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Statement by the Board of Trustees of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Hartford, Conn. (April 2, 2021)—Tom Loughman, having recently completed his fifth year as Director and CEO of the Wadsworth Atheneum, has decided to step down from his role to further his longstanding commitment to fostering partnerships between arts organizations in this country and abroad. During his tenure, Loughman strengthened the museum’s exhibitions program, expanded access to new audiences, and enhanced the collection through significant acquisitions. The Board has asked Jeffrey N. Brown, Vice President of the Board of Trustees, to serve as Interim CEO as a comprehensive national search is launched for the next director of the nation’s oldest continuously-operating public art museum. He will take on that responsibility immediately.

The staff and Board of the Wadsworth Atheneum are currently finalizing the organization’s next Strategic Plan and are developing a Diversity, Equity, Accessibility & Inclusion plan. These processes will inform the search for the next director. It is, therefore, an opportune juncture to initiate the search process.

“Increasingly and through my role as co-chair of the United States National Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM-US), I’ve seen the urgent need to foster international partnerships, and I feel called to that important work which has defined my career. As the museum addresses the future, equipped with the new Strategic Plan now emerging, I wish my colleagues on staff and the Board the best of luck. I know there will be only great things ahead, as we each move in new directions,” said Tom Loughman.

“We thank Tom for his contributions to advancing the Wadsworth Atheneum’s programs and initiatives during his time with us. And we are excited by what comes next for the Wadsworth Atheneum,” said Board President William Peelle.

The Board looks ahead with great anticipation to affirming, enhancing and invigorating the Wadsworth Atheneum’s involvement in and commitment to our local community. And we underscore our obligation to broaden perspectives and enrich the lives of many through meaningful experiences with art and engaging educational programs that feature our notable collections, which would not be possible without our dedicated staff and volunteers who play an indispensable role in achieving our objectives.

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