The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens Appoints Kelly C. Harvey as Chief Advancement Officer

March 16, 2023 — JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens announced today that after an extensive national search, Kelly C. Harvey will join the Museum as its new Chief Advancement Officer. She comes to the Museum from the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida, where she has been the Director of Development and External Affairs since 2015. She will begin on April 24, 2023.

Harvey is a relationship builder with more than 15 years of experience working in the museum and academic sectors. During her tenure at the Harn Museum, Harvey led major fundraising efforts including transformational gifts, capital campaigns, and endowment growth. Under her leadership in 2022, the museum exceeded its $100M goal as part of the University of Florida’s Go Greater comprehensive capital campaign. Additionally, she spearheaded the campaign for a multi-purpose expansion project to house the Vickers Florida Art Collection. Harvey has a proven track record of securing gifts and grants from foundations, corporations, and government entities, including The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Henry Luce Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as others. She previously served as the Associate Director of Development for the College of Engineering at the University of Florida, and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Art History from James Madison University, and a Master of Arts in Museology from the University of Florida.

“Kelly is a respected, results-driven, seasoned fundraiser,” said Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, Ph.D., the George W. & Kathleen I. Gibbs Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Museum. “She is a dynamic advancement professional with multifaceted experience. Her passion for building philanthropic relationships and her long-standing love of art and museums align with our vision for the future of the Museum. As we plan for our comprehensive growth and evolution, she is an excellent and timely addition to our team.”
The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens is on course to realize extensive plans, which include elevating the Museum’s three mission-based priorities—art, gardens, and education. The Museum is also in the beginning stages of creating its ambitious new strategic plan, which will guide the institution’s development over the coming years. Continuing to expand its audiences, activating the former Women’s Club property, and upgrading its current facilities, are among the Museum’s goals.

“I am honored to join the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. The Museum is such a strong cultural asset in Jacksonville and North Florida, I was immediately attracted to this opportunity,” said Harvey. “Art and cultural institutions provide so many opportunities for growth and I look forward to expanding existing relationships, building new ones, and growing the culture of philanthropy for the Museum. Together we will achieve important milestones and realize a vibrant future for the Cummer Museum and, therefore, for Jacksonville.”

Harvey will be a key member of the Museum’s Executive Team and responsible for building dynamic and diversified fundraising strategies that leverage individual donors, foundations, and corporate philanthropy. In her new role, she will also lead integrated marketing initiatives. Working in collaboration with the Executive Team, Harvey will be integral to developing the Museum’s strategic plan and realizing its growth trajectory.

The national search for the Museum’s Chief Advancement Officer was conducted by Lindauer Global and led by members of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Team of the Museum.

“Kelly’s keen understanding of the unique and special role that the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens plays in Jacksonville and beyond, both now and in the future, made her stand out from a field of qualified candidates,” said Mari Kuraishi, the President of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund and Chair of the Cummer Museum Board of Trustees. “I believe that her expertise, proven track-record, and commitment to working collaboratively will help lead us toward new fundraising horizons.”

About the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens

For more than 60 years, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens has been committed to engaging and inspiring through the arts, gardens, and education. A permanent collection of more than 5,000 objects and historically significant gardens on a riverfront campus offers nearly 140,000 annual visitors a truly unique experience on the First Coast. Nationally recognized education programs serve adults and children of all abilities. The Museum is committed to ensuring that diversity and inclusion are woven into the fabric of its exhibitions, programs, and offerings. For further information, including hours, visit www.cummermuseum.org.