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Jo Ellen Parker Steps Down as Carnegie Museums President

Pittsburgh, PA, February 1, 2018.... Jo Ellen Parker, Ph.D., President and CEO of Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, announced today that she is stepping down from her post. She will serve in a senior advisory role over the next four months as the search for her replacement begins.

“It’s been an honor working with Jo Ellen, who has led Carnegie Museums through a period of growth and innovation,” said Bill Hunt, chair of the Carnegie Museums board of trustees. “During her tenure, she made valued contributions to organizational structure and governance, financial sustainability, accessibility, and building more inclusive museums. She also spearheaded the creation of the Innovation Studio, which is dedicated to helping the museums integrate digital technologies; the office of the Diversity Catalyst, which supports social inclusion in all aspects of the museums’ work; and the cross-disciplinary Carnegie Nexus initiative, which offers ‘beyond the galleries’ experiences and programs on issues of pressing current interest.

“Carnegie Museums is an esteemed leader in the regional, national, and international arts and cultural community, and this organization has been—and continues to be—graced by the talents of many wonderful people, including Jo Ellen. We are grateful for her contributions, and Carnegie Museums will continue moving forward as a financially healthy, innovative, and thriving institution focused on the future.”

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Dr. Parker joined Carnegie Museums in 2014 after serving for five years as president of Sweet Briar College. Prior to joining Sweet Briar, Dr. Parker served as executive director of the National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education (NITLE) and as president of the Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA), a consortium of 12 selective liberal arts colleges.

“I’m proud of what we have accomplished over the past four years—initiatives that collectively have made Carnegie Museums a stronger and more effective organization, laying the foundation for even greater future success,” Dr. Parker said in a note to staff. “As Carnegie Museums looks forward to a multi-year comprehensive fundraising campaign, this is the right moment for new leadership to take on that challenge. I look forward now to rebooting and thinking about how I can contribute to the causes and issues I care most about in the next phase of my life.”

Interim leadership will be provided by an operating committee consisting of representatives from Carnegie Museums’ senior leadership team, led by Executive Vice President and COO Kevin Hiles and chaired by board chair Bill Hunt.

About Carnegie Museums

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four diverse, dynamic museums: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. The museums reach 1.4 million people annually through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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