

Winter Park History Museum
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winter Park History Museum Launches Search for New Executive Director

WINTER PARK, Fla. – The Winter Park Historical Association announces the departure of Christy Knobloch, the leader at the helm of the Historical Association and the Winter Park History Museum (WPHM) since 2020. The search for a new executive director is now underway, as the museum prepares to open its newest exhibit and names interim executive director.

Dedicated to the research, collection, and preservation of the history of Winter Park and surrounding areas, the Winter Park Historical Association opened the WPHM in 1995. Over the past 31 years, the museum has provided free access to exhibits and educational programs, with support from government grants, local foundations, fundraising efforts, and loyal members. During her six-year tenure, Knobloch helped to strengthen the museum's role and elevated its visibility as a vital cultural resource for Winter Park residents and visitors from across the country.

"It has been a true privilege to serve as Executive Director," states Knobloch. "I've loved working alongside our incredible staff, volunteers, board members, supporters and friends to create engaging exhibits, host memorable events, and find meaningful, fun ways to share Winter Park's history." Feeling confident that the museum will continue showcasing the importance of historic preservation for places and stories, she reflects on the significance of WPHM's mission, integrity, and values. While stepping down from her role, Knobloch reassures that "I'm certainly not leaving the museum behind and will continue cheering it on."

As the board's search committee seeks a new executive director, Dena Salas, formerly the museum's administrator, has been newly promoted to Museum Manager and will serve as interim Executive Director. Salas has been an integral part of the museum's operations and growth, supporting its mission and serving as a key member of the WPHM team. In her expanded role, she will oversee day-to-day museum operations, manage volunteers, and ensure administrative functions continue without interruption during this transition. An immediate focus for both Salas and Knobloch is the successful launch of the newest exhibit, *Golden Roots: The Citrus Legacy of Winter Park*, with a grand opening reception on August 19.

Rick Kilby, president of the Winter Park History Museum's board of directors, expressed gratitude for Knobloch's leadership. "On behalf of the Board of Directors and everyone at the Winter Park History Museum, we are deeply grateful for Christy's outstanding leadership and dedicated service. While we are saddened to see someone of her talent, vision, and character move on, we are equally appreciative of the lasting impact she has made on our organization." Crediting Knobloch's commitment to the mission and unique creativity, Kilby believes "the Museum is well positioned to reach even greater heights. We thank Christy for her many contributions and wish her every success in the next chapter of her career."

This Executive Director role provides strategic leadership while overseeing the Museum's daily operations, fundraising, financial management, educational programming, community outreach, and staff leadership. The Executive Director works closely with the Board to implement the Association's mission, achieve strategic goals, and strengthen the Museum's role as a vital cultural resource for the community.

Applications for executive director are now open. Interested candidates can learn more about the position, qualifications, and application process by visiting WPhistory.org/careers/ or emailing board@WPHistory.org.

The upcoming exhibit *Golden Roots: The Citrus Legacy of Winter Park* is open to the public beginning August 20. Join us for the exhibit's grand opening on August 19 at 5:30 p.m. For more information about the WPHM and other upcoming events including the annual Peacock Ball on October 17, visit www.wphistory.org, call 407-647-2330, or email museum@wphistory.org. The museum is currently closed for installation and will reopen August 20.

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About the Winter Park History Museum

The Winter Park Historical Association seeks to collect, promote, preserve, and research the history of Winter Park and its surrounding area, and to share said history with the public through educational programs, events, and the operation of the Winter Park History Museum.