



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PAFA's Interim Director Harry Philbrick Accepts New Role at Newport Art Museum

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA)'s Interim Museum Director, Harry Philbrick, has accepted the position of Director at the Newport Art Museum, effective September 2025. This new opportunity will allow Mr. Philbrick to return full-time to Rhode Island, where he grew up and currently resides.

During his interim tenure at PAFA, Mr. Philbrick was instrumental in guiding the institution, particularly in the development of "A Nation of Artists." This world-class exhibition, a collaborative effort with the Philadelphia Museum of Art and The Middleton Family collection, is set to be one of the largest exhibitions of American Art in this country and, perhaps, the largest American Art exposition ever staged. "A Nation of Artists" will be a major highlight during America's 250th semi-quincentennial celebration, placing Philadelphia, the nation's birthplace, in the spotlight.

"We are incredibly grateful for Harry's dedicated leadership and profound impact during his interim return to PAFA," said Elliot Clark, PAFA Board Trustee. "His expertise and vision were critical in shaping this landmark exhibition, which will undoubtedly be a cornerstone of the upcoming national celebration. He also has been instrumental during this interim period in exhibition planning and positioning PAFA well to be a cornerstone of the semi-quincentennial celebration. We congratulate him on this wonderful new chapter at the Newport Art Museum, a role that truly aligns with his personal roots."

Mr. Philbrick also played a key role in bringing Judith Thomas on board as PAFA's Director of Exhibitions. Thomas will guide PAFA's museum team and its collective efforts until a new President and Museum Director is appointed.

PAFA has undertaken a national search for the new President and Museum Director and anticipates announcing the new President and Museum Director in early 2026. Mr. Philbrick will remain with PAFA through September 2025 to ensure a smooth transition.

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