

PRESS RELEASE

BRIAN MEEHAN TO RETIRE FROM MUSEUM LONDON

London, Ontario, Release: March 12, 2021
For Immediate Release

The Board of Museum London today announced that Brian Meehan, the Museum's Executive Director, has decided to retire effective March 31, 2022.

During Brian's tenure, the Museum has built an impressive, award-winning exhibition program and inclusive, innovative public and educational programs. Providing accessible, welcoming, and meaningful experiences for Londoners drove his vision in the ongoing upgrading of the museum building through a series of capital renovations, most recently culminating in the successful \$3.2 million community renovation project known as the Centre at the Forks.

The Museum's art and material culture collections have also been built up substantially during his tenure. Recent highlights have included the 2018 purchase of Kent Monkman's *Nativity Scene* and the 2020 gift of a career-spanning twenty large-scale photographs from Ed Burtynsky.

Brian has served in the Executive Director role since April 1999, and prior to that was Director and Curator of the Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery in Owen Sound. He has given the board a full year's notice to ensure that a comprehensive national search for his replacement can take place.

As Museum London's Executive Director and Chief Curator, Brian's organizational and leadership abilities have been recognized and endorsed by his provincial and national colleagues. Elected president (2003-2005) and past president (2005-2008) of the Ontario Association of Art Galleries (OAAG), the province's organization of art museum professionals, Brian also served as Chair of the Board of Directors (2009-2011) for the Canadian Art Museum Directors' Organization (CAMDO), Canada's professional body of museum directors. He has also served locally as Board Chair of Pillar Nonprofit Network (2010-2012) which supports non-profit organizations in fulfilling their missions in the London community.

"The cultural and civic life of London has benefited tremendously from Brian's distinguished leadership of Museum London over the past 22 years," says Ken Andrews, Acting Chair of Museum London's Board of Directors. "The entire Museum community from staff, volunteers and donors to those who visit the Museum regularly to appreciate its superb art and historical

collection are indebted to Brian for his vision, stewardship, and commitment to enhancing London's cultural identity and diversity.

"Most recently, the completion of the Centre of the Forks, as a venue for celebrating local culture with its panoramic view of the Thames at the heart of the City of London, speaks both to Brian's vision and his ability to make imaginative possibilities happen. We all shall miss his inspired leadership and are grateful for his remarkable contribution."

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