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# Brooks Museum Announces Appointment of Interim Director and Search for New Director

## *Cameron Kitchin To Depart After Six Years*

**Memphis, TN (July 29, 2014)** — After six years of service as Director of the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Cameron Kitchin announced today that he will step down from his leadership role on September 26 to accept a position as Director of the Cincinnati Art Museum. Board President Nathan Bicks shared this announcement with museum staff and the Board of Trustees this week.

"Through Cameron's leadership, the Brooks Museum has solidified its financial stability and gained a clearer view of its mission as our community's arts education leader," says Bicks. "We are well positioned to start the Brooks' second century from a place of strength. We wish Cameron and his family continued success in their new endeavors."

Bicks also announced that Harry Goldsmith, the current vice president of the Board of Trustees, will serve as Interim Director until a permanent successor is put in place. Goldsmith, who recently retired as General Counsel from AutoZone, Inc., a Fortune 500 company, and is currently Senior Counsel to Bass, Berry & Sims PLC, has been involved with the Brooks as a trustee and benefactor for many years. "We are fortunate to be able to draw on someone with the caliber of Harry Goldsmith to assure that this transition period is seamless and the Brooks stays on mission," says Bicks. "He grew up at this institution and knows the importance of its role in our community."

Cameron Kitchin became Director of the Memphis Brooks Museum as its fourteenth director in November 2008. During his tenure, Brooks Museum has achieved financial stability and advanced its reach into local neighborhoods and communities while growing audiences and forging new partnerships with arts and social service organizations.

Over the last six years, the Brooks Museum has organized major exhibitions such as *Venice in the Age of Canaletto*, *The Soul of a City: Memphis Collects African American Art*, *The Crossroads of Memory: Carroll Cloar and the American South*, *The Impressionist Revolution*, and *Marisol: Sculptures and Works on Paper*. During Kitchin's tenure, the

Memphis Brooks Museum has advanced new scholarship via educational initiatives and family programming, including a groundbreaking program in early childhood education in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution. The Brooks has accomplished large-scale capital improvements including state of the art security systems, collections management databases, fire alert systems, emergency systems, and handheld device technology. Most recently, Kitchin has helped prepare the Brooks Museum for its next 100 years as it moves toward its centennial in 2016, including a new strategic plan that runs through July 2016 and a partnership with architectural firm Cooper, Robertson & Partners to generate a facilities space program report for the museum.

In support of his strong commitment to Memphis and the arts, Kitchin has served on several boards, including the Greater Memphis Chamber, the Levitt Shell, and Overton Park Conservancy.

Kitchin reflected on his upcoming departure from the Brooks Museum: "I am immensely grateful to the board, the talented staff, and the many supporters of the Brooks Museum for the opportunity to serve Memphis. It is an honor to prepare the Brooks for its second century of public service and I am proud of the ways in which the Brooks makes Memphis a better place to work, live, learn, and play. I look forward with great anticipation to seeing the collaborative planning work for the museum's future ably carried forward by my successor leading to the 2016 centennial. It's an exciting time for the Brooks—a museum that is strong, stable, and innovative today—and I have every confidence in the future in the hands of the outstanding team at the museum. I know that my family and I will return often to a city that has found a permanent and special place in our hearts and minds."

A detailed biography of Kitchin is available on the Brooks Museum's website.

A Trustee Search Committee, headed by Lisa Kranc, retired Senior Vice President of Marketing at AutoZone, Inc., will be formed in the coming weeks to begin the process of recruiting Kitchin's successor. As Interim Director, Goldsmith will continue the focus of implementing the mission of the Memphis Brooks Museum, which is to enrich the lives of our diverse community through the museum's expanding collection, varied exhibitions, and dynamic programs that reflect the art of world cultures from antiquity to the present.

**About the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art:** Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, located at 1934 Poplar Avenue in historic Overton Park, is one of the leading art museums in the American South. Over 9,000 works make up the Brooks Museum's permanent collection including ancient works from Greece, Rome, and the Ancient Americas; Renaissance masterpieces from Italy; English portraiture; American painting and decorative arts; contemporary art; and a survey of African art. For more information on

the Brooks, and all other exhibitions and programs, call (901) 544-6200 or visit [www.brooksmuseum.org](http://www.brooksmuseum.org).

**Community Partners:** ArtsMemphis, Hyde Family Foundations, Tennessee Arts Commission, The Jeniam Foundation, and AutoZone.

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