



PRESS RELEASE

Napa Valley Museum Announces New Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NAPA VALLEY, CA – Napa Valley Museum's Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Phil Kohlmetz as Executive Director. Napa Valley Museum's President Raymond Schmitter states, "We look forward to Phil's leadership to guide the Museum into the next phase of its life as a cultural anchor of the Napa Valley."

Kohlmetz brings with him over 20 years of professional experience in the non-profit, public-benefit sector. Working with a variety of arts organizations, Phil has been a successful fundraiser, team builder, and involved community member. "The growing reputation of the Museum is no secret," said Kohlmetz. "I'm looking forward to building on the solid foundation laid by staff, trustees, and supporters. We have an incredible opportunity to share the art and history of the Valley with visitors, and to engage residents in an ongoing dialogue about our culture, environment, and sustainability. The strength of the exhibitions, public programs and educational outreach justifies expansion, and I hope I can help bring the Museum the resources and recognition it deserves."

Kohlmetz has been the Executive Director of the Bay Area Electric Railroad Association and its Western Railway Museum since 2003. In that time, he has raised over \$3 million for artifact preservation, public interpretation, and museum operations; completed an Organizational Assessment with the American Alliance of Museums; and doubled the Museum's annual operating budget and public programming. He serves on the Board of Directors of the California Association of Museums and is currently the Chair of its Snoopy License Plate Committee. Previously, Phil served as CAM's President, and chaired both its Nominating and Legislative Committees. From 2000-2003, he was the Development Director for the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, raising nearly \$1 million annually for "Free Shakespeare in the Park" and three different educational outreach programs. Before moving to California, Phil was awarded the Arts Management Excellence Award from the Arts and Business Council of Chicago for his work in the non-profit theater community.





Kohlmetz, who succeeds former Executive Director Kristie Sheppard, will officially assume his role on December 1, 2015. "I am honored to have my mentor and an icon in California's museum field take my place at the Museum," expresses Sheppard. "Phil is a talented and experienced leader. The Museum is lucky to have him."

Phil can be reached at phil@napavalleymuseum.org for interviews.

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About the Museum

Situated mid-valley in the historic town of Yountville, between St. Helena and Napa, the Museum provides unique experiences that enrich the cultural fabric of our community through exhibitions and educational programs. At Napa Valley Museum, explore the connections between our Valley's environment, culture, history and creative expression.

Visitor Information

Admission: Admission is \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for seniors and \$2.50 for youth. Free for Members, Yountville Veteran's Home residents, and active military.

Museum Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11am to 4pm. Closed Mondays, Tuesdays, and all major holidays. The Second Saturday of every month is Free Family Fun Day.

For general information please call 707.944.0500

Website: www.NapaValleyMuseum.org

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Napa-Valley-Museum/221016084575140>

Twitter: @napamuseum

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Press Images

Press images are available upon request by contacting Meagan Doud (Meagan@napavalleymuseum.org).

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