

Honouring Kathleen Bartels for 18 Years of Service

PUBLIC STATEMENT – MAY 28, 2019

Today, we are honouring Vancouver Art Gallery Director Kathleen Bartels, who, after 18 years, is leaving to pursue other professional and personal interests. Kathleen has helped the Gallery transform its programming, growing the organization's donor base, its members, attendance and annual revenues.

With an annual operating budget of now approximately \$19 million, the Gallery has made great strides during Kathleen's tenure in growing the levels of contributed and earned income, with private sector donations having increased by more than 250%, the institutional endowment growing fifty-fold from \$200,000 to more than \$11 million today, and significant growth in attendance, including an average of 37,000 members annually. The Gallery's collection—which represents the most comprehensive resource for visual culture in British Columbia—now includes over 12,000 works of art, representing a 49% increase from 2001.

For almost two decades, Kathleen has led the institution on its journey to build a new, expanded Vancouver Art Gallery. The goal for the new Gallery is to provide the citizens of Vancouver and all who visit with an experience of art that celebrates British Columbia and its unique place in our world.

She leaves behind a legacy of transformation, and we are grateful for her contributions. We are pleased that Kathleen will remain as a special advisor to the Gallery's interim Director and Board Chair during this period of transition.

The Board is pleased to announce that former Vancouver Art Gallery Chief Curator and Associate Director Daina Augaitis will be the interim Director. Daina spent 20 years with the Gallery until stepping down in 2017 and was instrumental to many of its successes. Under her leadership, the Gallery's exhibitions, publications and public programs were significantly enhanced. She also contributed enormously to the growth of the Gallery's permanent collection through the acquisition of works by established and emerging artists from around the world.

An executive search for a permanent Director will begin immediately.

This is an exciting time for Vancouver Art Gallery as we move towards a new, permanent home with a strong team in place.

Respectfully,

David Calabrigo
Board Chair
Vancouver Art Gallery