



THE JAMES MUSEUM OF WESTERN & WILDLIFE ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE JAMES MUSEUM APPOINTS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND FACILITIES MANAGER

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. – **Julie Matus** has been hired as Director of Education for The Tom and Mary James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art in St. Petersburg and **Thomas Calvert** has been hired as the museum Facilities Manager, according to Bernice Chu, the Interim Director for the James Museum. They began their new roles on August 21 and August 28 respectively, and will report directly to Chu.

Matus brings nearly 20 years of experience in museums and cultural organizations and comes to The James Museum from St. Petersburg College Foundation where she was the Art Collection Curator for the past two years. Prior to her work at the Foundation, she spent seven years as Curator of Education at the Tampa Bay History Center and also held educational programming roles at the Florida Humanities Council in St. Petersburg and the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville. She earned both a bachelor's degree in anthropology and a master's degree in Museum Studies/Education from the University of Florida.

At The James she will be responsible for a number of activities including creating the museum's annual calendar of programs for adults and children including docent tours, artist talks, classes and other interpretive programs; developing programming related to the permanent and temporary exhibitions and providing leadership for educational curricula for Tampa Bay K-12 students.

Calvert has an extensive background in facilities management beginning with a distinguished 22 year military career in the United States Air Force, where he worked in engineering and surveying as well as construction and contract management. He spent the last three years as the facilities manager for First United Methodist Church in St. Petersburg and prior to that was operations manager for three years at Ohio State University College of Medicine in Columbus, Ohio.

His role at The James Museum will be to oversee the effective and safe operation and maintenance of the museum facilities, grounds and parking areas, including supervising the security, housekeeping and maintenance staff.

"I am delighted to welcome both Julie and Tom to our team," said Chu. "Their expertise and knowledge in their respective areas will be a great addition to our staff and I am looking forward to working closely with them both as we continue to build out a first class museum – programmatically and operationally."

About The James Museum:

The James Museum will be the new, permanent home of approximately 400 premier works of art selected from the more than 3,000 pieces acquired by Tom and Mary James over their 50 years of collecting. The 84,000 square foot museum at 150 Central Avenue in St. Petersburg will include over 30,000 square feet of gallery space; a double height lobby with water feature; Native American Jewelry collection, 6,000 square feet of rental event space, supporting both large events and break-out sessions; a commercial catering kitchen; a museum store and café; as well as all of the spaces required to support and operate a 21st century museum of this scale. Planned programming includes special exhibitions in a variety of genres, artist talks and demonstrations, art classes, docent tours and children’s activities. In addition to the museum space, the development of The James Museum building will include almost 35,000 square feet of leasable space, owned by James R.E., situated on the East and West sides of the project. The Sembler Company is leasing the ground floor retail units and Echelon Real Estate Services is leasing the Class A Office space located on the second floor. Construction of the museum is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2017, with a grand opening planned in early 2018.



Julie Matus, Director of Education



Thomas Calvert, Facilities Manager