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**BOWERS
MUSEUM**

Bowers Museum Welcomes Dr. Seán O’Harrow as New President and CEO



Santa Ana, California, August 2, 2023 —Bowers Museum is thrilled to announce the appointment of Seán O’Harrow, Ph.D. as its new President and CEO. Seán will be stepping into this role following the remarkable tenure of the late Dr. Peter C. Keller, who served as a beloved and visionary leader for over 31 years until his passing last November. The staff and board members of Bowers Museum express their profound gratitude for Dr. Keller’s invaluable contributions, and while honoring his legacy, they eagerly look forward to a new chapter of leadership under Dr. O’Harrow’s guidance.

Dr. Seán O’Harrow brings a wealth of experience and expertise to Bowers Museum, with an impressive career spanning over 15 years leading public and university museums. His extensive background in art history and proven track record in revenue generation, community engagement, and inclusivity make him a natural choice for this prestigious position.

“We are delighted to welcome Seán as the new President and CEO of Bowers Museum,” said Anne Shih, Chairwoman of the Board of Governors. “He is an exceptional leader with a deep passion for the arts, and his vision aligns perfectly with our museum’s mission. As we honor the incredible legacy left by Dr. Peter C. Keller, we are eager to embrace this new era of leadership and continued growth under Seán’s guidance.”

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The late Dr. Peter C. Keller's left a lasting impact on the institution and the community it serves. During his exceptional tenure, Dr. Keller led the museum with unwavering dedication and a commitment to excellence, fostering a thriving cultural hub that resonates with visitors and art enthusiasts alike.

Dr. Seán O'Harrow is honored to follow in the footsteps of such an esteemed leader and looks forward to building upon the strong foundation laid by Dr. Keller. "I am deeply humbled to join Bowers Museum, an institution with a rich history of inspiring and engaging the community through art and culture," said Seán O'Harrow. "I am eager to work collaboratively with the talented staff and dedicated board to further elevate the museum's impact and embrace our diverse audiences. Dr. Keller has helped create such a marvelous and relevant institution, and I am incredibly honored to be appointed his successor."

Bowers Museum's board and staff are eager to embark on this new chapter with Dr. O'Harrow, celebrating the museum's heritage while fostering innovative initiatives that will propel Bowers Museum into an even brighter future.

About Bowers Museum:

Located in the historic heart of Orange County, Bowers Museum's 8 permanent collection exhibitions showcase art and artifacts from cultures around the world with a particular focus on the art and culture of Asia and the Pacific. As the largest and one of the oldest museums in Orange County, Bowers has been voted 'Best Museum' in Orange County for the past 29 years. Partnering with world-class institutions, Bowers Museum's featured exhibitions include blockbusters such as *Terracotta Warriors*; *Mummies: Death and the Afterlife in Ancient Egypt...Treasures from the British Museum*; *Lucy's Legacy: The Hidden Treasure Of Ethiopia*; *Holy Land: Dead Sea Scrolls, House of David Inscription*; and *Guo Pei: Art of Couture*. Learn more at bowers.org.



Dr. Seán O'Harrow visits Bowers Museum's summer exhibition, *Ubuhle Women: Beadwork and the Art of Independence*.

About Dr. Seán O'Harrow

Born in Paris and raised in Honolulu, Dr. Seán O'Harrow is the new President & CEO of the Bowers Museum. Until recently, he was the Executive Director of Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art. An expert in British and American art and architecture, he previously served as the leader of the Honolulu Museum of Art, the University of Iowa Museum of Art, and the Figue Art Museum in Davenport, Iowa, as well as serving on the board of the Iowa Arts Council. Prior to his career as a museum director, O'Harrow was an Official Fellow at Cambridge University and worked in investment finance and technology in London. He holds a PhD from Cambridge University and a BA from Harvard University, both in Art History.

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