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## **Concord Museum Appoints Dr. Amanda Lahikainen as New Executive Director**

**CONCORD, MA — February 3, 2026** – The [Concord Museum](https://www.concordmuseum.org) is thrilled to announce the appointment of Dr. Amanda Lahikainen as its new Edward W. Kane Executive Director. Dr. Lahikainen brings more than two decades of experience as a strategic museum leader, scholar, and dedicated educator, most recently serving as Executive Director of the Ogunquit Museum of American Art (OMAA) in Maine from 2020 to 2026. She joins the Concord Museum at a pivotal moment as the institution expands its role as a place of gathering, dialogue, education, and reflection during the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

“Dr. Lahikainen’s outstanding leadership combines a deep understanding of American history, art, and culture, with intellectual rigor and a strong commitment to public engagement,” said Claire Nelson, President of the Concord Museum’s Board of Governors. “Her record of strengthening institutional vision, advancing high-caliber exhibitions, increasing access to education and public programming, while building financial sustainability, makes her an exceptional choice to lead the Concord Museum into its next chapter.”

“I am honored to join the Concord Museum, a vibrant institution that tells nationally significant stories with its extraordinary collections and exhibitions, all rooted in Concord’s profound history,” said Dr. Lahikainen. “Its approach to history – blending art, literature, material culture, and place – creates powerful opportunities to connect the past with the present. As the Museum continues to lead during the 250th anniversary of our nation’s founding, I am eager to work with the Museum’s staff, Board of Governors, Trustees, and community to serve the public through accessible programming that draws visitors from across the region, nation, and beyond.”

An accomplished museum leader, author, and art historian, Dr. Lahikainen successfully developed and realized a bold strategic plan that positioned OMAA as a catalyst for creative energy, a vibrant center for American art in Maine, and a hub for community engagement and learning. During her tenure, she

increased the museum's annual operating budget year-over-year, led successful fundraising initiatives, and founded the Museum's education programs. Originally from Salem, MA, Lahikainen holds a PhD in art history from Brown University and a BA from Wellesley College. She previously taught at Aquinas College, where she was tenured and served as Art Department Chairperson, as well as at Brown University, Rhode Island College, and Roger Williams University. In 2012, she held a Kluge Fellowship at the Library of Congress and has received grants and fellowships from the Paul Mellon Centre and the Lewis Walpole Library at Yale University.

Dr. Lahikainen succeeds Lisa Krassner as Executive Director and will begin her tenure at the Concord Museum on March 15. On March 27th, the Museum will open a major new special exhibition, [Revolutionary Legacies](#). Featuring commemorative ephemera, original documents, unique relics, and contemporary works, this special exhibition asks what we choose to remember—and what has been left out—as the public looks back to the founding of our nation. The Museum will host a robust slate of [public programs](#) throughout the spring, including Forums with leading historians and writers such as Jill Lepore, Beverly Gage, and Terry Tempest Williams, a free Patriots' Day family program, and the Second Annual Paul Revere's Bike Ride.

### **About the Concord Museum**

The Concord Museum connects people to Concord's multi-faceted history and its continuing influence on American cultural, political, environmental, and literary life. Founded in 1886, the Museum houses one of the most notable collections of American material culture and decorative arts in the country, consisting of over 45,000 objects that bring Concord's past to life. The Museum showcases the many layers of Concord's remarkable history, including Concord's pivotal role in the beginning of the American Revolution, the writings of celebrated Transcendentalists, the rich history and continued presence of local Indigenous communities, a strong legacy of social justice activism, and innovations in education and agriculture. A regional leader in object-based learning, the Museum offers cutting-edge school programming and teacher resources, as well as life-long learning opportunities through exhibitions and public programs. In 2024, the Concord Museum received re-accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums – the highest national recognition available to any museum in the US and the gold standard of museum excellence for over 50 years. Only 3% of all museums nationwide hold AAM accreditation. The Concord Museum received national recognition as the #1 'Best Small Town Museum' by USA TODAY in 2025 and has been nominated for the title once again in 2026.

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