



# EMORY

# MICHAEL C. CARLOS MUSEUM

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## **Michael C. Carlos Museum Director Bonnie Speed Announces Retirement**

[Atlanta, Georgia, June 28, 2021]— Bonnie Speed, the director of Emory University's Michael C. Carlos Museum, has announced that she will retire at the end of this summer. Speed has served as director since August 2002, leading the museum through a period of remarkable growth and success. Among her many accomplishments, Speed expanded the museum's professional staff, implemented facility improvements and renovations, secured support for acquisitions, created a dynamic National Leadership Board, welcomed countless new donors, and with a dedicated staff brought over 50 exhibitions from around the world to the Carlos. Speed also guided the museum through reaccreditation with the American Alliance of Museums, three strategic plans, two successful external reviews, and a major capital campaign. Most notably, Speed focused much of her efforts on ensuring the long-term financial stability of the Carlos through increasing the museum's endowment by over twenty-fold.

Early in her tenure, Speed escorted the mummy thought to be Ramesses I, back to Egypt and worked tirelessly to position the Carlos as a center for the study of ancient Egyptian art. In a significant coup for the city and region, she negotiated with the Egyptian cultural authorities to include Atlanta on the 2008 national tour of Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs. In 2018, the museum welcomed the acquisition of the Senusret Collection, one of the most important ancient Egyptian collections offered for donation in this century. A staunch supporter of interdisciplinary partnerships and student engagement, Speed also worked with staff to expand the museum's collections and educational programming in support of university teaching and research.

Some of the many acclaimed exhibitions developed or hosted by the Carlos Museum under Speed's direction include *Excavating Egypt: Great Discoveries from the Petrie Museum of Egyptology, University College London*; *Domains of Wonder: Selected Masterworks of Indian Painting*; *Cradle of Christianity: Jewish and Christian Treasures from the Holy Land*; *Buddha in Paradise*; *Romare Bearden: A Black Odyssey*; *African Cosmos: Stellar Arts*; *Indigenous Beauty: Masterworks of American Indian Art from the Diker Collection*; *Divine Felines: Cats of Ancient Egypt*; and *Wondrous Worlds: Art & Islam through Time & Place*. Speed is admired as a champion for her talented staff, understanding the importance of their roles in the museum's accomplishments, supporting their work, and advocating for their advancement. She is adept at setting high expectations for excellence within an environment of compassionate leadership and cultivated a highly dedicated community of employees, donors, volunteers, and partners as part of her legacy. Emory University leadership has appointed Bonna Wescoat, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Art History, to serve as interim director. For more details, please read [that article here](#).

### **About the Michael C. Carlos Museum**

Since its formal establishment on Emory's Atlanta campus in 1919, the Michael C. Carlos Museum has become one of the premier museums in the Southeast. The museum holds one of the most comprehensive collections in the region with artwork from ancient Egypt, Nubia, and the Near East; Greece and Rome; the Americas; Africa; and Asia as well as a collection of works on paper from the Renaissance to the present.



Through world-class permanent collections and special exhibitions, innovative programming, and one-of-a-kind opportunities to engage with art firsthand, the Carlos Museum serves Emory University and the Atlanta community as a dynamic interdisciplinary center that cultivates literacy in the arts and fosters understanding of diverse religions and civilizations.

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