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**Arts Management Professional Appointed to
The Advisory Board of the Friends of the Uffizi Gallery**

(New York, NY, June 19, 2009) Danielle Amato-Milligan was recently appointed to the Advisory Board of the *Friends of the Uffizi Gallery*. A passionate arts supporter and arts management professional, Ms. Amato-Milligan brings to the Advisory Board over nineteen years of practical experience in leadership positions in non-profit cultural organizations and as a management and organizational change consultant. She is President of AmatoMilligan & Associates (www.amatomilligan.com), a firm providing, management consulting, organizational development, strategic planning, public relations, marketing/outreach and fundraising services to non-profit arts organizations, foundations, corporations and government agencies around the world.

The *Friends of the Uffizi Gallery* (www.friendsoftheuffizigallery.org) was established in 2006 as the United States “sister” organization to the *Amici degli Uffizi*, in Florence, Italy. The *Amici* was founded in Florence in 1993, by Contessa Maria Vittoria Rimbotti in response to the May 1993 terrorist bombing that damaged several art works and portions of the Uffizi Gallery. A U.S. based tax-exempt 501(c) 3 organization, the *Friends of the Uffizi Gallery*, was created to cultivate, promote, foster, develop, sponsor and advance the knowledge of the collection of the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy through the ongoing restoration, maintenance and preservation of its artistic and architectural treasures.

Since 1993, the *Amici degli Uffizi* has supported the Uffizi Gallery in Florence by facilitating acquisitions, supporting restorations and organizing special temporary exhibitions. The *Friends of the Uffizi Gallery* in conjunction with the *Amici degli Uffizi* raises funds to support all of these activities through an international group of members and patrons. Over twenty important restoration projects, designated priorities by the Uffizi

Gallery, have been completed over the last several years and include important paintings, altarpieces, sculptures and tapestries.

In addition to these completed restorations, a new group of art works is currently being restored for exhibition. One such project is the restoration of the iconic marble group “Laocoon” by Baccio Bandinelli located at the end of the Uffizi’s third floor corridor. This year-long operation is performed “en plein air” thanks to a specially designed open work site within the Uffizi corridor where the sculpture is shown. Museum visitors can view the ongoing cleaning process and gain closer insight into the restorers’ task. In addition to the sculpture by Bandinelli, three other important sculptures in the Uffizi’s third floor corridor will be restored; a “Hercules” and two male busts, both dating to the first century A.D.

The Uffizi Gallery, originally created by the famous Medici family from their extensive private collections, is considered the world’s first public museum with over 1.6 million visitors per year. For art lovers around the world, the Uffizi is famous for a collection that includes Botticelli's "Primavera," and "Birth of Venus," and Titian's "Venus of Urbino." The building was designed for the Medici family by Giorgio Vasari, the Renaissance architect, artist and writer, best known for his "Lives of the Most Excellent Painters, Sculptors and Architects," first published in 1550. The last direct descendent of the Medici family, Anna Maria Luisa de Medici donated the extensive family collection at the Uffizi to the state in 1743 and it was officially opened to the public at large in 1765.

The *Friends of the Uffizi Gallery* in the United States and the *Amici degli Uffizi* in Florence work together to actively contribute to the safeguarding and growth of the Uffizi Gallery. Working closely with the museum staff, both groups play a vital role in preserving and restoring one of the world’s most important museums and the cultural heritage of the Renaissance. With this prestigious appointment, Ms. Amato-Milligan will provide her vision; talent and commitment to the organization as a newly-appointed Advisor of the *Friends of the Uffizi Gallery*.

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