 museums, only about 3 percent are accredited. The Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site is one of only 26 museums accredited in Indiana.

Alliance 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 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.

“We commend the museum’s impressive strategic plan and the initiative the museum is undertaking to connect with its community and be relevant to current events and contemporary society,” said Amy Bartow-Melia, Accreditation Commission Chair. “Using the museum as a polling place and naturalization ceremony location seems particularly fitting.”

Accreditation is an extremely 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.

“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



THE BENJAMIN HARRISON PRESIDENTIAL SITE

significant achievement, of which both the institutions and the communities they serve can be extremely proud.”

About the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site

The Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site celebrates the remarkable legacy of America’s Hoosier President. The museum is a National Historic Landmark situated within easy walking distance of downtown Indianapolis and the bustling 16th Street corridor. The 1875 Italianate mansion is exquisitely restored and has an exceptional collection of more than 10,000 artifacts. Daily tours of the property include a 75-minute guided tour through the Harrison house and private quarters. Highlights include an awe-inspiring collection of Gilded Age finery, paintings, furniture and personal presidential gifts and mementos. The privately operated, non-profit organization receives no direct tax support and is dedicated to sharing the life stories, arts and culture of an American President to increase public participation in the American system of self-government. Find out more at PresidentBenjaminHarrison.org.

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