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LEADERSHIP BIOS

CAROLINE BAUMANN DIRECTOR

Caroline Baumann joined Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in 2001, and has held many leadership positions at the museum. As the fifth director of Cooper Hewitt since its opening in 1976, she spearheaded the grand opening of the renovated and expanded museum in December 2014—a transformation that has created immersive museum spaces and participatory visitor experiences never before seen in the museum realm. Baumann played an active role in overseeing the master plan in 2004–2006, as well as the selection of architects for the renovation project in 2006–2007, and has been instrumental in making the entire campus accessible and inviting.

Baumann also led the campaign to realize the most ambitious capital project in the museum’s history, which has raised more than \$89 million to date toward the \$91 million goal. She and her team have developed national and international exhibitions and forged multiple global partnerships in recent years, as they advance the museum’s mission to inspire, educate and empower people through design. To increase accessibility during the renovation period, Baumann managed the realization of the Cooper Hewitt Design Center in Harlem, a 1,500-square-foot education space that has served 35,000 people since opening in May 2012.

Before starting at Cooper Hewitt, Baumann worked at the Museum of Modern Art, where she held senior development roles, raised funds for the Yoshio Taniguchi expansion, and was involved in offsite projects during the renovation, such as MoMA QNS. Prior to her time at MoMA, she served as Director of Development at the Calhoun School in Manhattan, and as an art book editor at George Braziller Publishers.

Baumann is a member of the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee for the U.S. Postal Service and the NYC Landmarks50 Advisory Committee, and a director of the Royal College of Art U.S. Alumni Group Advisory Board. She is a founding member of the Collective, which stages the Collective Design Fair every May in New York. Baumann is also a member of the steering committee for NYCxDesign, New York’s citywide event showcasing design.

She received a master’s degree in medieval art from New York University’s Institute of Fine Arts, and a bachelor’s degree in the history of art and French literature from Bates College.

BROOKE HODGE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Brooke Hodge joined Cooper Hewitt as Deputy Director in July 2014. A recognized expert in the fields of architecture and design, Hodge is a curator, writer and critic, and was previously the director of exhibitions and publications at Los Angeles’s Hammer Museum since 2010. In 2006, Hodge was a guest curator, alongside three Cooper Hewitt curators, for the third National Design Triennial, “Design Life Now.”

As curator of architecture and design at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles from 2001 to 2009, she organized major exhibitions on the work of architect Frank Gehry and car designer J Mays, as well as “Skin + Bones: Parallel Practices in Fashion and Architecture,” a

groundbreaking exhibition that examined the relationship between contemporary fashion and architecture, which traveled to museums in Tokyo and London. Hodge has developed an exhibition on the work of British designer Thomas Heatherwick, which opened at the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas in September, and will travel to Cooper Hewitt in June 2015.

From 1991 to 2001, Hodge was director of exhibitions and publications at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, where she also held the positions of adjunct curator of architecture at the Fogg Art Museum and assistant dean of arts programs at the Graduate School of Design. At Harvard, she organized numerous exhibitions of the work of architects and designers, including Gio Ponti, Zaha Hadid, theater designer and artist Robert Wilson, and fashion designer Rei Kawakubo/Comme des Garçons, among others. She holds a master's degree in architectural history from the University of Virginia.

BARBARA A. MANDEL **CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Barbara A. Mandel joined Cooper Hewitt's board in 1997 and has been a member of the museum's executive committee since 1998. She has played an active role at Cooper Hewitt, supporting numerous exhibitions, educational programming, digital initiatives and the renovation. She also served on the executive search committee, which resulted in the appointment of Caroline Baumann as the museum's fifth director.

In North America, Mandel's major activities include serving as the president of the Cleveland Section of the National Council of Jewish Women; chairman of Leadership Development, Project Renewal; co-chair of the Campaign for the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland; national president, National Council of Jewish Women; national vice president of the National Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal; national president of the American Friends of Hebrew University; trustee and executive committee member and co-chair of Brandeis University's capital campaign; board member of the West Palm Beach Library Foundation; and trustee and vice chair of the Mandel Foundation. Overseas, her philanthropic activities include serving as deputy chair of the executive committee and Board of Governors, honorary chairman of the International Board of Governors and chair of the International Campaign at Hebrew University.

In addition to holding an honorary degree from Hebrew University, Mandel was recently made honorary chairman of its International Board of Governors. Additional awards include the Hannah G. Soloman Award from the National Council of Jewish Women; election to the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame; and Life Trustee of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland. She attended Radcliffe College of Harvard University and Flora Stone Mather College of Case Western Reserve University, from which she received a bachelor's degree.

BETH COMSTOCK **PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Beth Comstock was appointed Cooper Hewitt's President in 2011, after joining the board in 2006. Under her leadership the Board has grown to 35 trustees. Comstock has been instrumental in assembling technology partners to aid the museum in creating Cooper Hewitt's groundbreaking interactive visitor experience. In addition to being Board President and Co-Chair of the Marketing and Media Committee, which she co-founded, she also serves on the Executive,

Finance, and Trustees Committees, and has been active in the National Design Awards Gala, serving as a Co-Chair for the past six years.

As Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer at GE, Comstock leads the company's growth efforts through marketing, sales, licensing and communications and oversees GE Ventures. Her current priorities include partnering with and investing in start-ups, developing new markets in analytics, energy and affordable health through GE's industrial internet, and ecomagination and healthymagination initiatives.

Previously she served as President of Integrated Media at NBC Universal, where she oversaw ad sales, marketing and research, and led the company's digital media efforts, including early development of hulu.com, Peacock Equity, and acquisition of ivillage.com. Comstock also is a member Nike's Board of Directors and she serves on the board of Quirky, an online hub that makes invention accessible and is a start-up partner with GE on smart consumer products. She graduated from the College of William and Mary with a degree in biology.