National Portrait Gallery Announces the Appointment of Kaia Black as Museum Project Manager

The Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery has appointed Kaia Black as museum project manager. The museum presents both permanent and special exhibitions that portray individuals who have shaped the American culture and history.

“Over the past few years the Portrait Gallery has been doing ever more complex projects with artists, famous Americans and organizational partners. These projects have been both within and outside the United States, which involves multiple museum departments working in sync,” said Kim Sajet, director of the museum.

“We realized that we needed a superlative program manager who could keep everyone moving in the right direction, and I have every confidence that in Kaia Black we have found that person. Kaia has had deep experience working with contemporary artists, collectors and art museums. She is used to practicing ‘cultural diplomacy’ and working with talented people from across the cultural divide. I have every confidence that she will become a great resource for the local arts community and ambassador for the National Portrait Gallery in general.”

Black earned a M.A. in museum studies at Seton Hall University and a B.A. in history from Howard University. She was most recently gallery and cultural project manager at the Embassy of Australia in Washington, D.C., working on special cultural and art-related projects on behalf of the Cultural Affairs department. Prior to this position, Black was special projects director at the Podesta Group, as well as collections manager of the Podesta Collection between 2003 and 2007. Black also was an assistant exhibitions registrar at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

As an established art professional, Black has managed exhibitions, curated art collections and worked on site specific installations. Her special projects include co-curating the Visual Grandeur...
series for Marrakech in Washington, D.C.; curating and planning educational programming for the “O, Write My Name: American Portrait—Harlem Heroes” exhibition at Walsh Library Gallery in New Jersey; and organizing the 50th anniversary exhibition at the Pace Gallery in New York City.

Editors please note: Images of Kaia M. Black are available on the museum’s FTP site. Contact Marielba Alvarez at alvarezema@si.edu for access.

National Portrait Gallery

The Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery tells the multifaceted story of America through the individuals who have shaped its culture. Through the visual arts, performing arts and new media, the Portrait Gallery portrays poets and presidents, visionaries and villains, actors and activists whose lives tell the American story.

The National Portrait Gallery is part of the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture at Eighth and F streets N.W., Washington, D.C. Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000. Website: npg.si.edu. Connect with the museum at @NPG, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Tumblr.

# # #