

**From:** "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>  
**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"  
**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"  
**Date:** 6/24/2020 11:19:58 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Vancouver Art Gallery Announcement  
**Attachments:** Vancouver Art Gallery Announces New CEOJune242020.pdf

Mayor and Council

Please find attached the VAG announcement of their new CEO.

Best  
Sadhu

**Sadhu Aufochs Johnston** | City Manager  
Office of the City Manager | City of Vancouver  
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Pronouns: he, him, his



*The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.*

**From:** Trish Hunt [mailto:[thunt@vanartgallery.bc.ca](mailto:thunt@vanartgallery.bc.ca)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 24, 2020 10:53 AM  
**To:** Monckton, Neil; Johnston, Sadhu; Mochrie, Paul; Singh, Sandra; Henselmann, Branislav  
**Subject:** Vancouver Art Gallery Announcement

SENT ON BEHALF OF DAINA AUGAITIS, INTERIM DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Vancouver Art Gallery, I am pleased to share the press release announcing the Gallery's new CEO and Director.

**ART  
MAKES  
US**

Trish Hunt, Executive Assistant to the Director  
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The Vancouver Art Gallery sits within the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwx̱ḻu817\_wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.



## **ANTHONY KIENDL NAMED CEO and DIRECTOR OF THE VANCOUVER ART GALLERY**

**Anthony Kiendl assumes leadership of Vancouver Art Gallery following  
successful tenures at several Canadian visual art institutions**

(June 24, 2020), Vancouver, BC –The Vancouver Art Gallery’s Board of Trustees is excited to announce the appointment of Anthony Kiendl as its new CEO and Director. Kiendl brings to the position a depth and breadth of knowledge gained over 25 years of experience in the arts at a provincial, national and international level. As an accomplished arts administrator, award-winning curator, writer, educator and community builder, Kiendl is a proven leader at inspiring transformative change, diversifying audiences, building collections, broadening institutional relevance and fundraising. Kiendl will begin his tenure at the Gallery in mid-August 2020.

*“After an extensive international search, the Board is unanimous in its support of Anthony Kiendl as the new CEO and Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery,”* said David Calabrigo, Chair of the Board of Trustees. *“Anthony’s ability to work collaboratively, to be an agent of change and to build organizations strategically will ensure the Gallery’s continued success in its mission to connect, inspire and empower British Columbians and visitors from across Canada and around the world through art. I know how focused he is on continuing and building the Gallery’s commitment to Indigenous art and artists, profiling the activities of the Institute of Asian Art, and furthering its local, national and international reputation.”*

Kiendl will begin his tenure at the Vancouver Art Gallery at a critical time. Throughout the pandemic, art has proven to be an important force in sustaining citizens and communities. The Vancouver Art Gallery, as a visual art museum, is a powerful contributor to both the local business and tourism sectors and will help rebuild the BC economy. Now that the Gallery has re-opened its doors on June 15, after a three-month closure, Kiendl will be focusing on re-establishing attendance and developing innovative ways to welcome all visitors.

*“I have long admired the achievements of the Vancouver Art Gallery and its outstanding program and crucial role in exhibiting Indigenous and local artists. I am excited to work with the strong management team, staff, Board, volunteers and community stakeholders to address all the opportunities that lie ahead”* said Kiendl. *“I am particularly excited about plans for an incredible new gallery and working with government and community stakeholders to move this shovel-ready project forward. Our new gallery will be an accessible, cultural hub where ideas are shared by everyone, but it will also demonstrate the importance that our institution can have in helping to support economic growth.”*

*“There was a world-wide response to the Gallery’s leadership position, and we wanted to be sure to consider a broad pool of candidates,”* said Dana Claxton, Search Committee member. *“Anthony stood out because of his impressive expertise in the organizational development of several Canadian institutions. In addition, his international work with the Tate Modern and the Museum Leadership Institute demonstrates an engagement with global discourses. He has the ability to make an institution relevant in a particular place at a particular time and is especially cognizant of an art museum’s relationship to power, relevance and diversity.”*

Kiendl is taking over from Daina Augaitis, who has served as Interim Director since May 2019. *“The Board of Trustees expresses its heart-felt thanks to Daina Augaitis for her unparalleled leadership over the past year. Daina has done an exceptional job of guiding the Gallery through a year of transition and managed the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic with grace and fortitude. We are truly grateful for her dedication to the Gallery and wish her the very best in her future endeavours,”* shared David Calabrigo, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Kiendl’s appointment follows a year-long international search conducted by Odgers Berndtson with the Gallery’s search committee: David Calabrigo – Gallery Chair, Hank Bull – artist and Gallery Trustee, Jane Irwin – Collector and Gallery Trustee, Dana Claxton – artist and Department Head, Art History, Visual Art & Theory, University of British Columbia, and Daina Augaitis – Interim Director, Vancouver Art Gallery.

## MEDIA CONTACT

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## Biography of Anthony Kiendl

Born on Long Island, New York, Kiendl grew up in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Over several decades, he has held numerous leadership roles in Western Canada. Most recently, Kiendl was the Executive Director and CEO of the Mackenzie Art Gallery in Regina, Saskatchewan where he has been responsible for all aspects of strategic planning, administration and the curatorial program for the 115,000 square foot facility and sculpture garden. He has led major organizational transformation including securing a \$25 million donation and creating an endowment; renovating the facility for new program space, welcome area and café; expanding and diversifying staff. In the past six years, under his leadership, revenue in all funds has over doubled, in the past three years attendance increased by almost 40%; membership tripled; and earned revenue grew by 247%.

Prior to that, Kiendl was Executive Director/Artistic Director at Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art in Winnipeg. At Plug In, he led an organizational transformation including the construction of a purpose-built facility as a joint venture with the University of Winnipeg and stewarded a \$4 million capital and endowment campaign.

His numerous leadership roles also include serving as Curator and later, Acting Director, at Dunlop Art Gallery in Regina, then followed by his role as Director of Visual Arts at the Banff Centre where he led the Visual Arts residency program, the Walter Phillips Gallery and the Banff International Curatorial Institute.

Over his career, Kiendl has curated over fifty projects including commissions, exhibitions, publications and residencies working with artists such as Lida Abdul, Cory Arcangel, Dara Birnbaum, Lori Blondeau and Adrian Stimson, Eleanor Bond, AA Bronson/General Idea, Dana Claxton, Shezad Dawood, Dan Graham, Rodney Graham, Terrance Houle, Jacqueline Hoàng Nguyễn, Lani Maestro, William Pope.L, Paul Wong and many others. Kiendl has been recognized for his curatorial work with the Hnatyshyn Foundation Visual Arts Award for Curatorial Excellence in Contemporary Art and a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Grant for his *Informal Architecture* project. He was also the Curator for *Contour: The Fifth Biennale of the Moving Image* in Mechelen, Belgium in 2011.

Kiendl studied at the School of the Visual Arts in New York, Concordia University in Montreal and the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. He has actively participated in the Museum Leadership program at the Museum Leadership Institute (formerly the Getty Leadership Institute) where he is currently a mentor; Leverhulme Visiting Research Fellow, Schools of Arts, Middlesex University, London; and has taught at the Universities of Manitoba and Regina. He is currently working on his MA in French and Francophone Intercultural Studies at the University of Regina.

Kiendl has been a member of the Canadian Art Museum Directors Organization since 2002 and is currently its President. Recently he testified at the House of Commons Finance Committee on the impacts of COVID-19 on the Museum and Gallery sectors. Throughout his career, he has participated on numerous advisory and adjudication panels.

## About Vancouver Art Gallery

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most respected and innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's ground-breaking exhibitions, extensive public programs and emphasis on advancing scholarship all focus on historical and contemporary art from British Columbia and around the world. Special attention is given to the accomplishments of Indigenous artists, as well as to those of the Asia Pacific region—through the Institute of Asian Art founded in 2014. The Gallery's exhibitions also explore the impact of images in the larger sphere of visual culture, design and architecture.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is a charitable not-for-profit organization supported by its members, individual donors, corporate funders, foundations, the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is situated on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy<sup>ə</sup>m (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and is respectful of the Indigenous stewards of the land it occupies, whose rich cultures are fundamental to artistic life in Vancouver and to the work of the Gallery.

[vanartgallery.bc.ca](http://vanartgallery.bc.ca)

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