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Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at PSU announces Launch Date, Interim Director
Linda Tesner appointed interim director for Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at PSU which will open November 7th, 2019

Portland, OR (Aug. 28, 2019)
Portland State University announced today that the new Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art will open November 7th, 2019. Linda Tesner, a veteran art director, curator and lecturer, has been chosen as interim director. She started the position Aug. 1.

PSU's Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art will be located at 724 SW Harrison Street. A year-long renovation of the building, formerly Neuberger Hall, will open to the PSU campus and community this September, with the museum following in November. The launch will be celebrated over 4 days and will include a dedication ceremony, reception, family activities and a curatorial discussion with Tesner.

The museum will occupy more than 7,500 square feet on two floors overlooking SW Broadway. It will offer rich educational and collaborative opportunities, and free and accessible art experiences to PSU and the public. Its galleries will feature art by Northwest artists, faculty and students as well as exhibitions by national and international artists.

Before being appointed as the new interim director, Tesner served as director and curator at the Ronna and Eric Hoffman Gallery of Contemporary Art at Lewis & Clark College from 1998 to 2019. She was formerly the assistant director of the Portland Art Museum, and director of the Maryhill Museum of Art in Goldendale, Washington. Tesner has authored numerous exhibition catalogs, monographs and critical reviews, and is a sought-after lecturer and panel moderator known for facilitating critical dialogue on contemporary art. (Link to PSU News Feature)

“Linda Tesner knows our community well from her years of experience at Lewis & Clark and the Portland Art Museum,” said Interim President Steve Percy. “Her creativity and expertise are invaluable to PSU in making the museum’s inaugural year a success.”

“The city of Portland is home to one of America’s most vibrant arts communities. Through its new facilities and spaces, the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art enables Portland State University to contribute a significant voice and vision to that community” said Portland State University’s Provost Susan Jeffords. “The museum’s location at the center of the PSU campus symbolizes the importance of the arts to PSU’s educational mission and vision and creates opportunities for PSU students, faculty, and staff to engage with the broader arts community.
The museum also enables PSU to continue its strong tradition of community engagement through sharing the resources of the Museum with community audiences.

The museum – the first art museum at PSU — is being created through a $5 million contribution by businessman and philanthropist Jordan Schnitzer through the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation. Schnitzer’s commitment to fund the museum stipulates that it offer rich creative, educational and research opportunities to PSU students and faculty in departments across campus, as well as enable new occasions for collaboration in the humanities, science, technology and design. This is the third university art museum in the Pacific Northwest to be named after Schnitzer, with others at the University of Oregon and Washington State University. (link to Jordan’s gift News Feature)

“Many people view museums as some place for someone else, but I firmly believe art is for everyone. I’m trying to take down those perceived walls. A university campus is just the place to do it,” Schnitzer said. “The arts are the highest ideals of every society. They are the ultimate legacy we leave for future generations. This new museum will reach out to every student on campus, every young person in the surrounding counties every adult within the Portland metropolitan area – providing activities that will enrich their hearts, minds, and souls.”

“We are pleased to welcome the Portland State University Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art to the neighborhood,” said Portland Art Museum Director Brian Ferriso. “Portland State students, faculty, and staff have been wonderful partners to us for many decades. The addition of an art museum to the campus will provide even more opportunities for our community to connect with great art.”

Tesner will curate the museum’s first exhibition from the Jordan D. Schnitzer collection. This exhibition and the museum’s inaugural activities will help express its mission to serve as a creative learning laboratory that is both inclusive and interdisciplinary.

“I feel like PSU is doing something very important for the city of Portland, and I’m honored to be a part of it,” Tesner said. “This is the third Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art that Jordan Schnitzer has funded. I am already having communication with the directors of the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at the University of Oregon and the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at Washington State University about collaborating between these three incredible university museums.”