



Mitchell Museum of the American Indian Selects Kim Vigue as New Executive Director

Evanston, IL October 20, 2021 – The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian has announced the selection of Kim Vigue as its new Executive Director. With more than 20 years of hands-on work supporting Native organizations and communities throughout the U.S., Vigue brings a diverse mix of leadership, community engagement, and program management experience to the role.

Since 1977, the Mitchell Museum has provided visitors from throughout the Chicago region access to collections, exhibits, programs, and activities that introduce the cultures of American Indians. The Museum promotes a deeper understanding of Indigenous peoples through the collection, preservation, and interpretation of traditional and contemporary art and material culture. With support from the Board of Directors, the Museum's Executive Director leads all operations, including exhibition planning, staff administration, community outreach and engagement, fundraising, and financial management.

"We are so thrilled and honored to welcome Kim to her new role as Executive Director of the Mitchell Museum. Her breadth of experience, leadership skills, and many personal and professional connections to Native communities make her an excellent and exciting choice for the Museum," said Jan Berkson, Mitchell Museum Board President. "On behalf of our entire staff and Board, we look forward to working with her as she brings her energy, perspectives, and compelling ideas to all aspects of our museum activities--including exhibitions, programs, and outreach."

Throughout her career, Vigue has been instrumental in raising the visibility and understanding of Native American people and addressing the many critical issues they face across Indian Country. With expertise in strategic communications and community engagement, she has helped many leading tribal organizations, federal agencies, nonprofits, and private sector entities develop culturally relevant initiatives to improve the well-being of Native American children, families, and communities. She is the Founder and Managing Partner of Wolf River Consulting, a Native and women-owned small business. Vigue previously led the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Education communications efforts, providing oversight of public affairs and media relations for its 48,000 students and 183 schools. Her prior experience includes managing multiple tribal communication and outreach programs for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Indian Health Service, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"I am truly honored to serve as the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian's Executive Director," said Vigue. "It is a privilege to join an institution that recognizes the importance of giving Native people a voice to tell our stories and provide visitors with a greater understanding of our history, culture, traditions, and past and present contributions from our perspectives and experiences. I look forward to working with the incredible staff, board, Native communities, tribal leadership, scholars, and artists to offer an authentic representation of our history and enhance the public understanding of contemporary Native American life."

Vigue is an enrolled member of the Oneida Nation, a descendant of the Menominee Tribe, and holds an M.S. in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin. She serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Visionary Ventures and was recently appointed by Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker to the Native American Employment Plan Advisory Council. She lives in Glencoe, Illinois, with her husband and two sons.

For more information about the Museum, please visit <https://mitchellmuseum.org/>.



About the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian

The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian is one of only a handful of museums across the country that focuses exclusively on the art, history, and culture of American Indian and First Nation peoples from throughout the United States and Canada. The Museum was founded by John and Betty Seabury-Mitchell, who donated their personal collection to Kendall College in 1977.

For additional information contact: info@mitchellmuseum.org or 847.475.1030.