



Irish American Heritage Museum

21 Quackenbush Square
Albany, New York 12207
(518) 427-1916

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Liam McNabb (518) 427-1916

THE IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Michael Cornelius Clarke Appointed To Lead
Museum's Continued Exploration of the Contributions, History
And Culture of Irish People in America*

The Irish American Heritage Museum's Board of Directors today announced the appointment of Michael Cornelius Clarke as the Museum's Executive Director.

The Irish American Heritage Museum (IAHM) is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation created by the New York State legislature in 1986, and is permanently chartered by the Board of Regents of New York as an educational institution in 1992. The IAHM presents to New York State, the Northeast, and internationally a multi-faceted cultural experience, wherein the story of Irish people in America is seen, heard and experienced. In addition, IAHM fosters dialogue and exchanges of ideas between America and Ireland. Through this sharing, IAHM creates connections and community among all Americans in the context of both the appreciation and the study of the universality of the immigrant story in America.

Michael C. Clarke has spent thirty-five (35) years working as an attorney with executive and leadership roles in government, corporate and law firm settings. For over four decades, Michael has also been involved in Irish-American arts and culture as a performer, program organizer and promoter. Michael, a founding member of the band "Celtic Cross," has performed internationally and worked with many giants of the Irish music and arts scene, including Eileen Ivers, Tommy Mulvihill, Andy Cooney, Jimmy Kelly, Jr., Paddy Noonan, and Michael "Jesse" Owens. Michael has opened for acts such as The Clancy Brothers & Tommy Makem and the Saw Doctors. Most recently, Michael taught music at Coláiste Beaufort (Beaufort College) in County Meath.

"We are thrilled to have Michael join us at the museum," said Liam McNabb, the Chair of IAHM's Board of Directors. "The Board is enthusiastic about IAHM's future with Michael as Executive Director, especially considering his significant cultural, artistic and leadership experience."

"My mother and father - from Donegal and Sligo, respectively - raised my brothers and I with a deep love and appreciation for our Irish American heritage," said Michael. "All of my professional and personal successes were accomplished in the context of my heart-felt passion for and pride of being an Irish American. I live and breathe the mission and goals of IAHM; I can think of no higher honor than to continue doing so as IAHM's Executive Director."

Through both a permanent collection and a series of changing exhibitions, the Irish American Heritage Museum displays artifacts, recounts first-person stories, and explores the history of a variety of Irish immigrants and individuals with Irish heritage, from U.S. presidents and cultural icons to nameless soldiers and factory workers. In addition, the Irish American Heritage Museum presents a robust series of programming that includes lectures, musical performances, cooking demonstrations and tastings, film screenings, plays and staged readings. Many of these events are available virtual, which allows participation from both sides of the Atlantic. All are encouraged to explore Irish American Heritage Museum in person, on the [web](#), and on [FaceBook](#).