

Dear Museum Community:

It's been a busy winter and spring at The AGB, beginning with the opening of our major expansion — and, with it, 8 new exhibitions showcasing special loans and treasures from our permanent collection — and culminating most recently with an incredible turnout for our 53rd annual Mayfaire by-the-Lake, which brought thousands to the shores of Lake Morton for a Mother's Day weekend filled with art and fun. (Many of you may have spotted — or even ridden along — with me, FSC President Jeremy Martin, or his wife Tia as we joined volunteers driving "Mayferry" shuttle rides around the lake).

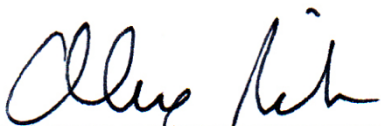
The end of the spring also comes with personal news: after 11 years at Florida Southern College and 8 years at the Museum, I have been offered and accepted an exceptional opportunity in Charleston, South Carolina, where I will become the new President and CEO of the Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston's historic (and only) art museum.

While this move is the right one for me and my family, I didn't come to the decision lightly, given my love of my work and admiration of my colleagues at both the Museum and the College. Our Museum team is the best (and hardest-working) team in the business, I have loved collaborating closely with amazing students and colleagues at the College and with partners and donors locally and globally, and I have enjoyed every moment shared with so many of you in the Museum's loyal community. Leaving a city and community we love isn't easy, but I remain deeply grateful for all the lifelong friendships and partnerships forged over the past decade-plus and to the support shown by the Museum Board and the FSC administration past and present.

With a team that rivals any other, a new modern expansion that positions it to become one of the great academic museums in the country, and a community that cares for it so deeply, The AGB is poised for a stellar future. I have committed to ensuring a smooth transition to help solidify that positive trajectory.

In the coming weeks, we will open one of the biggest and most consequential exhibitions in the history of the Museum: *Frank Lloyd Wright & the College of Tomorrow* has been 8 years in the making and takes the Florida Southern campus as a jumping-off point for an original, scholarly exploration of America's most famous architect's future-forward vision as achieved here in Lakeland and examined within the context of his larger career. The exhibition opens to the public on June 7, with a Member Reception on June 6, where I will be joined in conversation by Jeff Baker, the eminent restoration architect who has made the FLW campus his life's passion. It promises to be an amazing evening, and I hope to see many of you then.

Sincerely,



H. Alexander Rich, Ph.D.