

UN City Copenhagen
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Denmark

Press release

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MOLLY VOSS FANNON AS NEW CEO FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 6 March 2019

The Museum for the United Nations – UN Live is pleased to announce the appointment of international development expert and museum leader Molly Voss Fannon as its CEO. Starting 1 April 2019, Molly will lead the museum's launch and growth into an operational, people-focussed institution with partnerships and activities globally.

Molly is currently the Director of International Relations at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., where her work has focussed on revitalising global engagement and international partnerships for the Institution's 29 museums and research centres. The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum, research, and education complex and is active in more than 150 countries.

Prior to the Smithsonian, Molly spent the first part of her career working across sustainable development issues as diverse as agricultural reform, land tenure, customs modernisation, and small and medium enterprise development, both with Chemonics International and Booz Allen Hamilton. Her professional in-country experience spans more than forty countries on six continents.

On the occasion of this announcement, Molly states,

Now, perhaps more than ever, we need institutions that truly embrace new voices, that listen with deep curiosity and empathy, and that, by embracing experimentation and risk-taking, drive action. That inspire everyone to make their mark.

I am thrilled and humbled by the appointment. I am determined that we will work with and learn from institutions and changemakers the world over. We will be known for partnerships that are built on listening, on empathy, and ultimately, on action. I want us to connect the very best of what is happening – so we all can focus on solutions. In doing so, together we will root ourselves in the founding ideal of the United Nations – that it is only through working together, across boundaries, that we can build a more hopeful future, for ourselves, and for our children.

Molly was a Fulbright Scholar in Argentina and earned her B.A. as an Echols Scholar in Latin American and American studies from the University of Virginia.

Molly and her husband Daniel, together with their three daughters, are currently based in Washington D.C. The family will relocate to Copenhagen, Denmark, where the museum is headquartered.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Jan Mattsson

Executive Director, until 31 March 2019

Chair, from 1 April 2019

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BACKGROUND:

THE MUSEUM FOR THE UNITED NATIONS – UN LIVE

The Museum for the United Nations – UN Live is a newly emerging global institution headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The museum's mission is to connect people everywhere, especially youth, to the work and values of the United Nations and catalyse global effort towards accomplishing its goals.

The museum's goal is to dramatically increase the number of people involved in tackling the world's biggest challenges.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The museum is close to, but not part of, the United Nations. The museum is an independent not-for-profit NGO registered in Copenhagen, Denmark with a legal cooperative agreement with the United Nations.

During his time as Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon formally authorised the museum to use the name and acronym: The Museum for the United Nations – UN Live. It has also been endorsed by Antonio Guterres, the current UN Secretary-General, as well as former Secretary-Generals Javier Pérez de Cuellar and the late Kofi Annan and Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

The museum will come at no cost to the UN. It is privately funded with additional support from the Danish government and the city of Copenhagen.

PLATFORMS, CONTENT, AND ENGAGEMENT

The museum's global, bottom-up, and inherently multi-platform concept places it among the most visionary and forward-looking institutions in the world today.

The museum is envisioned as a 24-7 global institution built on three interrelated platforms.

- a global digital presence, free and open to the world's Internet users
- a network of partner institutions and public venues around the world
- a physical museum, civic space, and headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark (and eventually other international locations)

The museum's permanent collection demonstrates a radical rethinking of museums in the 21st century. The collection will be comprised not of objects, but of *ideas in action* – stories, knowledge, and creative, problem-solving capacity of individuals and communities around the world.

Likewise, this museum will work with museums and other institutions globally to put in immediate practice the emerging frontier of audience engagement – moving deliberately to empower its global audience to drive the agenda, the questions and answers, to be innovators and problem-solvers. All through experiential learning, collaboration, and play.

The museum intends to reach and inspire people where they live, and to build a bridge of understanding between the work and values of the United Nations and the everyday experience of individuals in their local communities. Ultimately, we intend to inspire and drive positive impact for people the world over.



PUBLIC LAUNCH

The museum anticipates opening a physical museum building, civic space, and headquarters in Copenhagen in 2023.

The museum will launch a content campaign in 2019. The campaign, focussing on the themes of climate change and people on the move (a term representing migrants, displaced persons, and refugees), will consist of an interlocking series of digital and physical activities, programs, and events designed to introduce the museum to a global audience and catalyse effort towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The goal of the campaign is to create impact among tens of millions of people in all regions of the world.

Additional information about the museum's governance and partnerships can be found on its website: www.museumfortheun.org

