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### **F/AIC Announces Appointment of New Executive Director, Lissa Rosenthal-Yoffe**

Today the boards of the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) and its affiliate, the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC), announced the appointment of Lissa Rosenthal-Yoffe as their new executive director. Lissa has served as executive director at the DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative since 2014 and will begin full-time work at AIC and FAIC (F/AIC) in June 2022.

As executive director, Lissa will collaborate with the AIC and FAIC boards, AIC members, the conservation community, and allied professionals to strengthen the field of conservation and to ensure the continued protection and appreciation of cultural heritage. Serving as the organizations' chief spokesperson and advocate, she will guide the development of new strategic plans (now underway) in order to enhance their vision and visibility. Lissa looks forward to sustaining and expanding F/AIC's already collaborative organizational culture through her demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and access initiatives. She will report to the AIC and FAIC Boards of Directors, initially supervising five direct reports and overseeing a team of thirteen professionals, in addition to contractors and many volunteers.

Lissa Rosenthal-Yoffe is a cultural executive with thirty years of leadership experience in the nonprofit sector, especially in fundraising and communications. Since 2014, she has served as executive director of the DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative, a not-for-profit membership organization which unites 150 cultural institutional and practitioner members in the Washington, DC, area with 180 DC public and charter schools. She was recruited to transform that organization which, under her leadership continues to experience financial stability, exponential growth, and opportunities to lead nationally recognized collective impact initiatives.

In service to members, she was the leading advocate and spokesperson for arts and cultural education in the District of Columbia, testifying regularly before the DC Council to increase arts and humanities education funding, creating innovative programs to promote equity and inclusion in learning opportunities, and establishing collaborative partnerships between cultural institutions and educators.

"I look forward to joining F/AIC at a significant and pivotal moment in its history," Lissa says. "We are at the intersection of innovative technologies, evolving cultural norms, and inclusive practices for cultural heritage preservation, and a new wave of talented professionals who are advancing and reshaping the field. I look forward to collaborating with AIC members, with F/AIC's many partners, and with the staff and boards to celebrate, support, and promote heritage preservation, telling compelling stories to transform the field of conservation."

Lissa's previous positions have included director of development at Sheridan School (Washington, DC), Pittsburgh Glass Center, and New York's Museum of Modern Art/PS1. She has served as executive director of the Future of Music Coalition, principal owner of Relish Public Relations (Pittsburgh), and national program director for PAX: Real Solutions to Gun Violence. Lissa began her professional career as programs director at the American Council for the Arts (now Americans for the Arts), where she led the national Arts Advocacy Day program.

Lissa pursued graduate coursework in Museum Studies at New York University and earned her BFA and BA in Fine Arts and Art History from Kean University (New Jersey). She is an active member of the cultural community and currently sits on boards and committees for the National Cherry Blossom Festival, Arts Forward Fund, DC Public Schools Innovation and Systems Improvement, Americans for the Arts, and ArtsAction DC.

Lissa's recruitment to the F/AIC position was guided by Freeman Philanthropic Services, LLC (New York) under the supervision of an eight-member F/AIC search committee co-chaired by Suzanne Davis (president, AIC) and Peter Trippi (president, FAIC).

Previously, the post of F/AIC executive director was held for seventeen years by Eryl Wentworth, who retired in December 2021. This May during AIC's Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, which marks the organization's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Lissa will be introduced to many AIC members and professional colleagues in attendance, while Eryl Wentworth will be presented with an Honorary Membership Award in appreciation of her outstanding service to F/AIC.

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### **American Institute for Conservation**

The American Institute for Conservation (AIC) is the leading membership association for current and aspiring conservators and allied professionals who preserve cultural heritage. AIC represents more than 3,500 individuals working in the domains of science, art, and history through treatment, research, collections care, education, and more. By informing, empowering, and connecting conservation professionals, AIC ensures our cultural heritage is not lost or forgotten. [www.culturalheritage.org](http://www.culturalheritage.org)

### **Foundation for Advancement in Conservation**

The Foundation for Advancement in Conservation's (FAIC) mission is to save cultural heritage for future generations, protecting it from decay and destruction. We advance research and education, lead treatment and collection care initiatives, and deploy conservation expertise to where it is most urgently needed. Our work empowers conservation professionals, strengthens cultural institutions, and engages stakeholders, including public audiences, as we work together to protect cultural heritage for humanity. [www.culturalheritage.org/faic](http://www.culturalheritage.org/faic)