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**GRETCHEN BAKER TO STEP DOWN AS DIRECTOR OF
CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**

PITTSBURGH, Pa., December 5, 2026—Carnegie Museums has announced that, effective December 31, Gretchen Baker will step down as the Daniel G. and Carole L. Kamin Director of Carnegie Museum of Natural History to become President & Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Botanic Garden. Baker has served as the museum’s director since April 2021.

“Since arriving at the height of the pandemic, Gretchen Baker has led our Museum of Natural History through an intensive period of strategic planning, overseen the design of exciting new exhibition spaces, and brought home the largest monetary gift in its history,” said Steven Knapp, President and CEO of Carnegie Museums. “She also brought to the institution a personal warmth and a deeply collegial approach to leadership that will certainly be missed.”

During Baker’s tenure, the museum launched a reimagining of the museum experience, including plans for its first new permanent exhibition in nearly 20 years, *Egypt on the Nile*; shepherded the development of the museum’s human remains policy, the first of its kind in the U.S.; and secured the single largest monetary gift in the museum’s history, from Dan and Carole Kamin, to support the renovation of the museum’s flagship Dinosaur Hall and the museum’s scientific mission.

“It has been an honor to serve as the director of Carnegie Museum of Natural History and contribute to Carnegie Museums’ 130-year story,” Baker said. “This is one of the great natural history museums in the world, and I have deep admiration for my colleagues who care for,

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study, and contribute to its world-renowned collections, and bring them to life for audiences through exhibitions and public programs. I am proud of the momentum we have built together and cannot wait to see what the Museum of Natural History team accomplishes in the future. I will be cheering on the four Carnegie Museums from Chicago.

“This position with the Chicago Botanic Garden is in many ways a full-circle moment,” Baker said. “My interest in the relationship between people, plants, and place took root during an internship at the New York Botanical Garden and sparked my early career in the department of botany at The Field Museum and graduate studies in landscape architecture. This interest has twined around roles at wonderful institutions over the past 25 years and I am excited to now focus my energies and experience in advocating for plants and our relationship to them. Like natural history museums, botanic gardens have so much to offer us in envisioning and realizing a biodiverse and sustainable future.”

About Carnegie Museums

Established in 1895 by Andrew Carnegie, Carnegie Museums is a collection of four dynamic museums: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Kamin Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. The museums reach up to 1.5 million people a year through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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