



BISHOP MUSEUM

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Bishop Museum Board of Directors Appoints Melanie Y. Ide as President & Chief Executive Officer

Honolulu, Hawai‘i – The Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum board of directors has announced that Melanie Y. Ide will serve as the museum’s new president & chief executive officer. The board confirmed Ide’s appointment by unanimous vote at a board meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017. Ide—a top museum planning professional with close ties to Hawai‘i and to Bishop Museum—will assume her role on Jan. 8, 2018.

Ide has more than 27 years of experience in museum planning, design and program development as a principal of world-renowned Ralph Appelbaum Associates (RAA), a multi-disciplinary, planning and design firm with active projects in over twenty countries. From 2005-2014, Ide led RAA’s team to restore and reinterpret Bishop Museum’s now iconic Hawaiian Hall and Pacific Hall galleries during a \$24.5 million capital campaign. With RAA, she also led the first-phase development of a comprehensive interpretive masterplan that aims to re-establish Bishop Museum as an important community anchor and resource for inspiration and learning, as well as a treasured destination and knowledge center with local, national, and global relevance.

“I believe that Bishop Museum is an unparalleled resource for Hawaiian and Pacific cultures and environments, with immense untapped potential. It is uniquely positioned to explore and interpret the world through multiple forms of knowledge, rooted in both cultural and scientific practices. In addition to opening up new worlds to us, museums contribute to the making of place, culture, community and shared memory. I am honored and humbled by this opportunity to nurture, develop, and strengthen one of Hawai‘i’s most treasured resources,” said Ide of her vision for Bishop Museum.

Typically working with institutions during major capital campaigns and periods of significant transformation, Ide has worked collaboratively with organizations to create entirely new institutions from the ground up, as well as re-envision museums that are more than 100 years old. Her rich toolkit includes leadership and organizational planning, community and stakeholder engagement, fundraising strategies and campaign planning, interpretive planning and program development. An architect by training, she arrives with a passion for making change through design-thinking, creativity, innovation and working with partners in the community.

Ide's distinguished client list has included the Clinton Foundation, the Smithsonian Institution, the International African American Museum, the Japanese American National Museum, the New York Public Library, and the American Museum of Natural History. Her signature projects have included the iconic Fossil Halls, Hall of Biodiversity, and Rose Center for Earth and Space at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, N.Y.; the William J. Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock, Ark.; the United States Capitol Visitor Center in Washington, D.C.; and the Smithsonian's new National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. Most recently, through RAA, Ide has been leading the interpretive planning and exhibition design for the Obama Presidential Center in Chicago, Ill. She will continue to be involved in the development of this project as the Obama Foundation pursues its mission to inspire and empower people to change their world.

In addition to her extensive work with Bishop Museum, Ide has spent a great deal of time on O'ahu and Hawai'i Island, where her parents and grandparents were all born and raised. Ide will replace Linda Lee Kuuleilani (Cissy) Farm, who has served as interim president & CEO since April 2016. Farm will continue to lead the museum until Ide takes the helm on Jan. 8.

"Bishop Museum's board, staff, and 'ohana are grateful for Cissy Farm's outstanding leadership these past 16 months. She has done a tremendous job improving the museum's financial health, strengthening partnerships, and restoring community confidence. Cissy is a true champion for the museum, and she has set the tone for the museum's exciting next chapter," said Anton C. Krucky, Bishop Museum's Board Chair.

Bishop Museum is on a roll, and has just completed successful first year implementation of its new strategic business plan. The museum ended its 2017 fiscal year with a \$700,000 surplus, its first net positive operating budget in several years, with increases in contributions, admissions, and memberships. The Bishop Museum Press, Hawai'i's oldest press, has been reactivated and the Library & Archives is once again offering public hours. A completely renovated Shop Pacifica and improved admission experience were unveiled in July 2017. New partnerships with cultural and educational organizations are flourishing, and the museum will soon unveil its second original gallery exhibit this year—Holo Moana: Generations of Voyaging (Nov. 4, 2017-June 24, 2018)—in partnership with the Polynesian Voyaging Society.

Bishop Museum expects great things ahead. "The board is very impressed with what Melanie brings to our museum, and we have unanimously endorsed her as Bishop Museum's new president and chief executive officer," Krucky said of the new appointment. "With global perspective, creativity, and extensive experience in all aspects of museum planning and execution, Melanie is uniquely qualified to lead Bishop Museum forward. We share Melanie's vision for a thriving and relevant Bishop Museum for Hawai'i's next generation and look forward to great things with her leadership."

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About Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum:

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum's mission is to inspire our community and visitors through the exploration and celebration of the extraordinary history, culture, and environment of Hawai'i and the Pacific. The Museum was founded in 1889 by Charles Reed Bishop in memory of his wife Bernice Pauahi Bishop, a royal descendant of King Kamehameha I. Today, the Museum thrives as an educational center for the community and is widely regarded as the world's premier institution for Hawaiian and Pacific content. Its vast collections of more than 25 million objects represent nine disciplines and include more than 22 million biological specimens, 77,000 cultural objects, 115,000 historical publications, one million photographs, films, works of art, audio recordings and manuscripts. These collections tell the stories of the culture and biodiversity of Hawai'i and the Pacific as well as the proud legacy of scholarly research spanning more than 125 years. Bishop Museum proudly serves more than 200,000 visitors each year, including 20,000 children on school visits. To learn more about the Museum's research, collections, exhibits, and programs, visit www.BishopMuseum.org, follow @BishopMuseum on Twitter and Instagram, become a fan of Bishop Museum on Facebook, visit Bishop Museum's YouTube channel at youtube.com/user/BishopMuseum, or call (808) 847-3511. Bishop Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.