



THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM *News Release*

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For Immediate Release

BOSTON ATHENÆUM TRUSTEES ANNOUNCE SEARCH FOR NEW DIRECTOR

(Boston, MA, August 20, 2013) Deborah Hill Bornheimer, President, Board of Trustees, has announced the formation of a Search Committee to seek a new Stanford Calderwood Director for the Boston Athenæum, replacing Paula D. Matthews, who retired from the position in July 2013. Boston Athenæum Trustee John Wigglesworth Everets, chairman and chief executive officer of the Bank of Maine, will chair the search panel.

“We expect to conduct a national search to fill this key position in the Boston Athenæum’s administration,” said President Bornheimer. “Those of us who love the Athenæum feel it has a unique and special place both in Boston and the nation. We will seek stellar candidates with the skills and talents to give this irreplaceable institution a future as glorious as its illustrious past.”

New Director Search

“In this period of media transformation and digital revolution, we believe the Boston Athenæum and its new director can together play an important role in continuing our finest literary and intellectual traditions and in shaping the nature of libraries and museums for the twenty-first century.”

Founded in 1807 by many of Boston’s leading intellectuals, the Boston Athenæum is one of the nation’s oldest cultural institutions. Historically, it has played a significant role as an institutional innovator in the creation of public libraries, modern library classification systems, book conservation laboratories, and American public art museums. Among its many treasures are one of the world’s leading collections of American Civil War materials and part of George Washington’s library from Mount Vernon, the largest portion in any institution. Past Athenæum members have included such authors and writers as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Louisa May Alcott, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. and Jr., Margaret Fuller, and Amy Lowell; U.S. Presidents John Quincy Adams and John Fitzgerald Kennedy; and U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

Today, the Boston Athenæum comprises a membership and research library with 750,000 volumes (100,000 rare), an art museum and public gallery, and a civic forum presenting readings, talks, lectures, and concerts by leading contemporary authors, politicians, social activists, and artists. It is housed in a celebrated National Historic Landmark building at 10 1/2 Beacon Street, in the heart of historic Boston, Massachusetts.

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