

Indianapolis Museum of Art announces leadership transition

Maxwell L. Anderson to head the Dallas Museum of Art; IMA Board of Governors to establish search committee and transitional leadership

INDIANAPOLIS, IN, October 20, 2011 – The Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA) today announced that Maxwell L. Anderson will step down as the Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO of the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA) on December 31, 2011, as he has been appointed the Eugene McDermott Director of the Dallas Museum of Art. Anderson will assume his role at the DMA on January 9, 2012. In the coming weeks, the IMA's Board of Governors will establish a search committee to conduct a national search for the next Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO of the IMA. During the transitional period, the IMA's senior management team will work with the IMA's Board of Governors to lead the museum.

"Max has been a champion of the museum's mission while overseeing tremendous growth and change, including the enhancement of the museum's collection. Though we will miss Max's leadership, we are confident that the IMA staff will maintain our high standards of innovation and creativity while we identify and secure our next director," stated Stephen Russell, chairman of the IMA's Board of Governors.

Anderson's five-and-a-half-year tenure was filled with many achievements. In June 2010, the IMA opened 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, one of the largest contemporary art parks in the United States providing a new approach for such museum parks by featuring ongoing site-specific commissions. Anderson also oversaw the museum's acquisition and renovation of Miller House and Garden, an iconic residence in Columbus, Indiana, which opened to the public in May 2011 in collaboration with the Columbus Area Visitors Center. With a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., the IMA created a conservation science program and lab at the museum, which opened in February 2011. In 2009, the IMA received the National Medal of Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor for museums. Under Anderson's leadership, the IMA organized a number of major traveling exhibitions, including *European Design Since 1985: Shaping the New Century*; *Sacred Spain: Art & Belief in the Spanish World*; and *Hard Truths: The Art of Thornton Dial*. The IMA also was selected as the commissioning institution for the U.S. Pavilion at the 2011 Venice Biennale, bringing performance art to the U.S. Pavilion for the first time in its history by presenting new work by artists Allora & Calzadilla. Anderson also oversaw the initial plans for the remodeling and reinstallation of the museum's galleries for its Asian, African, design arts and textiles and fashion arts collections, which will reopen in 2012 - 2013.

"Among his many accomplishments, Max's greatest legacy at the IMA is our professional, talented and dedicated staff. We are well-positioned for this transition period due to the caliber of the senior management team and the staff throughout the museum, and we will develop an interim leadership plan in the coming weeks. At the same time, we will begin a thoughtful and thorough search process for the museum's next exciting and dynamic leader, and we look forward to our next chapter," explained June McCormack, a vice-chair of the IMA's Board of Governors.

Tom Hiatt, secretary of the IMA Board of Governors, will chair the search committee.

About the Indianapolis Museum of Art

Encompassing 152 acres of gardens and grounds, the Indianapolis Museum of Art is among the 10 largest and 10 oldest encyclopedic art museums in the United States, and features significant collections of African, American, Asian, European and contemporary art, as well as a newly

established collection of design arts. The IMA offers visitors an expansive view of arts and culture through its collection of more than 54,000 works of art that span 5,000 years of history from across the world's continents. The collections include paintings, sculpture, furniture and design objects, prints, drawings and photographs, as well as textiles and costumes.

Additionally, art, design, and nature are featured at 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park and Oldfields–Lilly House & Gardens, an historic Country Place Era estate on the IMA grounds. Beyond the Indianapolis campus, in May 2011 the IMA opened to the public the recently acquired landmark Miller House and Garden in Columbus, Indiana. One of the country's most highly regarded examples of mid-century Modernist residences, Miller House was designed by Eero Saarinen, with interiors by Alexander Girard, and landscape design by Dan Kiley.

Recognizing the IMA's positive impact on its community, the Museum was named a recipient of the 2009 National Medal for Museum and Library Services – the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries. The IMA's commitment to free general admission, programming for schools and teachers, environmental leadership and online initiatives were among cited community contributions in the Museum's selection for the award.

Located at 4000 Michigan Road, the IMA and Lilly House are open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The IMA is closed Mondays and Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days. For more information, call 317-923-1331 or visit www.imamuseum.org.

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