



## Southold Historical Museum PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate release

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Southold, NY

Southold Historical Museum Announces the Departure of its Executive Director

It is with deep regret that Southold Historical Museum's Board of Trustees announces the pending departure of its outstanding Executive Director Deanna Witte-Walker in September of 2024.

Witte-Walker started at the Southold Historical Society, now Southold Historical Museum thirteen years ago when long time office administrator, Susi Young, retired. For several years, she worked under the leadership of Geoffrey Fleming and then under Karen Lund. When Witte-Walker made the leap to Executive Director formally in October 2018, she had a vast knowledge of the Museum workings. However, there was still much to learn so she decided to pursue a Master of Arts in Museum Studies from CUNY School of Professional Studies (May 2023).

Board President, John Barnes stated, "Deanna has offered well respected and professional leadership in creation of solid volunteer participation, effective development of programs, securing meaningful financial support from the community, and through drawing in several grants to support improvement of facilities and exhibits. While the Board is sad to accept Deanna's departure, it offers warm and best wishes to both Deanna and her husband Brian as they move on to their new home in North Carolina."

Witte-Walker shared, "I have been blessed to be able to grow as a professional at Southold Historical. With such a supportive board and an amazing team of both part-time staff and volunteers, I have been encouraged to pursue new ideas while also streamlining operations. Leading the Museum through the COVID shutdown and subsequent reopening was a significant challenge that required a level-headed and informed approach. Our then Board President, Janet Larsen, both backed and reinforced my leadership throughout the time. In addition to feeling satisfied with how we handled the pandemic, I am probably most proud of how the Museum's profile has increased in recent years. Living and working in the community has allowed me the unique opportunity to connect and promote the Museum through both existing and new relationships. While there is still work to be done, I hope that today's residents and visitors are more aware of the activities of Southold Historical Museum because of these efforts."

The Board of Trustees has established an Executive Director (ED) Search Team to seek out, interview, and recommend a new Executive Director in a timely fashion. More information about the position can be found on the Museum's website, [www.southoldhistorical.org](http://www.southoldhistorical.org).

Witte-Walker added, "I will miss Southold Historical Museum and I feel certain that when I reflect back, there will be a big smile on my face. But I am also hopeful for the future, for both my family and the Museum. I believe there are good things in store all around!"