



## Search for Next WAM Director and Chief Curator | February 19, 2020

### Dear Weisman Staff and WAM Colleagues Advisory Board:

I write to update you on the launch of the national search for the next director and chief curator of the University of Minnesota's Weisman Art Museum.

A search committee has been appointed to ensure a broad and inclusive search process, evaluate candidates, and make advisory recommendations to incoming EVPP Rachel Croson. I thank Professor Thomas Fisher and Regent Emerita Patricia Simmons for agreeing to serve as co-chairs of the search committee. Thanks, too, to everyone who submitted helpful nominations and suggestions for the committee, all of which were appreciated and carefully considered.

The search committee, which will formally convene at the end of this month, includes:

**Thomas Fisher**, Director, Minnesota Design Center; Professor and Dayton Hudson Chair in Urban Design, College of Design; *Committee Co-Chair*

**Patricia Simmons**, Emerita Regent, University of Minnesota; *Committee Co-Chair*

**Steve Apfelbacher**, Former President (retired), Ehlers & Associates Inc.; past chair, WAM Colleagues Advisory Board

**Christine Baeumler**, Professor of Art, College of Liberal Arts

**Brenda Child**, Northrop Professor of American Studies, College of Liberal Arts

**Katherine Covey**, Director of Student Engagement, Weisman Art Museum

**Karen Mary Davalos**, Professor and Chair of Chicano and Latino Studies, College of Liberal Arts

**Stuart Deets**, PhD candidate, Art History, College of Liberal Arts; WAM student program assistant (WAM Collective)

**Cynthia Ihlenfeld**, Artist and Community Volunteer; Member of WAM Colleagues Advisory Board and Capital Campaign co-chair

**Jennifer Marshall**, Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Art History, College of Liberal Arts

**Diane Mullin**, Senior Curator, Weisman Art Museum

**Eric Newman**, Distinguished McKnight University Professor of Neuroscience; member, WAM Colleagues Advisory Board

**Jennifer Newsom**, Assistant Professor of Architecture, College of Design; architect and installation artist

**Amelious Whyte**, Director of Public Engagement, Institutional Advancement, College of Liberal Arts; chair of WAM Colleagues Advisory Board

We have engaged Sheryl Ash and Benjamin Tobin of the national search firm Isaacson, Miller to partner with the committee and my office to draft a position profile and develop a robust and diverse pool of candidates. Please watch for opportunities to participate in listening sessions at the end of this month or shortly thereafter, or to share input in other ways. We will soon establish a director search webpage on the WAM website to provide ongoing updates on the search.

If you have questions or suggestions, or would like more information about the search process, please contact Kate Tyler ([kytler@umn.edu](mailto:kytler@umn.edu)), Provost's Office senior staff liaison to the committee.

As I noted previously, we are seeking a visionary leader who will preserve and enhance the Weisman as a dynamic and engaged teaching museum for our University, and for the entire region. Please join me again in thanking Lyndel King as she prepares to retire in June. Lyndel's outstanding leadership will continue to be celebrated, but, as we launch this search, we should underscore again how, over several decades, Lyndel has positioned the Weisman exceptionally well for a successful search and this step into the future.

Sincerely,

Karen Hanson  
Executive Vice President and Provost