

Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***HAHS Executive Director Announces Retirement***

**Hayward (May 3, 2018)** – A.T. Stephens is stepping down as Executive Director of the Hayward Area Historical Society. Five years after the grand opening of the Center for History and Culture, HAHS’s chief administrator is set to retire on June 30, 2018. Until the Board of Directors conducts a thorough process to identify the historical society’s next executive, the Museum’s long-time Curator and Archivist Diane Curry will serve as HAHS’s Interim Director.

"My decision to retire this spring has not been an easy one, but now is the right time for something a little, if not completely different," says Stephens. "After four decades as a museum practitioner, I’m looking forward to being an expert tourist. I am honored to have helped HAHS and the greater Hayward community realize the dream of a Museum of History and Culture in our hometown. I am confident the exceptional staff and the Board of Directors will continue the vital work of the Hayward Area Historical Society."

The renovation of the commercial block of buildings along Foothill Boulevard started before Stephens was first hired on an interim basis to complete construction. Under his watch, the center emerged as a vital cultural venue. As Executive Director, A.T. Stephens raised the profile of the Historical Society as a receptive and active partner with many of the City’s civic organizations—master planning with Hayward Area Recreation and Park District, supporting bond measure campaigns by the parks and Hayward Unified School District, advocating for Hayward’s arts and music nonprofits, and serving on the Board of the Hayward Chamber of Commerce. He opened the doors of the Museum to the Downtown Streets Team and welcomed community-curated exhibits by Families of Fairview/Kelly Hill and unaccompanied minors in the public schools. With Mayor Barbara Halliday, HAHS was the host site to the Alameda County Conference of Mayors in 2016. One year later, HAHS was recognized by Assemblyman Bill Quirk and the California Legislature as the 20th Assembly District’s 2017 Nonprofit of the Year.

Locally, A.T. Stephens is a Board member of the Hayward Chamber of Commerce, a co-director of the Chamber’s Nonprofit Alliance, and a member of the Hayward Rotary Club. Stephens will complete his year as President of the Hayward Rotary June 30, 2018.

“The Board appreciates A.T. for his years of service to the Hayward Area Historical Society. On behalf of the Board of Directors past and present, I want to thank A.T. for his inspired leadership of HAHS and wish him continued success,” stated Board President Richard Patenaude.

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