

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ST. PETE

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**MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AND CEO KRISTEN A. SHEPHERD ELECTED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF ART MUSEUM DIRECTORS**

Ms. Shepherd joins leaders from 20 international art museums in the governance of this industry advancing organization



Kristen A. Shepherd

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (February 3, 2022)—Kristen A. Shepherd, Executive Director and CEO of the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg (MFA), St. Petersburg’s first art museum and home to the largest encyclopedic art collection in Florida, has been elected to the Board of Trustees for the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD), a national professional organization that brings together art museum directors at top institutions in the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

“I am tremendously honored to serve with this esteemed group of art leaders,” said Ms. Shepherd. “With so many new challenges to face in the museum field, AAMD is uniquely positioned to support art museum directors by establishing best practices in a changing art world, opening up dialogue about pressing issues in the field, and engaging leaders from across North American museums to adapt and grow stronger for our

communities. It is a privilege to be part of the leadership of this group.”

Ms. Shepherd was unanimously selected by the MFA Board of Trustees to serve as Executive Director of the MFA in 2016, after a national search. She is the sixth director in the MFA’s history and its first female director. She has brought to her role the perspective of an art historian combined with strong business acumen. She started her career at Sotheby’s auction house in New York, before serving in leadership roles at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York.

The AAMD held its 152nd annual meeting virtually last week on January 24 - 27, 2022, during which Ms. Shepherd was elected to the Board of Trustees. Ms. Shepherd joined the AAMD membership in January 2017. She will serve as an AAMD trustee for the next three years.

The AAMD advances the profession by cultivating leadership, acting as advocates for the field, and fostering excellence in art museums. An agile, issues-driven organization, AAMD has three desired outcomes: engagement, leadership, and shared learning. Art museum directors must apply and be accepted to this organization based on a series of eligibility requirements.

Founded in 1916, AAMD's activities include guiding best practices in art museum management and governance and defining ethics for the field, particularly through Professional Practices in Art Museums; providing tools and training necessary to help directors guide their institutions; collecting data for the art museum field, such as an annual Salary Survey; and partnering with other organizations and entities on research for the field.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG

The MFA at 255 Beach Drive NE is St. Petersburg's first art museum, and houses the largest encyclopedic art collection in Florida. The collection includes works of art from ancient times to the present day and from around the world, including ancient Greek and Roman, Egyptian, Asian, African, pre-Columbian, European, American, and contemporary art. The photography collection is one of the largest and finest in the Southeast. Kristen A. Shepherd is the Executive Director and CEO. For more information, please visit mfastpete.org and follow @mfastpete on social.

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