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VMFA Foundation Names New Deputy Director for Advancement



Thomas C. Gutenberger, Deputy Director for Advancement at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Foundation. Photo © Cabay Fine Photography.

Richmond, Virginia — The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Foundation (VMFAF) has named Thomas C. Gutenberger as its new deputy director for advancement. Gutenberger joins VMFAF after a decade of work at the University of Richmond, where he served as vice president of advancement.

In his new role, Gutenberger will lead a team of 33 people in an innovative fundraising program to enable the Virginia Museum to achieve its strategic-plan goals and to support VMFA’s statewide programs and special projects such as its new artmobile, *VMFA on the Road*.

“Tom Gutenberger joins the Virginia Museum at a pivotal time as we build on the success we have achieved since our 2010 expansion,” said VMFA Director Alex Nyerges. “As we end our fiscal year with the highest number of visitors and highest membership levels in our history, we are poised to move the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to the next level. With his decades of experience leading successful fundraising campaigns, I am pleased that Tom has chosen to devote his efforts to ensuring the Virginia Museum’s continued growth and sustainability.”

The nonprofit VMFA Foundation supports the work of the museum through a comprehensive fundraising and donor cultivation program and through the investment and management of private assets. The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is both a state agency and a privately endowed educational

institution. Chartered in 1976, VMFAF’s support helps the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts collect, preserve, exhibit and interpret art, and encourages the study of the arts.

“I am excited and honored to join the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts,” says Tom Gutenberger. “I look forward to working with the incredible team of volunteers, donors, and staff to further the mission of the museum and to help fulfill the vision outlined in the strategic plan.”

About Thomas C. Gutenberger

At the University of Richmond, Gutenberger led a team of more than 80 people in the successful completion of a \$172 million two-year public campaign, *Fulfilling the Promise*, exceeding the \$150 million goal and engaging 45 percent of alumni and 9,000 first-time donors. Under his direction, the university increased its five-year total fundraising average by 25 percent and its five-year total annual fund average by 20 percent. It also doubled its reunion and regional event attendance.

Gutenberger is a seasoned development professional with nearly 30 years experience in the field. He began his career at Cornell University, where he held a number of progressively senior development positions over six years. He also has served as director of major gifts and director of development for the College of Education at San Diego State University, and as director of university development and campaign director at George Mason University where he was responsible for planning and implementing a \$110 million fundraising campaign, the first comprehensive campaign in the university’s history.

In addition, Gutenberger previously served nearly 10 years as vice president for college relations at Union College in Schenectady, New York. At Union, he led a \$200 million fundraising campaign, built an integrated external relations program and was closely involved in the school's strategic planning process.

A native of Ithaca, New York, Gutenberger is a 1987 graduate of the University of Richmond's E. Claiborne Robins School of Business and holds an MBA from San Diego State University. He and his wife, Linda, have four children. He will join VMFAF later this summer.

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The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Virginia, is one of the largest comprehensive art museums in the United States. VMFA, which opened in 1936, is a state agency and privately endowed educational institution. Its purpose is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret art, and to encourage the study of the arts. Through the Office of Statewide Partnerships program, the museum offers curated exhibitions, arts-related audiovisual programs, symposia, lectures, conferences, and workshops by visual and performing artists. In addition to presenting a wide array of special exhibitions, the museum provides visitors with the opportunity to experience a global collection of art that spans more than 6,000 years. VMFA's permanent holdings encompass nearly 40,000 artworks, including the largest public collection of Fabergé outside of Russia, the finest collection of Art Nouveau outside of Paris, and one of the nation's finest collections of American art. VMFA is also home to important collections of Chinese art, English silver, and French Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, British sporting, and modern and contemporary art, as well as renowned South Asian, Himalayan, and African art. In May 2010, VMFA opened its doors to the public after a transformative expansion, the largest in its history.

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is the only art museum in the United States open 365 days a year with free general admission. For additional information, telephone 804-340-1400 or visit www.vmfa.museum.