

HISTORY MUSEUM NAMES ADRIA FOCHT NEW PRESIDENT & CEO

CHARLOTTE, N.C., Nov. 6, 2017 – The Charlotte Museum of History has named Adria Focht as its new president & CEO, effective Nov. 27. Focht comes to the museum from the Kings Mountain Historical Museum, where she was director & curator.

“Adria brings passion, energy and extensive experience with museum operations to The Charlotte Museum of History,” said Mary Newsom, chair of the board of trustees for The Charlotte Museum of History. “She also has strong connections to Charlotte and to the region’s history organizations, as well as deep knowledge of North Carolina history. We know she is the right person to lead the museum into the future. She’ll help us keep on sharing this community’s past as a way to inspire conversation about today’s events and issues.”

During her tenure at the Kings Mountain Historical Museum, Focht nearly doubled annual visitation to the site, engaged new and diverse audiences and enhanced visitor experiences, all while dramatically increasing the museum’s annual income through new programs.

Prior to her position at Kings Mountain, Focht held history management positions with the National Park Service, including at the Museum Resource Center in Maryland and at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic Site in Atlanta, where she managed the museum’s collections and archives at facilities that received more than 700,000 visitors a year. She also has held positions with the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, where she worked at the *Queen Anne’s Revenge* Conservation Laboratory in Greenville, N.C., and at the East Carolina University Field School in Historical Archaeology, where she supervised and instructed students conducting historic site excavation.

“I am extremely excited by this opportunity to serve the community as president and CEO of The Charlotte Museum of History,” Focht said. “I am encouraged by the support of the museum’s fantastic board members, staff and regional partners. As a Charlotte



area resident and long-time patron of the museum, I have developed a love for the region's history and for this organization that strengthens my dedication to championing the museum's next chapter of growth."

Focht is an undergraduate alumna of UNC-Charlotte, with a master's degree in historical archaeology from East Carolina University.

The museum's board of trustees chose Focht as the museum's new president and CEO after a nationwide executive search, with help from Next Stage Consulting LLC, a strategy and implementation firm for nonprofits. The search sourced candidates from throughout the country, with a focus on experience, skillset and enthusiasm for The Charlotte Museum of History's mission.

About The Charlotte Museum of History

The Charlotte Museum of History engages a broad audience in the history of the Charlotte region through the stories of its people, places and events to promote dialogue and historical perspective. The museum is the steward of the Hezekiah Alexander House (ca. 1774) and home site, a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the oldest home in Mecklenburg County. To learn more, visit charlottemuseum.org and follow the museum on Facebook and Twitter (@CLThistory).

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