

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

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NEWS

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ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART NAMES KRISTEN OEHLRICH, MBA, PH.D., AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thirteenth Executive Director in the Institute's 231 Year History



ALBANY, N.Y. – The **Albany Institute of History & Art** is pleased to announce that Kristen Oehlich, MBA, Ph.D. has been named by the museum's Board of Trustees as its new Executive Director. The Buffalo, New York native was most recently the Founder and President of Triumph of Flora, Strategic Art Advising in New York City. Her appointment comes at a pivotal time in the Institute's history, as it confidently emerges from the pandemic with dynamic exhibitions, engaging programs, and collaborative initiatives.

Prior to her role at Triumph of Flora, Strategic Art Advising, Dr. Oehlich served as Interim Assistant Director in the Research & Academic Program at The Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts. Before that, she was a Post-Doctoral Teaching and Research Fellow in the Graduate Art History Program at Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts. She has over a decade of experience in leadership roles in non-profit institutions. Oehlich holds a Ph.D. in the History of Art and Architecture and an executive MBA, both from Brown University. Additionally, she holds a Masters of Art History and Criticism from Stony Brook University and a Bachelor of Arts, Art History, from the State University of New York College at Fredonia.

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Dr. Oehlich will replace Tammi Groft, who has served as Executive Director since 2013, ending a most remarkable 45-year career with the Institute which began in 1976 as an Intern.

“The Board is delighted to have Dr. Oehlich lead the Albany Institute of History & Art,” said Michael Tucker, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees and President of Tucker Strategies. “We are grateful to our search committee for their ability to attract remarkable candidates for this position. In the end, we all felt compelled by Dr. Oehlich’s exceptional energy and leadership skills, which will enable her to be a strong and effective Executive Director. We could not be happier about this appointment.”

“The Institute was interested in a leader who had both entrepreneurial and academic experience combined with a deep appreciation for art, history, and the culture of the Upper Hudson Valley. We also wanted a leader with a proven record of engaging diverse audiences, and the ability to embrace and advance the important work of our mission. Our thirteen-member search committee believed unanimously that Dr. Oehlich fits that profile perfectly,” stated John G. Walsh III, Trustee and Chair of the Search Committee.

“I am humbled to take a leadership role with an organization that has such a rich history and bright future,” said Oehlich. “The Institute’s mission to connect diverse audiences to the art and culture of our region dovetails with my own commitment to develop programming and exhibitions that educate, inspire, and entertain. I look forward to building on the solid foundation developed by Tammi Groft and extending the Institute’s legacy while strengthening connections within the Institute and with the public. I also look forward to working with the talented staff and Board of Trustees to deepen the Institute’s impact on the region and around the world.”

George R. Hearst III, Chairman Emeritus added, “The Albany Institute of History & Art is truly a special place. Our exhibitions tell a rich story, inspire new ways of thinking, and stimulate creativity for the visitors that join us in-person and from around the world with our online collections. Dr. Oehlich will be an excellent steward and we enthusiastically welcome her to the Institute family.”

Dr. Oehlich formally begins on June 1st of this year.

About the Albany Institute of History & Art

Founded in 1791, the Albany Institute of History & Art is New York’s oldest museum. Its collections document the Hudson Valley as a crossroads of culture, influencing the art and history of the region, the state, and the nation. With more than 35,000 objects and one million documents in the library, it is an

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important resource for the region, giving our community a sense of the role the Hudson Valley played in the American story, and our own place in history. Permanent and temporary exhibitions are open year-round and create a sense of place, allowing visitors to meet the people who helped shape this region. Among the museum's best-known collections are the 19th century Hudson River School landscape paintings by artists like Thomas Cole and Frederic Church. For more information, please visit www.albanyinstitute.org

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The Albany Institute of History & Art is located at 125 Washington Avenue in Albany, New York. Free parking is available in the museum's lot at the corner of Elk and Dove Streets.

The exhibition galleries and Museum Shop are open Wednesday through Saturday 10am-5pm and Sunday 12-5pm.

The Research Library is open by appointment only. Please contact chief curator Doug McCombs at mccombsd@albanyinstitute.org or call (518) 463-4478 ext. 428 for more information.

Advance tickets are available and may be purchased through a link on the Visit page of the museum's website: www.albanyinstitute.org/visit. There is also a list of FAQs for the museum's current policies and procedures available on that page.

Current admission rates are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students with ID, \$6 for children aged 6-12, and free for children under 6. Albany Institute members are admitted for free. The museum offers free and discounted admission opportunities (which are outlined in the **Admission Fees** section of the website), including free admission for SNAP EBT and WIC cardholders (up to four people per card) through the Museums for All Program. There is no admission charge to visit the Museum Shop.

For more information, visit www.albanyinstitute.org or call (518) 463-4478.

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