

New Director to Lead the North Vancouver Museum and Archives

NORTH VANCOUVER, BC - JULY 5, 2019 – The North Vancouver Museum and Archives (NVMA) is pleased to announce the appointment of its new director, [Wesley Wenhardt](#), to succeed retiring director Nancy Kirkpatrick. “We are delighted that Wes, with his wide-ranging experience, will lead the NVMA through the next phase of development as it prepares for the fall 2020 opening of an exceptional new community museum, currently under construction in Lower Lonsdale”, says Victor Elderton, NVMA Commission Chair.

Wenhardt is an accomplished museums and cultural sector innovator with over 25 years of broad leadership, business and management experience. His work has taken him around the world, opening and revitalizing museums, IMAX theatres, science centres and heritage sites in Canada, the United States, New Zealand, South Africa, Scotland and Brunei.

Most recently Wenhardt was the executive director of the Foss Waterway Seaport Maritime Museum in Tacoma, Washington, where he led the transformation of the museum from a seasonal to year-round operation housed in a \$20-million heritage facility. Closer to home, he has held administrative and consulting roles for the Beaty Biodiversity Museum at the University of British Columbia, the Squamish Lil’wat Cultural Centre, the Vancouver Aquarium, VANOC and the Vancouver Maritime Museum.

“I’m very excited to be coming back to BC and to be joining the NVMA at this critical time,” says Wenhardt. “With the new museum opening next year, I have the opportunity to strengthen and build new relationships in the community, including those with the Squamish and Tsleil Waututh Nations, complete the fundraising campaign, and fine-tune operational and staffing plans for our exciting new facility.”

Wenhardt starts in mid-August. He will build on the 12 years of key foundational work completed by Nancy Kirkpatrick, the current NVMA director. She has led the organization through a long process of modernization and reinvention, including revitalization of the Archives located at the Community History Centre in Lynn Valley, culminating in the creation of the new Museum of North Vancouver now under construction. Kirkpatrick says, “Now is the right time for this change and the leadership transition is an integral part of the NVMA’s succession plan. I’ll be retiring this September, and as the museum building and exhibit design phase wraps up, I am looking forward to providing whatever support the new director needs through the transition period and beyond.”

The North Vancouver Museum and Archives is a partner agency of both the City and the District of North Vancouver. To learn more about the positive changes coming for the NVMA, its fundraising arm, the Friends of the NVMA Society, and the extraordinary new museum that will bring North Vancouver’s stories to life for residents and visitors alike, visit nvma.ca/extraordinarymuseum.

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