

November 15, 2018

## The Royal BC Museum welcomes a new member to its executive team

**VICTORIA, BC**—The Royal BC Museum welcomes a celebrated museum professional to oversee its extensive work in research and collections, as Joanne Orr joins the museum as the Vice President of Collections, Research and International Programs, and Deputy CEO. She joined the team on November 13.

Orr brings more than 30 years of experience working in and with museums, both in the UK and internationally. For the past 13 years she worked in a strategic position leading on a national strategy for museums in Scotland; on the forefront of museum best practices, Orr has extensive experience in museum development programs, including curatorial, research and exhibition touring.

The Vice President of Collections, Research and International Programs **oversees research, learning, exhibitions and the museum’s collections** of art, natural history and human history, including Indigenous artifacts and treasures. The role involves strong academic and programmatic excellence and extensive collaboration with a range of partners.

“It is the strength of the collections at the Royal BC Museum that has attracted me to this position, in particular the Indigenous collections and the repatriation **program,”** said Orr. “I chaired the **academic working group** (for the Museums Galleries in Scotland) that developed the *Guidelines for the Care of Human Remains and Sacred Objects* and have championed good practice in this area. I am passionate about Indigenous partnership and **repatriation.**”

Before joining the Royal BC Museum, Orr’s **extensive** experience included positions of CEO of Museums Galleries Scotland, Edinburgh; Assistant Director of Cultural Services, Collections and Strategy for the Durham County Council; Museum and Arts Director at Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery for Carlisle City Council and Director of Dunaskin Open Air Museum in Scotland. The Founding Chair of UNESCO Scotland, she also served as a Director on UK National Commission for UNESCO and as a Director for the Board of ICOM UK.

Orr completed her MBA at Durham University, and holds an MA in Museum Studies from Leicester University, a post graduate diploma in Industrial Architecture from Birmingham University and a BA in Historical Studies from Manchester Metropolitan University.

“**We are thrilled** to have Joanne join our world-class team,” said Prof. Jack Lohman, CEO of the Royal BC Museum. “Her extensive museum management experience, combined with her attention to excellence in research and



international partnership, will help us to further our vision and support our place as **one of Canada's great museums.**"

The entire team is dedicated to learning about and sharing the living landscapes and cultures of British Columbia through the museum and **archives'** research, collections, exhibitions, public programming and community engagement.

### **About the Royal BC Museum**

**The Royal BC Museum explores the province's human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of BC, and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and histories, telling the stories of BC in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Located in Victoria on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations), we are a hub of community connections in BC—onsite, offsite and online—taking pride in our collective histories.**

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