



**For Immediate Release**

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**The Bakken Museum Board of Directors Announce New Executive Director**

**Minneapolis, MN** –The Bakken Museum board of directors is pleased to announce their appointment of Michael Sanders as executive director, effective December 1. Mr. Sanders succeeds Dr. David Rhees who served for 23 years as executive director and retired in September.

Mr. Sanders has a strong background in museum leadership for a number of large exhibit, program and facility projects. Most recently, he served as the executive director of the Dubuque County Historical Society, where he oversaw all operations of the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium and other DCHS properties including the National Rivers Hall of Fame, Mathias Ham House, and the Old Jail Museum. Under his leadership, the Museum & Aquarium overall attendance and revenue increased by over 25%. In addition, Mr. Sanders focused on increasing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programming at the Museum & Aquarium, partnering with area schools and non-profits to increase the reach and impact of these programs.

Prior to his work at Dubuque County Historical Society, Mr. Sanders was director of operations at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. There, he oversaw the planning and implementation of a number of large projects including upgrading technology systems, sustainable operations, exhibits and program improvements. Before his tenure in Cleveland, Mr. Sanders worked for ten years at the Science Museum of Minnesota in Saint Paul. Mr. Sanders is a member of the American Alliance of Museums, Association of Science and Technology Centers, and Association of Science Museum Directors.

A native of Minnesota, Mr. Sanders holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Minnesota State University in Moorhead and a Master of Arts degree in Natural Science and Environmental Education from Hamline University in Saint Paul.

The Bakken Museum board and staff are excited to begin this new chapter in the museum's history with the appointment of Mr. Sanders as executive director. The museum is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and is well positioned for the next 40 years of service to the community, as we inspire a passion for science.

**The Bakken Museum** inspires a passion for science and its potential for social good by helping people explore the history and nature of electricity and magnetism. The Bakken features The Florence Bakken Medicinal Garden, a world-renowned collection of books and artifacts and multiple galleries focusing on the wonders of electricity.

The Bakken Museum is located in an intriguing mansion at the corner of West Calhoun Parkway and 36th Street on the west shore of Lake Calhoun. For more information, visit [TheBakken.org](http://TheBakken.org) or call (612) 926-3878.

**For High Resolution Images, Please Contact Phil Borreson – [Borreson@TheBakken.org](mailto:Borreson@TheBakken.org)**

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