



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jen Huizinga
616.929.1709
jhuizinga@grmuseum.org

**Grand Rapids Public Museum's Online Collections Site
Provides Access to Museum Artifacts**

Grand Rapids, MI (March 3, 2010) - The Grand Rapids Public Museum is pleased to announce the public release of its online collections catalog. This new, easy to access service allows users to find and research a wide variety of the Museum's items - including those not currently on display. With approximately 90% of the Museum's collections in storage at any given time, the public will now have electronic access to never before displayed artifacts.

The GRPM collections catalog currently contains over 160,000 records. More are being added weekly. The idea for maintaining an online database has evolved from past record maintenance systems--including card catalogs and off-line data bases--into the new system. Alex Forist, Collections Curator, describes the change as occurring "over time as technology and the needs of staff and customers have changed. This dynamic online collections catalog is the latest in a series of upgrades to the system and just one of the ways that the Collections staff is working to increase public access to the Museum's massive collections."

For easy access to the online collections catalog visit www.grmuseum.org/collections and click on the "collections catalog" icon. Once there you can search for artifacts by keyword, artisan or medium, etc. Visitors can even type in their last name to find any

artifacts donated by family members! In addition to the new database, site visitors will also find information on featured objects, photo galleries, archival collections, stories and more.

The Grand Rapids Public Museum is a collector of treasures, a motivator and resource for life-long learning, and a community partner in the pursuit of insight and understanding. The Museum is open Tues 9-8; Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri and Sat 9-5; and Sunday Noon-5. For more information call 616.456.3977 or visit grmuseum.org.

###

No. 341