

# The Bullock Museum names new director

Visionary Interim Director Margaret Koch chosen to lead Museum

**AUGUST 9, 2018 (AUSTIN, TX)** — After a months-long national search, the State Preservation Board officially appointed Margaret Koch as the new director of the Bullock Texas State History Museum, effective August 1. Koch, who most recently served as the Museum's Interim Director, brings to the role more than 25 years of leadership, strategic planning, designing, and implementation of interpretive exhibitions and educational programming for history museums around the country.

Since joining the Bullock Museum in 2013, Koch has served as Director of Exhibits, Deputy Director, and Interim Director. With her leadership and supervision, the Museum has produced numerous award-winning exhibitions and programs with a focus on inclusivity, interactivity and technological innovation.

"Margaret is an experienced and trusted leader who will keep the Bullock at the forefront of best contemporary museum practices as the institution continues to produce new and exciting programs," said State Preservation Board Executive Director Rod Welsh.

As Director of Exhibits, Koch created the Museum's five-year plan and implemented long-range exhibition planning that increased membership, revenue and annual visitor attendance by growing the number of yearly exhibitions and expanding gallery spaces and interpretation. Through her vision and mentorship of staff to create the most meaningful, accurate, and relevant visitor experience, she established the Bullock Museum among the top five highest-attended state-run history institutions in the nation.

While serving as Deputy Director and Interim Director, Koch oversaw several improvements and renovations of Museum spaces and technologies, including redesign of the Museum's café and conversion of the IMAX® projection system to advanced laser format. She is currently leading the multi-million dollar renovation of the first floor gallery and creation of the groundbreaking *Becoming Texas* exhibition opening this fall.

As Museum Director, Koch will continue to work closely with the Texas State History Museum Foundation in raising funds to support the



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Museum's mission, as well as foster relationships with the community and other organizations to ensure the Museum continues to tell the most inclusive, accurate, and relevant stories through its exhibitions.

Prior to her roles at the Bullock Museum, Koch served as Director of Exhibitions and Research and Exhibition Designer at the Missouri History Museum. She successfully led her team to develop nationally recognized exhibitions and community-relevant projects. Additionally, she served as lead designer on the award-winning exhibitions *Seeking St. Louis: Currents, Lindbergh*, and *Katherine Dunham: Beyond the Dance*. Koch holds a Bachelor of Arts in History at Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and a Master of Fine Arts in Museum Exhibition Planning and Design from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

For more information about the Bullock Museum, visit [TheStoryofTexas.com](http://TheStoryofTexas.com) or call (512)936-8746.

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#### **ABOUT THE BULLOCK MUSEUM**

The Bullock Texas State History Museum includes three floors of exhibitions, IMAX® and special-effects theaters, a café and museum store. The Museum collaborates with more than 700 museums, libraries, archives and individuals to display original historical artifacts and host exhibitions that illuminate and celebrate Texas history and culture.

#### **ABOUT THE STATE PRESERVATION BOARD**

Established by the 68th Legislature in 1983, the State Preservation Board preserves and maintains the Texas Capitol, the Capitol Extension, the Texas Governor's Mansion, the 1857 General Land Office Building, the Texas State Cemetery, and operates the Bullock Texas State History Museum for the benefit of the citizens of Texas.

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