

OCMA

**ORANGE COUNTY
MUSEUM OF ART**

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Orange County Museum of Art Announces Eight New Trustees to Join Board

New trustees bring fresh perspective with extensive business, art, and philanthropic experience

NEWPORT BEACH, CA—President Craig W. Wells and Director & CEO Todd D. Smith of the Orange County Museum of Art (OCMA) today announced the appointment of eight new business, art, and philanthropic leaders from Orange County to the museum's Board of Trustees. Some of the new trustees have been on the Board in the past, some have been instrumental in expanding the museum's audiences, and all have supported the institution extensively. They all began their tenure on July 1, 2017. The new trustees are:

Jamie Brooks, Debra Gunn Downing, David Emmes II, John Gunnin, Pamela Schmider, Tracy Schroeder, Jennifer Van Bergh, and Chris Van Dusen
(full bios follow)

"OCMA has had many successes over the past five-plus decades; from important regional and international exhibitions that bring greater sense to the world in which we live, to some of the most successful local fundraisers in recent years," stated OCMA President Craig W. Wells. "With the museum looking ahead, growing the depth and breadth of the board at this time is an important step."

The museum is gratified that these trustees are united in supporting the museum's future and their involvement, along with the museum's current trustees, will certainly cement OCMA's role as a leader in Southern California's cultural landscape. They come with diverse backgrounds. While some are well connected in Orange County's business community, others come with extensive careers in various creative fields; together, they will help ensure the museum's financial security, while protecting and advancing its mission.

"In expanding the Board of Trustees, we sought a variety of voices and backgrounds—looking for expertise in both the business sector and the art world," stated OCMA Trustee Anton Segerstrom. "These eight accomplished and dedicated individuals are stepping up to join OCMA at an exciting time in our history and the museum will benefit greatly from their experience and insight at this time, and their arts leadership in the future."

July 2017 Appointments the OCMA's Board of Trustees

Jamie Brooks

Art collector and film producer, and real estate builder and broker, Jamie Brooks has spent nearly 30 years working in and around several creative fields. After simultaneously graduating from Ontario College of Art and York University in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Brooks moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he built speculative homes focusing on historical building methods and later, moved onto larger development projects. While there, he launched Rhumb Line Productions at which he produced independent films; earning entrance and awards from the Sundance Film Festival.

In 2003, Brooks relocated to Southern California where he entered into the mortgage business. More recently, he has returned to building, including project manager for the building of Abkco Music & Records, in Manhattan. The project was featured in *Interior Design* magazine and won the prestigious Lumen Award for lighting design. For the past eight years, he owned and operated Jamie Brooks Fine Art in Costa Mesa (2009–2017), where he exhibited both emerging and renowned artists. Prior to his studies in Ontario, Brooks double majored in business and art at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York.

Debra Gunn Downing

Ms. Downing has been shaping the direction of Orange County's luxury retail landscape for the past 18 years as Executive Director of Marketing for South Coast Plaza. Downing has spent more than 25 years honing her skills in strategic planning, advertising, public relations, and corporate communications at retail and fashion stalwarts such as the Taubman Company and Neiman Marcus, working in every key retail market in the United States.

Since 1999, Ms. Downing has been involved in the development and implementation of all marketing efforts for South Coast Plaza. She directs creative, advertising, public relations, sponsorships, tourism, community relations, social media, fashion catalogs and event marketing. Additionally, Ms. Downing is responsible for developing collaborative partnerships with local civic, business and community resources and implementation of market research programs.

Debra graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Northwood University in Michigan. She did advanced coursework in international marketing and fashion at Northwood Europe in Paris, France. Ms. Downing has a strong commitment to community and charitable endeavors, including the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, South Coast Repertory, SOKA University, Philharmonic Society of Orange County, Pacific Symphony, and the Bowers Museum.

David Emmes, II

Mr. Emmes is a Founder and Managing Partner of Pacific Edge Advisors a Newport Beach based multi-family investment and wealth management firm. He spent 16-years at BNY Mellon Wealth Management, most recently as president of U.S. Markets-West which included 11 offices throughout California, Washington, Nevada, Colorado, and Texas. He oversaw \$15 billion in assets providing investment management, wealth planning, and private banking services for individuals, families, endowments and foundations.

Mr. Emmes has spent more than 35 years in the financial services industry. Previous experience includes institutional fixed income and currency derivatives for Security Pacific and NatWest Capital Markets. He also worked with Crosspoint Venture Partners on numerous early stage investments. Emmes holds a Bachelor's degree and an MBA from California State University, Long Beach.

John Gunnin

Mr. Gunnin teaches Advanced Placement (AP) Art History and Studio Art at Corona del Mar High School in Newport Beach, California. He has served as the co-chair of the AP Art History Development Committee for the College Board and currently serves a member of their Arts Advisory Committee. He has also served as a question leader for the AP Art History exam reading. In addition, he has served on the College Board Curriculum Revision Committee and is one of the authors of the recently published AP Art History Curriculum Framework. He was named the Orange County Arts Educator of the Year for 2007 and the Corona del Mar High School Teacher of the Year for 2009 and 2016. He is active in community service as a director of the William Gillespie Foundation that funds community charities and arts organizations. He is currently a trustee for the Laguna College of Art and Design and has also been on the board of Sage Hill School and Grand Central Art Center of California State University, Fullerton.

Gunnin received a B.A. from California State University, Long Beach, and earned a Master's degree from California State University, Dominguez Hills. He once taught in a comprehensive school located in an English village southwest of London. Before coming to Corona del Mar High, he taught at a school focused on at-risk youth in inner city Los Angeles.

Pamela Schmider

Ms. Schmider is an active philanthropist and volunteer in Orange County, Pasadena, and Los Angeles. She was the co-founder of the Shady Canyon Foundation Fashion Show (2013) as well as presently serving as its 2017 chair. She serves on the Board of Visionaries and has been an active member on the PBS Gala Committee, Friendship Shelter Committee, and Crystal Cove Alliance Gala Committee. She was the co-chair of the Hoag Hospital Christmas Carol Ball (2013) and chair of Circle 1000 – Hoag Hospital Family Cancer Institute (2009–2012); co-chair of Serious Fun at Human Options (2013); and co-chair of Angelitos de Oro – South Coast Plaza Card Co-Chair (2010, 2011).

Schmider has been the owner and buyer for two highly successful boutiques, Tanya Heath in LA and Bauble on Balboa on Balboa Island. She graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts degree and received her paralegal degree from the University of West Los Angeles.

Tracy Schroeder

Ms. Schroeder is the co-founder of Schroeder Investment Partners, Inc., an investment firm focusing on the acquisitions of multi-family properties in Orange and Los Angeles Counties. She is also the owner of Clerel Design, LLC and is responsible for overseeing the design and the property improvements of over 50 apartment buildings in Southern California.

Schroeder has over 15 years of real estate and interior design experience in California and New York and is a California licensed Real Estate Broker. She is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles. In 2013, Tracy co-founded the Orange County Museum of Art *Contemporaries*, a young professional's support group for the museum.

Jennifer Van Bergh

Ms. Van Bergh is a Regional Manager at City National Bank and is responsible for commercial banking activity in the Southern California market. She and her team are responsible for managing and developing clients by providing them with tailored financial solutions and a robust offering of bank products and services to help them achieve their business goals. Van Bergh has led CNB's expansion in Orange County, San Diego and the Inland Empire since 2009, growing its base of business clients and recruiting an experienced team.

Before joining City National Bank, Van Bergh spent ten years in the wealth management business with U.S. Bank and the Citigroup Private Bank. Prior to that, she was a commercial banker with Bank of America for ten years. Jennifer earned a degree in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Jennifer has been active in philanthropy in Orange County for many years. She served on the board of the Orange County Museum of Art for over 20 years and co-founded the Harvesters, a tremendously successful support group for the Second Harvest Food Bank. She has served in various roles in organizations like Planned Parenthood, Catalina Conservancy, Crystal Cove Alliance, Olive Crest, Laguna Art Museum, Friendship Shelter and others; and has lived in Newport Beach for 30 years where she raised two children.

Chris Van Dusen

Mr. Van Dusen is an entrepreneur and CEO of Parcon Media, a full service digital media planning and buying agency that focuses on challenger brands and companies in hyper growth mode. Services like conversion rate optimization and customer acquisition strategy round out the agencies data obsessed culture. Prior to Parcon Media Van Dusen spent almost 3 years as the director of Digital Strategy at an advertising agency in Newport Beach. During his tenure, he was instrumental in developing agency best practices and attracting and securing multiple large clients. Prior to advertising, he was VP at a real estate investment banking firm. He graduated from the College of William and Mary, where he played baseball.

Van Dusen serves on the boards of the Irvine Public Schools Foundation and American Advertising Federation Orange County. He is a member of YEC (Young Entrepreneurs Council) and Gen Next, an invite-only organization of individuals dedicated to learning about and becoming engaged with the most pressing challenges facing future generations.

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