

Contact: Kaitlyn Clem  
Marketing and Communications Associate  
412-342-4025  
[KClem@TheFrickPittsburgh.org](mailto:KClem@TheFrickPittsburgh.org)

For Immediate Release

## **FRICK CHIEF CURATOR, DIRECTOR OF COLLECTIONS SARAH HALL TO BECOME DIRECTOR OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**



PITTSBURGH, PA, May 29, 2020 – The Frick Pittsburgh announced today that Sarah Hall will be leaving her position as Chief Curator, Director of Collections in early July to become Director of the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown, Maryland. This concludes Ms. Hall’s 25-year tenure with the Frick, which began with her initial hire in the Visitor Services department in 1994.

“I’ve felt marvelously privileged to work with inspiring and talented colleagues, to be part of the Pittsburgh cultural community, and to help the Frick become what it is today,” says Hall. “I’ve had amazing

adventures — from the roof of Clayton to the basement of the Car and Carriage Museum. It’s been challenging, rewarding, fun, and ultimately has provided me with a great education in all facets of museum operations that I am excited to be able to put in the service of the Museum of Fine Arts – Washington County.”

Since 1994, Ms. Hall has held eight titles in three different departments at the Frick, from setting up the first computerized reservation system for the Frick as a Site Scheduler in the mid-1990s, to her promotion to Chief Curator, Director of Collections in 2017. During her 19-year tenure in the Curatorial department, which she has overseen since 2007, Ms. Hall has been responsible for installing more than 80 exhibitions, participated in major historic preservation projects to Clayton, and was a member of the

team involved in the Frick's 2014-15 site expansion endeavor. Additionally, for the past decade Ms. Hall has been a member of the Frick's executive leadership team and has played an instrumental role in elevating the profile of the museum's exhibitions to attract new and more diverse audiences, staging blockbuster exhibitions including *Fabergé: The Hodges Family Collection* (2011) and *Killer Heels: The Art of the High-Heeled Shoe* (2016).

In addition to the Frick's special exhibition series, Hall oversaw the Frick's permanent collections of early Renaissance panel paintings, 18<sup>th</sup>-century French fine and decorative art, and 19<sup>th</sup>-century European paintings and decorative arts. Ms. Hall also cultivated relationships with numerous contemporary artists, including Craig McPherson, Vik Muniz, and Chris Antemann, adding forward-looking depth to the Frick's offerings.

Frick Executive Director Elizabeth Barker comments, "The Museum of Fine Arts Washington County should be congratulated on a brilliant choice. Sarah's knowledge, creativity, passion, and natural people skills — qualities that have contributed to her success at the Frick — are those most needed by a museum director, especially now. Although we share her happiness and excitement, I know I speak for everyone at the Frick in saying that we'll really miss her."

The Frick Pittsburgh plans to conduct a national search to identify and hire Hall's successor, beginning this summer.

## **ABOUT THE FRICK PITTSBURGH**

Located on the Pittsburgh estate of late-19<sup>th</sup>-century industrialist Henry Clay Frick, The Frick Pittsburgh is the steward of collections left as a legacy to the people of Pittsburgh by Frick's daughter, Helen Clay Frick. The permanent collections include fine and decorative arts, cars, carriages, historic objects, and buildings. The Frick experience includes The Frick Art Museum, the Car and Carriage Museum, Clayton, the Frick family Gilded Age mansion, and six acres of beautifully landscaped lawns and gardens. Also included are an Education Center, the Frick children's playhouse (designed by renowned architects Alden & Harlow), a large working greenhouse (also designed by Alden & Harlow), The Café at the Frick, and the Grable Visitor Center, which houses the Frick Museum Store. Information about The Frick Pittsburgh is available online at [TheFrickPittsburgh.org](http://TheFrickPittsburgh.org).

**For additional information or images, please contact Kaitlyn Clem, Marketing and Communications Associate, at 412-342-4025 or [KClem@TheFrickPittsburgh.org](mailto:KClem@TheFrickPittsburgh.org)**

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