Dear Weisman Staff and Colleagues Advisory Board:

I invite you to join me in welcoming four outstanding finalists for the position of Director of the Weisman Art Museum. These University of Minnesota public interviews, to be conducted virtually July 22–27, are a culmination of our national search for the next leader of the Weisman as a dynamically engaged teaching museum integrated with the University’s academic mission.

I thank the search committee, chaired by Professor Tom Fisher and Regent Emerita Patty Simmons, for its diligent work to recruit and review a strong and diverse pool and for providing me with thoughtful recommendations following their confidential interviews.

Each of the four finalists will participate in a daylong virtual visit that will include a public forum and interviews with groups of stakeholders of the Weisman and the University. We will introduce each candidate one day ahead of each public interview, with names and CVs posted on the WAM director search webpage, along with the position description.

As the public interviews take place, I encourage you to attend or view the public forums and to review the candidates’ materials to learn more about them. Your active engagement in the virtual visit will make the public interviews a positive and productive experience for the candidates and for us, and will ultimately lead to a successful recruitment. I especially welcome your feedback on confidential evaluation forms for each candidate that also will be posted on the search webpage. Your evaluations, along with detailed referencing, will be pivotal input into the final decision. Finally, in order to protect each candidate’s confidentiality and ensure that the process is fair to all concerned, please take care not to undertake any information gathering about candidates on your own, however informal.

Public forums

All faculty, staff, students, alumni, and other internal and external stakeholders are invited to attend the candidates’ public forums. Each 60-minute forum will include a 20-30-minute presentation by the candidate on the role of a University art museum today, followed by Q&A.

Please save the dates for the candidate forums. Details for joining each forum by Zoom will be posted to the search website the week of July 13, as well as conveyed in a subsequent email.

Candidate 1: 10:30–11:30 am CT Thursday, July 22
Candidate 2: 10:30–11:30 am CT Friday, July 23
Candidate 3: 10:30–11:30 am CT Monday, July 26
Candidate 4: 10:30–11:30 am CT Tuesday, July 27
Following each forum, we will post a video link on the search webpage (UMN login access required) for a limited period to provide University community members with an additional opportunity to evaluate the candidates.

**Interview sessions**

I also encourage you to participate in interview sessions that will be arranged for the Weisman staff and Board along with other University constituencies. Please watch for email invitations to these sessions the week of July 13.

Finally, you may wish to consult the search webpage for information about the search process. If you have any questions about the virtual interviews, please email wam-umnsearch@umn.edu.

Thank you, as always, for your input and continued engagement through this important process.

Sincerely yours,

Rachel T.A. Croson
Executive Vice President and Provost

This email was sent July 9, 2021 to all Weisman Art Museum staff and members of the WAM Colleagues Advisory Board by the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, 234 Morrill Hall, 100 Church St. SE, Minneapolis, MN, 55455, USA. The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Read our privacy statement.