**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Grand Rapids Public Museum’s Beer Explorers**

**Combines Beer with Cheese in**

**Upcoming Class with Brewery Vivant**

**Grand Rapids, MI** – The Grand Rapids Public Museum (GRPM) is partnering with Brewery Vivant this May for a special Beer Explorers class to learn about pairing beers with a variety of cheeses. On Thursday, May 11 participants will explore their palate to choose what combination they like best.

Although wine is typically assumed the ideal pairing with cheese, beer is actually the traditional beverage to pair with cheese. Both traditional farmhouse products, beers pair well with a variety of cheese and can enhance the flavors on your palate. This upcoming Beer Explorers class will give 40 participants the opportunity to learn about their sense of taste and what combinations appeal to them individually. The class will be led by Brewery Vivant's Wandering Monk and Certified Cicerone, Ryan Engemann.

Class begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be held on the first floor of the Museum. Admission to class includes three beer samples and cheese samples, as well as access to the Museum’s first two floors to explore! A cash bar will be available.

Tickets for the event are $8 for members and $18 for non-members. Participants must be 21 and older. Tickets can be purchased at grpm.org

**Brewery Vivant**

The brewery is located in the East Hills neighborhood of Grand Rapids, in a renovated funeral chapel built in the early 1900s. Their staff of around 60 employees specialize in Belgian/French inspired beers and fare in a completely unique setting. Husband and wife partners Jason and Kris Spaulding opened the doors for business in December of 2010. Vivant beers are distributed throughout Michigan and the greater Chicago area. They are the first commercial brewery in the nation to receive Silver LEED Certification from the USGBC. Additionally they are 100% renewable powered, a silver-level Bicycle Friendly Business, and are a certified B Corporation.  Beer the Change®!

**Grand Rapids Public Museum**

The Grand Rapids Public Museum is an invaluable, publicly-owned institution that is home to more than 250,000 unique artifacts that tell the history of Kent County and beyond, houses the only planetarium in the region, and is responsible for protecting the Norton Indian Mounds, a national historic landmark. The Grand Rapids Public Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, with its main location in downtown Grand Rapids, MI at 272 Pearl Street, NW. For additional information including hours of operation, admission fees and exhibit/event listings, please visit [www.grpm.org](http://www.grpm.org/).

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