

Brookgreen Gardens Achieves Additional Accreditation

Murrells Inlet, SC April 12, 2010 - Brookgreen Gardens has been granted accreditation, by the American Association of Museums (AAM). This accreditation is a widely recognized seal of approval that brings national recognition to a museum for its commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards, and continued institutional improvement.

“The accreditation of Brookgreen Gardens is indicative of its long-standing commitment to excellence, in all that it does,” said AAM president Ford W. Bell. “For nearly 80 years, Brookgreen Gardens has been a welcome inspiration, refuge and retreat for the surrounding community. The members of that community can also take pride in that fact that in their midst is one of America’s premier museums.”

“We are extremely pleased to receive the accreditation which along with our accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and our standing as a National Historic Landmark places Brookgreen as one of a select group of institutions in the country with these accomplishments ,” said Bob Jewell, President and CEO of Brookgreen Gardens. “The AAM has meticulous standards and a comprehensive process for accreditation that covers every aspect of our organization, from the dedication to our mission and the stewardship of our collections to educational interpretation and facilities and risk management.”

The accreditation visiting committee wrote in their report, “The staff members at Brookgreen are all well-qualified for their positions and accomplish their work efficiently with museum best practices standards and its volunteers deserve special mention. The Gardens need the 350 volunteers to keep things running smoothly and the open communication between staff and volunteers fosters an atmosphere of shared purposes and shared values.”

The American Association 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. AAM is the only organization representing the entire scope of museums and professionals and non-paid staff who work for and with museums. Every type of museum is represented including art, history, science, military and maritime, and youth museums, as well as aquariums, zoos, botanical gardens, arboretums, historic sites, and science and technology centers.

Brookgreen Gardens, a non-profit organization located on U.S. 17 between Myrtle Beach and Pawleys Island, South Carolina, is open daily to the public. For more information, visit www.brookgreen.org or call 843-235-6000.