

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Alexandra Montgomery Stepping Down as Director and CEO of the Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art**

**Vancouver, BC** – Alexandra Montgomery, Director and CEO of the Bill Reid Gallery, is stepping down from the helm of Canada’s only public gallery dedicated to contemporary Indigenous art of the Northwest Coast on June 21, 2018, after leading the organization through four years of extraordinary growth and a transforming renovation.

Montgomery leaves the Gallery to move to Banff, Alberta where her husband Howard Jang was recently appointed to the position of VP, Arts and Leadership at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

“It has been an honour to work with the remarkable Board, staff, Indigenous community and key stakeholders associated with the Bill Reid Gallery to celebrate the legacy of Bill Reid and to showcase the diverse living cultures of the Northwest Coast,” said Montgomery. “I am immensely grateful to the numerous Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders for sharing their knowledge, expertise and resources, which made it possible for me to build on the already significant achievements of the Gallery.”

Under Alexandra’s stewardship, the Bill Reid Gallery has become an increasingly valued community resource with diverse programming, meaningful community partnerships & engagement and educational opportunities that foster a deeper understanding of Indigenous cultures and values - with a mission to bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples together.

“Alexandra has been an outstanding Director and CEO. She has worked tirelessly and collaboratively to engage the community and build the team necessary to provide Indigenous artists, curators, thought leaders and experts in the industry with the opportunity to share their stories through the exhibitions and programs at the Bill Reid Gallery,” says Board Chair Joanne Gassman. “Moreover, she spearheaded the renovation of the Bill Reid Gallery, designed by Merrick Architecture, to be completed before her departure, and in tandem with the Gallery’s 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations”.

On June 8, the Bill Reid Gallery will reopen following a six-month renovation designed to build the infrastructure required to support its expansive programming vision and a sustainable business model. Details about the Gallery’s renovation, re-opening, exhibitions and programs will be announced in May.

Gassman added: “Alexandra is leaving the organization in an exceptionally strong place, positioning us extremely well as we plan for the next exciting chapter of the Bill Reid Gallery. Her dedication, passion and vision will be missed.”

Upon Alexandra’s departure, the Bill Reid Gallery will be led on an interim basis by Curator Beth Carter. The Board of the Bill Reid Foundation has retained the services of H.J. Meredith Group for the search of Montgomery’s successor, and an announcement will be made when submissions for the leadership role will be accepted.

**About Bill Reid Gallery ([billreidgallery.ca](http://billreidgallery.ca))**

The Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art is a public gallery nestled in the heart of downtown Vancouver. It is named after acclaimed Haida artist Bill Reid (1920 – 1998), a master goldsmith, carver, sculptor, writer, broadcaster and spokesman.

Since opening its doors in May 2008, the Bill Reid Gallery has remained the only public gallery in Canada devoted to contemporary Indigenous Art of the Northwest Coast, and is home to the Simon Fraser University Bill Reid Art Collection, as well as special exhibitions of contemporary Indigenous Art of the Northwest Coast of North America. Through his art, Bill Reid continues to inspire emerging and established contemporary Indigenous artists of the Northwest Coast. His legacies include infusing the art traditions of the Haida with modern forms of expression, influencing the next generation of artists, and building lasting bridges between First Nations and other peoples.

The Bill Reid Gallery offers numerous educational programs for students of all ages, providing greater awareness and appreciation of Indigenous values and cultures, coupled with an understanding of how ancient knowledge can inform and impact their lives today.

The Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art is an initiative of the Bill Reid Foundation. Established in 1999 as a non-profit charitable organization, the Foundation's mission is to preserve the art and perpetuate the legacies of Bill Reid.

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