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JUDITH O'TOOLE NAMED MATTRESS FACTORY ACTING DIRECTOR

Arts Executive Mary Navarro to Serve as Special Advisor to the Museum

PITTSBURGH, PA (October 10, 2018) – The Mattress Factory Board of Directors is announcing that Judith Hansen O'Toole, Director Emerita of The Westmoreland Museum of American Art, will serve as Acting Director of the museum. In addition, Mary Navarro, an experienced arts manager and consultant, will work as special advisor to the Mattress Factory, reporting directly to Ms. O'Toole.

“Judy and Mary have spectacular experience and reputations in the arts community far and wide. We are delighted they have agreed to work with us at this important time,” said Mattress Factory Board Chairman Michael White.

“Judy transformed The Westmoreland into a nationally recognized institution, and we know she will be a great asset to the Mattress Factory in the time she is here,” said White. “Mary has served in several interim leadership positions, most recently as interim manager for Associated Artists of Pittsburgh. She worked with Judy as an independent consultant to The Westmoreland during the planning stage for the museum’s expansion. They’re a tremendous team and we look forward to working with them.”

O'Toole and Navarro will begin their temporary assignments at the museum immediately.

“I have long considered the Mattress Factory to be a vital part of the Pittsburgh cultural scene and a unique, artist-oriented institution on the international stage,” said O'Toole. “I believe in the ability of the arts to change people’s lives. I’ve witnessed the Mattress Factory do just that for more than 40 years. It’s an exceptional asset, and I’m eager to help further the museum’s mission.”

“This is an important project and I’m thrilled to assist the Mattress Factory,” said Navarro. “Judy and I have worked together as colleagues, working on a range of grants and projects for The Westmoreland Museum. We each bring different strengths to this project, and we work very well together.”

Executive Director Michael Olijnyk was placed on a temporary paid leave on September 28 in response to NLRB charges filed against the museum by current and former employees. The NLRB is reviewing how museum management interacted with the employees, who complained about the way their allegations of sexual harassment were handled. The Mattress Factory Board is also investigating the complaints of retaliation by management and will cooperate with the NLRB investigation.

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