

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Works Names CEO

Today The Works announced that it has hired Jill Measells as CEO. Measells, currently the Vice President of Learning Experiences at the Minnesota Children's Museum, brings more than fifteen years of museum experience and an impressive track record to The Works.

The Works' Board of Trustees engaged in an extensive search to find the right candidate for the new CEO role.

"Jill quickly emerged as the perfect fit. Her executive leadership skills, impressive academic credentials, and extensive non-profit experience are precisely what we sought in a candidate," says Derek Rucker, Chair of The Works Board of Trustees.

Measells began her museum career at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, one of the premier science museums in the world, in 1994. There, she held positions of increasing responsibility, ultimately serving as Director of Education. She joined Minnesota Children's Museum in 2006 as Vice President of Learning Experiences. In this role, she was responsible for strategic planning and projects and initiatives that advanced the museum as a local and national leader in early childhood education and informal learning. During her tenure, Measells spearheaded initiatives to expand the children's museum beyond its' downtown St. Paul location. This included developing early literacy environments for local libraries and the expansion of a satellite location in Rochester. Under her leadership annual museum attendance increased significantly due to the production of several new exhibits and programs. Measells is also accomplished at growing relationships with multiple stakeholders including donors, board members, and education and community based organizations.

The Works is experiencing tremendous growth and will open its new, dedicated facility in Bloomington this November.

"In the new facility, we'll be able to serve more children, families and educators than ever before. Our growth plans are becoming a reality, and Jill is the right leader to take the organization into this new territory. She has a deep understanding of our mission and a proven

track record of community-building, program development and organizational growth,” says Rucker.

“I’m thrilled to join The Works and excited to lead such a dynamic, growing organization,” says Measells. “Providing hands-on learning opportunities for children is at the core of my professional passions. The Works is already a regional leader in engineering education, helping children to develop important critical thinking and problem-solving skills through exploration and experimentation. I look forward to leading the organization to further growth and even greater impact.”

The CEO role is part of The Works’ long-term strategic plan. Measells will assume executive leadership from President and Founder, Rebecca Schatz, who has led the organization since its beginning. Schatz will remain in a key strategic role with the organization and will work with Measells to create a smooth transition for visitors, stakeholders and staff.

Schatz says, “Jill’s executive capacity, collaborative style, museum experience and thoughtful, strategic, process-oriented approach are exactly what we need to bring The Works to the next level. I look forward to working with Jill, our Board of Trustees and the rest of our talented staff to transition the organization to our much larger and more visible facility, opening on November 12th.”

Measells has a Master of Science in Public Service Management from DePaul University in Chicago and a B.A. in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She will start in her new role at The Works in mid-October.

ABOUT THE WORKS. The Works is an engineering discovery center – part museum, part workshop, part resource center, part playground and all about kids and active, engaging, hands-on engineering. The Works serves over 40,000 children, families and educators annually.

For 16 years, The Works has been quietly inspiring the next generation of innovators and problem-solvers through hands-on engineering activities. To date, over 250,000 visitors have experienced the interactive museum and innovative, “hands-on, minds-on” workshops, summer camps, teacher trainings, and engineering events.

On November 12, The Works will welcome the public to its new Bloomington facility— one that can serve four times the number of visitors, be a resource to educators throughout the state, and put innovation, engineering and creative problem solving into the hands of every child in the Twin Cities and beyond.

For more information, visit www.theworks.org

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