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News Release

NORTH CAROLINA
MUSEUM OF HISTORY

A Smithsonian Affiliate

MEDIA ALERT**North Carolina Museum of History Announces Its New Deputy Director and Associate Director of Exhibitions**

Maria Vann and Dan Spock join the North Carolina Museum of History team.



WHAT: The North Carolina Museum of History welcomes its new Deputy Director and Associate Director of Exhibitions.

WHEN: August 2021

WHERE: North Carolina Museum of History
5 East Edenton Street, Raleigh, NC 27601

DETAILS: Maria Vann is the new Deputy Director of the NC Museum of History. She was the former Executive Director of the East Hampton Historical Society in New York and its five museums, including national historic landmarks. Maria holds an MA in Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program and a BS in History from the State University of New York, where she also taught as an adjunct history professor. She spent time as Director of the Maritime Museum at Battleship Cove and Director of the Iroquois Indian Museum. Maria has published several academic articles and lectured at conferences including AASLH, the International Congress of Maritime History in Belgium, and the Hakluyt Society in the Netherlands.



Dan Spock joined the North Carolina Museum of History as the newly created Associate Director of Exhibitions. Dan spent 20 years as the Director of Exhibitions for the well-respected Minnesota Historical Society. There, he led the creation of numerous exhibitions for the museums and the 26 historic sites. Dan oversaw the creation of all the exhibits for the new Mill Museum that the Society opened. Dan also worked at the Children's Museum of Boston and on the project creation team for the Imagination Museum. Most recently Dan was Senior Vice President for Audience Engagement at the Levine Museum of the New South. Dan is well known in the museum industry and has done consulting for other museums on exhibit creation and design. Dan has a BA degree in Fine/Studio Art from Antioch College.



“The North Carolina Museum of History is proud to welcome our newest leaders, who both have extensive museum leadership and enthusiastic colleague respect,” says Ken Howard, Director of the museum. “The museum is looking forward to continued statewide and national impact under the guidance of the new Deputy Director, Maria Vann, and Associate Director of Exhibitions, Dan Spock. The North Carolina Museum of History has experienced a robust year with weekly virtual programs reaching hundreds of thousands of people around North Carolina and the world. Exhibits and festivals have continued to engage the community and state, with virtual and in-museum opportunities, even during the pandemic. With Maria and Dan’s combined expertise, we look forward to seeing how the museum’s future endeavors, strategic plans, and service to the citizens of North Carolina will continue to grow under their guidance.”

For images of Maria Vann, Dan Spock, and the museum’s logo, follow this [Dropbox link](#).

For information about the NC Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate museum, call 919-814-7000 or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [YouTube](#).

About the NC Museum of History

The North Carolina Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate, fosters a passion for North Carolina history. This museum collects and preserves artifacts of state history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. **Admission is free.** Pre-COVID 2019, more than 465,000 people visited the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

About the Smithsonian Affiliations Network

Since 2006, the North Carolina Museum of History has been a Smithsonian Affiliate, part of a select group of museums and cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share Smithsonian resources with the nation. The Smithsonian Affiliations network is a national outreach program that develops long-term

collaborative partnerships with museums and other educational and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. More information is available at affiliations.si.edu.

About the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational, and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries, and natural assets in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums, and Jennette's Pier, as well as 39 state parks and recreation areas, the North Carolina Zoo, the nation's first state-supported symphonic orchestra, the State Library of North Carolina, the State Archives of North Carolina, the North Carolina Arts Council, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, and the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, along with the state Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, call 919-814-6800 or visit DNCR.nc.gov.

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