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Images available upon request

Newfields Appoints Belinda Tate as The Melvin & Bren Simon Director of the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields



INDIANAPOLIS, September 20, 2023—Newfields, a 152-acre anchor cultural institution in Indianapolis, appointed Belinda Tate as the new Melvin & Bren Simon Director of the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA) at Newfields. The IMA is one of the 10 largest and oldest encyclopedic art museums in the United States. The new director will officially begin on November 6, 2023.

Originally from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Tate is a proven strategic arts and community leader with a history of innovating and changemaking. She has built an extraordinary career as a museum director, educator and has also held leadership positions in the financial sector.

Today, Tate is Executive Director at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts (KIA) in Kalamazoo, Michigan, a leading arts organization in Michigan. She has held the role since 2014 and has overseen all aspects of the museum and the Kirk Newman Art School, transforming it into a community-based organization with national recognition. She formerly served as the Director of Diggs Gallery at Winston-Salem State University from 1999 to 2014.

Her work has been recognized in the International Review of African American Art and with over 100 exhibitions reviews and articles

appearing in myriad publications. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the American Federation of Arts and as a trustee of Phillips Exeter Academy. She has also served on the American Alliance of Museum's Task Force on Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion in Museum Excellence and as an at-large Commissioner of African American Heritage for the State of North Carolina, as well as a past Board Member of Association of Art Museum Directors. She received her undergraduate degree in Art History and Museum Studies from Yale University and her MA in Liberal Studies from Wake Forest University.

Tate, who has curated more than 50 exhibitions, is well-positioned to leverage the IMA's 140-year institutional history, impressive collection and exhibitions, strong financial position, engaging educational and community programs, and beloved constituents. In 2021, Tate and KIA received the Epic Award from the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo.

"I am humbled by the opportunity to work alongside President and CEO Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette and the incomparable team at Newfields. The Indianapolis Museum of Art is an evolving institution with a stellar collection and inspiration to all who visit. I look forward to joining a team dedicated to serving the community through exceptional exhibitions and programs as one of the nation's leading cultural destinations," said Belinda Tate.

"We all have high expectations of our incoming Director to lead the next generation of the IMA at Newfields. Belinda is strongly positioned to deliver for Newfields, bringing our full potential to fruition. She is committed and aligned to our values of stewardship, inclusivity, excellence, and service and is also a trailblazer in diversity, equality, inclusion, and

access. I look forward to working closely with her to ensure that Newfields becomes a must-see destination for everyone who visits Indianapolis and that it remains an anchor cultural institution, open and accessible to all," said Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette, President and CEO of Newfields.

Tate's hiring resulted from a national search that considered more than 200 skilled applicants. The hiring process was shaped by input from every staffing level and every department at Newfields.

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About Newfields:

Newfields offers dynamic experiences with art and nature for guests of all ages. The 152-acre cultural campus features art galleries, lush gardens, a historic home, performance spaces, a nature preserve and sculpture park. From inspiring exhibitions in the IMA Galleries, to concerts in The Toby, to a stroll through The Garden with a glass of something cold, guests are invited to interact with art and nature in exciting new ways. Newfields is home to the Indianapolis Museum of Art, among the ten largest and ten oldest general art museums in the nation; the Lilly House, a National Historic Landmark; The Garden, featuring 40 acres of contemporary and historic gardens, a working greenhouse and an orchard; and The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, one of the largest art and nature parks in the country. The Newfields campus extends outside of Indianapolis with Miller House and Garden in Columbus, Ind.—one of the nation's most highly regarded examples of mid-century Modernist architecture. For more information, visit [DiscoverNewfields.org](https://www.discovernewfields.org).

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