

**Press Release**

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**San Luis Obispo Museum of Art Announces New Chief Curator**

*Names Four New Board Members, Strengthening the Museum for 2021*

**SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif., May 5, 2021**— San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) announces today that Emma Saperstein will join the organization as Chief Curator and Director of K-12 programming, effective May 17<sup>th</sup>. SLOMA's mission is to provide and promote diverse visual arts experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds through exhibition, education, creation and collaboration. The appointment of Saperstein furthers SLOMA supporting this mission.

"Emma has a stellar background with a breadth of experience in art and education," said Leann Standish, executive director of SLOMA. "Her unique skill set will be an asset to SLOMA, and we can't wait to see her many contributions."

"San Luis Obispo county deserves a robust art museum that engages with the local creative economy and local artists while introducing the community to contemporary artists, practices and projects from outside of our area and beyond," states Saperstein. "In collaboration with the existing museum team and our community, I'm excited to be building upon what SLOMA stands for and its presence in the community."

In addition to Saperstein joining, SLOMA is also announcing six new Board Members including:

- **Barbara Bell** brings a variety of experience including working in many school classrooms and booster clubs while raising her son and creating as a designer, a poet, and mixed media artist all her life. After representing local artists and selling home furnishings at her store downtown, she later continued as a designer, and non-profit consultant. Additional non-profit work includes chairing The Encore Campaign of The Foundation for the Performing Arts Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and 40 Prado.
- **Ermina Karim** is an experienced organizational leader with more than 25 years' experience in driving strategic growth, motivating impactful results, and fostering a collaborative culture. She spent 11 years with the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce, including over seven years as CEO, where she was responsible for growing

relevance, member engagement and member retention of the 115-year-old organization.

- **Trudie M. Safreno** is the co-founder of Trust Automation and has been its President and Chief Financial Officer for over 25 years providing Trust Automation with certification for Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB), and currently serves on the board of directors. Trudie serves as immediate past president for the Foundation for the Performing Arts Center SLO, Pacific Quarter Horse Association and the San Luis Obispo County Quarter Horse Association.
- **Lindsey Stephenson** has a 20-year tenure with the City of San Luis Obispo, where she has worked in numerous departments, including Program Analyst for Administration, supporting Economic Development, Natural Resources and Public Art. In Stephenson's current position, since 2014, she is a positive change agent supervising the Parks and Recreation team, including Community Services, Youth Services and Public Art.
- **Philip Williams** is dean of Cal Poly's College of Liberal Arts. Previously, he served as director of the Center for Latin American Studies and Professor of Political Science at the University of Florida. Williams has received a number of prestigious fellowships and grants from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the United States Agency for International Development, to name a few.

"The combination of Emma joining SLOMA coupled with welcoming these dynamic new members to our Board is huge. These additions really bring to light our commitment to new talent that enables us to support the arts within this very special community," concludes Standish.

To set up an interview or for additional information on the museum, please contact Blake Irwin at [blake@amfmediagroup.com](mailto:blake@amfmediagroup.com).

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### **About SLOMA**

The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art is located at 1010 Broad Street, on the west end of Mission Plaza in San Luis Obispo, California. It is a 501(c)(3) public benefit nonprofit arts organization dedicated to providing and promoting diverse visual arts experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds through exhibitions, education, creation and collaboration. Since 1967 this organization has been the beacon for the visual arts in its region. More information can be found at [www.sloma.org](http://www.sloma.org).