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The Peale Names John Suau as New Executive Director

Baltimore, MD – December 19, 2024: The Peale, America's first purpose-built museum and Baltimore's Community Museum, is pleased to announce the appointment of John Suau as its new Executive Director, effective January 6, 2025.

Suau brings over two decades of leadership experience in cultural heritage, museum innovation, and institutional transformation, including the formation of the American Alliance of Museum's Diversity Coalition. His career includes notable achievements such as revitalizing the Historical Society of Washington, DC into the dynamic DC History Center, where he fostered an innovative partnership with Apple to renovate the museum's historic building and introduce new community-led programming. His extensive work with digital platforms for museum interpretation and accessibility, and the development of IDbGLAM—an international portal for galleries, libraries, archives, and museums—further reflects his commitment to expanding engagement with cultural heritage through technology and partnerships.

"Baltimore has always held a special place in my heart," said Suau. "From my time as Executive Director of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums, based in Baltimore from 2002 to 2006, I came to love this city as a vibrant center for creativity and community. It feels like coming home to step into this role at The Peale."

"We are thrilled that John will be guiding The Peale in this next chapter of its 210-year-old story," said William Chickering, The Peale's Board President. "His leadership represents both growth and continuity with the mission and vision that have guided the renovation of the 1814 museum building and its relaunch as Baltimore's Community Museum."

Outgoing founding director Nancy Proctor, whose visionary leadership has redefined The Peale as a national model for community museums, will remain engaged as a consultant/collaborator to ensure a smooth leadership transition and support The Peale's continued growth.

"John's energy and ideas are breathtaking," said Proctor. "Our goal has always been for The Peale to remain dynamic and

inclusive of new voices and directions for the organization. I am excited to continue to support The Peale and engage with Baltimore’s creative communities in new ways through its ever-evolving platform.”

“Building on Nancy’s extraordinary foundation is both a privilege and an inspiration,” Suau added. “Together with The Peale’s talented team and Baltimore’s creative community, I look forward to amplifying the voices and stories that make this city a cultural treasure.”

Under Suau’s leadership, The Peale will focus on expanding community engagement, strengthening partnerships, and advancing its mission to celebrate Baltimore’s history, creativity, and innovation.

Events welcoming Suau to The Peale and its community will be announced in early 2025.



John Suau, Executive Director, The Peale
Photo by Anne McDonough

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About The Peale:

Based in the oldest museum building in the Americas, The Peale is Baltimore’s Community Museum. It provides an accessible platform for artistic, scientific, and cultural projects where collaborators can take creative risks, connect with communities in Baltimore and beyond, and share their stories both in the historic Peale Museum building and online.

ThePeale.org