

For more information contact Leann Standish at lstandish@sloma.org or 612.940.6792

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Luis Obispo Museum of Art Names 2026–2027 Executive Committee and Welcomes Two New Board Members as Expansion Nears Completion

New leadership brings financial and healthcare expertise to a museum reimagining its role in community life

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. — July 28, 2026 — The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) today announced its Executive Committee and Board of Directors for the 2026–2027 fiscal year, welcoming two new members whose expertise arrives at a defining moment for the institution. With SLOMA’s expanded home on Higuera Street set to open in 2027, the Board’s work has never been more consequential; guiding the Museum through the completion of its capital campaign and into a new era as one of the Central Coast’s most significant cultural destinations.

The Executive Committee for the coming year includes Board Co-Chairs Cheryl Cuming and Ermina Karim, Treasurer Trudie Safreno, Past President Barbara Bell, and Member-at-Large Celeste Hope. Together, they will provide the leadership and strategic oversight to carry SLOMA through a pivotal transition from building a landmark to sustaining it for generations to come.

That focus on sustainability is central to the Museum’s thinking as it welcomes Ryan Caldwell and Ryan Ashlock to its Board of Directors.

Building the expanded SLOMA is only half the work; sustaining it is the other. As the Museum prepares to operate a significantly larger institution, long-term financial stewardship has become one of the central pillars of the expansion strategy ensuring that a bigger building translates into a stronger, more enduring organization. Ryan Caldwell brings exactly that expertise. As Regional Director and Partner at EP Wealth Advisors, he offers deep experience in financial planning, charitable giving, and the long-view stewardship that will help secure SLOMA’s fiscal future. His extensive service to nonprofit and community organizations across San Luis Obispo County makes him a natural partner in this next chapter.

Ryan Ashlock joins the Board as Network President of Adventist Health Central Coast, where he oversees Adventist Health Sierra Vista, Adventist Health Twin Cities, and affiliated outpatient services throughout the region. His leadership arrives as institutions around the world increasingly recognize museums as partners in community health, a growing international dialogue, reflected in World Health Organization research and in the rise of “social prescribing,” that links participation in the arts to real gains in

wellbeing. Ashlock's presence on the Board affirms SLOMA's conviction that access to art is not a luxury but a genuine contributor to a healthier, more connected community.

Serving on the Board of Directors for the 2026–2027 fiscal year are Cheryl Cuming, Ermina Karim, Barbara Bell, Trudie Safreno, Celeste Hope, John Dunn, Lindsey Harn, Dr. Beya Makekau, Mike Quamma, Missy Reitner-Cameron, Amy Wright, Ryan Ashlock, and Ryan Caldwell.

"We are extraordinarily fortunate to welcome Ryan Ashlock and Ryan Caldwell to an already remarkable Board," said Board Co-Chair Ermina Karim. "The vision and courage of this group have helped catapult SLOMA into this new era — and the expertise these two bring, in finance and in community health, is exactly what this moment calls for."

About the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art

The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) is an innovative and accessible museum located on California's Central Coast. The museum presents an outstanding exhibitions program that features artists from California and around the world, as well as an ongoing series of dynamic events that engage visitors of all ages. SLOMA is located in downtown San Luis Obispo on the west end of Mission Plaza, at the heart of the city's cultural corridor. A destination for art lovers, and those just beginning to experience art alike, the museum provides a welcoming space and offers free admission to all. More information can be found at www.sloma.org. For more information contact Leann Standish at 612.940.6792



Ryan Ashlock



Ryan Caldwell