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## NEW DIRECTOR CHOSEN TO LEAD PORTSMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Portsmouth Historical Society's Board of Directors announced that Brian LeMay has been named the organization's next Executive Director. A former official of the Smithsonian Institution and Director of the Bostonian Society, LeMay will assume his new role in September, replacing Interim Director Ellen Fineberg.

The Society's Search Committee Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board, Senator Martha Fuller Clark, noted that LeMay's expertise will not only impact the Portsmouth Historical Society, but will benefit the city's nonprofit and history communities as well. "We are fortunate to have attracted a leader of Brian LeMay's distinction," said Fuller Clark.

"Brian brings a wealth of expertise to this outstanding historical organization," said Board President Dan Hoefle. "He has experience in all the areas of the Society's work, including exhibitions, historic building preservation, education, museum collections, and history scholarship."

LeMay was most recently the Executive Director and President of the Bostonian Society, where he oversaw the restoration of Boston's historic Old State House, the oldest surviving public building from British colonial America. He also directed the Boston History Research Library and Archive, and managed Revolutionary Boston Programs. During his 13-year tenure in Boston, he greatly expanded the institution's endowment, its operating budget, its visitation, and its staffing. He revived the Society's historic journal and established a reputation for innovative public programming.

For more than 20 years, LeMay was a senior official at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. He served there as Assistant Director of its International Center, where he organized a number of global symposia, research programs, and exhibitions.

LeMay holds a BA degree in Art History from the University of Minnesota, an MA from the John Hopkins University, an M.Phil from London's Courtauld Institute of Art, and a certificate in Nonprofit Strategic Management from the Harvard Business School. He is a former Visiting Scholar at the Royal Academy of Art, a Kress Fellow, a James Webb Fellow, and is a lifetime Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society. In 2006, he was elected a Member of the Colonial Society of New England.

Portsmouth Historical Society, founded in 1917, is a nonprofit devoted to championing the history, arts, and culture of the Portsmouth region through acquisitions, preservation, museum exhibitions, programs, and publications. It operates two facilities: Discover Portsmouth, opening in April, and the 1758 John Paul Jones House and Garden, a national historic landmark open Memorial Day through Columbus Day + Veterans Day. For more information please call 603-436-8433 or visit [www.portsmouthhistory.org](http://www.portsmouthhistory.org)

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