

PRESS RELEASE

THE RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART
MAKES STAFF AND BOARD APPOINTMENTS
AND
ANNOUNCES NEW ADVISORY COUNCIL

left to right: Chris Fussner, Namita Saraf, Jesse Smith, and Tong-Tong Zhu

NEW YORK, NY, May 28, 2020 — **The Rubin Museum of Art** is pleased to announce new board and staff appointments. **Dona Lee Kelly** has been promoted to Director of Development and will lead the Museum's fundraising efforts, and four new members have joined the expanding Board of Trustees: **Chris Fussner**, **Namita Saraf**, **Jesse Smith**, and **Tong-Tong Zhu**. These members will work with the institution on mission, strategy, programs, and financial planning. The Rubin Museum also announces the creation of its inaugural **Advisory Council**, a group of diverse leaders from around the globe who will advise and help strengthen the impact of the Rubin Museum in New York City and abroad.

Dona Lee Kelly previously served as the Rubin Museum's Head of Major Gifts and joined the Rubin in 2019. She brings 20 years of experience in fundraising, and prior to the Rubin Museum she served as Director of Development at the National Academy of Design, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, and Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, and was a Campaign Director for The MacDowell Colony. In her new role as Director of Development, she will collaborate with the rest of the executive team and the Board of Trustees to lead Museum-wide philanthropic efforts.

New members of the Board of Trustees include:

Chris Fussner is the President and Owner of TransTechnology Pte Ltd., with operations in 15 countries throughout Asia and North America. He is on the Board of Directors of the International Republican Institute (IRI) and is the RNC representative to the International Democrat Union (IDU), both organizations tasked with defending democracy worldwide. Fussner is also a longtime advisor to and sole benefactor of the Jesuit mobile clinic program in Nepal, which provides basic healthcare to over 127,000 people per year.

Namita Saraf is the Director of the Saraf Foundation for Himalayan Culture, which supports the preservation, restoration, and documentation of arts and heritage of the Kathmandu Valley. She is one of the founding Directors of the Taragaon Cultural Center and Museum in Kathmandu and is both an art collector and curator, participating in various panel discussions on public art and collecting.

Jesse Smith serves on the Board of Directors at The Prospect Hill Foundation, a private family foundation whose mission is to advance the human experience while ensuring the well-being of the Earth. Smith also serves on the board of the Lineage Project, which supports the well-being and resilience of young people inside of systems by sharing mindfulness practices. Smith is also a Director of Antaeus Enterprises, Inc.

Tong-Tong Zhu is a PhD candidate in the laboratory of Dr. Ana Fernandez-Sesma in the Department of Microbiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Zhu belongs to the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) and has published papers in high-impact journals on important human diseases, currently focusing on Dengue and Zika viruses.

“This is a pivotal time for us at the Rubin and having dedicated leadership is vital to our success,” says **Executive Director Jorrit Britschgi**. “That’s why I couldn’t be more thrilled to welcome Dona Lee Kelly in her new position as Director of Development and to continue to grow our Board of Trustees with individuals who care deeply about the Rubin and its mission. I am confident that they will provide valuable perspectives and support as we work towards our goals and inspire personal transformation through the power of Himalayan art and ideas.”

The Museum is also delighted to announce the formation of our new inaugural **Advisory Council**, comprising distinguished individuals from Himalayan and other communities; scholars in art, contemplative sciences, philosophy, religion, psychology, and other related disciplines; Buddhist practitioners; and artists and creatives. These individuals, selected by Rubin Museum Directors and the Board of Trustees will provide guidance on the development of exhibitions, programs, and digital offerings; amplify the Museum’s visibility and reach; lend their expertise; and work in close collaboration with the Rubin Museum’s Board of Trustees and staff to serve as ambassadors to the Museum.

The Advisory Council includes:

- **Laurie Anderson**, multi-disciplinary artist, writer, and director
- **Deepak Chopra** (MD, FACP), founder of the Chopra Foundation and the co-founder of Jiyo.com and the Chopra Center for Wellbeing
- **Dr. Richie Davidson**, founder of Healthy Minds Innovations, Inc. and professor of psychology and psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin–Madison
- **Dr. John Dunne**, professor of contemplative humanities at the University of Wisconsin–Madison
- **Emi Eu**, Director of STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery, Singapore
- **Andrew Gelfand**, Account Director at Brunswick Arts
- **Nawang Tsering Gurung**, researcher, community activist, and translator
- **Dr. Donald Lopez**, author and professor of Buddhist and Tibetan studies at the University of Michigan

- **Sharon Salzberg**, meditation teacher, co-founder of the Insight Meditation Society
- **Wen Shing-Chou**, assistant professor of East Asian art history at Hunter College (CUNY), specializing in art of China and the Himalayas
- **Ang Tsherin Sherpa**, visual artist and filmmaker

“We are grateful to have such a phenomenal and passionate group of advisors as part of the Rubin Museum,” says Executive Director Jorrit Britschgi. “These individuals represent the diverse thinking and creativity that we value at the Museum and our multidisciplinary approach to Himalayan art and ideas. Their experience, leadership and networks will be an invaluable resource to us, especially as we navigate these uncertain times now and up ahead.”

About the Rubin Museum of Art

The Rubin Museum explores and celebrates the diversity of Himalayan art, ideas, and culture across history and into the present. With its globally renowned collection, the Rubin fosters understanding and appreciation of this extraordinary region by connecting its art and ideas to contemporary issues that are relevant in our visitors’ lives today. Largely inspired by the philosophical traditions of Buddhism and Hinduism, the Rubin offers innovative exhibitions and programs that examine provocative ideas across the arts and sciences. In doing so, the Museum serves as a space for reflection and personal transformation, opening windows to inner worlds so visitors can better navigate outer ones.

www.RubinMuseum.org

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