



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Michael Mastroianni *Michael Mastroianni*

SUBJECT: Appointments to Regents Advisory Council on Museums

DATE: December 4, 2025

AUTHORIZATION(S): *[Signature]*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents approve the proposed appointments of members to the Regents Advisory Council on Museums (MRAC)?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Section 3.12 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education requires the Board of Regents to appoint members to the Regents Advisory Council on Museums.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the Full Board for action at its December 2025 meeting.

Procedural History

Each year, as vacancies occur on MRAC, the Board of Regents approves recommendations to fill such vacancies.

Background Information

The Regents Advisory Council on Museums advises the Board of Regents on matters related to museums and cultural institutions chartered by the Board. The Council works with officers of the State Education Department to strengthen the role of museums as essential components of New York's educational and cultural landscape, and to promote the stewardship, accessibility, and public value of museum collections and programs. Council members are appointed to five-year terms.

Information on the proposed appointments and reappointment (Attachment A) and a list of the entire MRAC (Attachment B) are attached.

Related Regents Items

Not applicable.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve the appointments of Sean Decatur, Stephanie Ratcliff, and Sarah Van Anden to terms beginning December 16, 2025, and ending December 15, 2030.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve the reappointment Tracy Fitzpatrick to a three-year term beginning December 16, 2025 and ending December 15, 2030.

Timetable for Implementation

Upon approval by the Regents of the recommended candidate, the appointments will be effective December 16, 2025.

Attachment A

Regents Advisory Council on Libraries Three New Appointments and One Reappointment for the Term December 16, 2025, to December 15, 2030.

Sarah Van Anden

- Executive Director of the Museum Association of New York.
- Over fifteen years' experience strengthening relationships between artists, cultural professionals, and institutions; diverse experience in collection and archive management, museum engagement, program design, communications, fundraising, philanthropy, and nonprofit administration.
- Previously served as Programs and Finance Director at the Center for Curatorial Leadership.
- Previously served as Program Officer with the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, where she oversaw a portfolio of more than 140 New York City cultural organizations and helped distribute over \$30 million annually through the City's Cultural Development Fund.
- Additional experience includes a role with Shelley and Donald Rubin family office, where she was part of the curatorial team responsible for organizing exhibitions extending the Rubins' philanthropic activities centered on art and social justice.
- Served as vice president and treasurer on the board of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Graphic Arts.

Sean Decatur

- Since 2023, has served as the President of the American Museum of Natural History, one of the world's preeminent scientific, educational, and cultural institutions.
- Presided over the opening of the Richard Glider Center for Science, Education and Innovation; prioritized the Museum's work to address its challenging historical legacy, collecting practices, and cultural representation; and has become a spokesperson for the ways museums can redress past practices, include more diverse perspectives, and serve broader audiences.
- Previously served for nearly a decade as president of Kenyon College, during which Kenyon achieved significant gains in the strength and diversity of its student body, resources for financial aid, and the breadth and distinction of faculty; enhancements to the campus; and record enrollments despite the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Serves on the Board of Managers of Swarthmore College, on the Board of Trustees of Bank Street College of Education, and on the board of directors of the Research Corporation for Science Advancement (RCSA), the Joyce Foundation, and New York City Tourism + Conventions. He has served on numerous advisory boards,

including the Board on Life Sciences at the National Academy of Sciences, as chair of the Advisory Committee for the Center for the Advancement of Science Leadership and Culture at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and as chairman of the Codon Learning scientific advisory board.

- Won a number of awards including the Foreign Policy Association Medal in 2023; is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Stephanie Ratcliffe

- Executive Director of The Wild Center (“Museum”) since its opening year in 2006.
- Played a leading role in the creation of the Museum’s current exhibits and educational programs prior to opening, including all the interior living exhibits, Wild Walk (850 ft. treetop walkway), multimedia presentations and interpretation of the Museum’s 115-acre campus.
- Museum has been a leader in driving climate change awareness and acting as a convener of climate change issues and green building conferences targeting national, regional and youth audiences. The Youth Climate program holds an annual regional summit and offers a toolkit to organize Youth Climate Summits.
- Led the Wild Center’s work to become the first LEED certified museum in New York State; the Museum serves as a demonstration site for green building solutions.
- Served on the international board and Executive Committee of the Association of Science Technology Centers Board, and serves on the North Country Regional Economic Development Council (NCREDC) and the Franklin County Tourism Advisory Council.

Tracy Fitzpatrick

- Director of the Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, SUNY where she curates exhibits and oversees the execution of the Museum’s strategic vision.
- An associate professor in art history in the master’s degree program in Modern and Contemporary Art.
- Author of books and scholarly articles, edited and was the main essayist for the Neuberger’s first permanent catalogue, and authored *Art and the Subway: New York Underground*.
- Member of the Association of Art Museum Directors, the American Association of Museums, and the College Art Association.

Attachment B

Regents Advisory Council on Museums Current Membership

- Mieke Fay, Director of Education and Interpretation, Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY
- Joe Stahlman, Director, Seneca-Iroquois National Museum, Salamanca, NY
- Heather Arnet, Executive Director and CEO, Heckscher Museum, Huntington, NY
- Rocky Bucano, Chief Executive Officer, The Hip Hop Museum, Bronx, NY
- Steve Dubnik, President and CEO, Strong Museum of Play, Rochester, NY
- Erika Floreska, President, Long Island Children's Museum, Garden City, NY
- Rebecca M. McLain, Executive Director, Oneida County History Center, Utica, NY
- Jan Ramirez, Chief Curator, National September 11 Memorial Museum, New York, NY
- Tracy Fitzpatrick, Director, Neuberger Museum of Art at SUNY Purchase, Purchase, NY
- Gretchen Sorin, Director and Distinguished Professor, Cooperstown Graduate Program for Museum Studies, Cooperstown, NY