



John Michael Kohler Arts Center

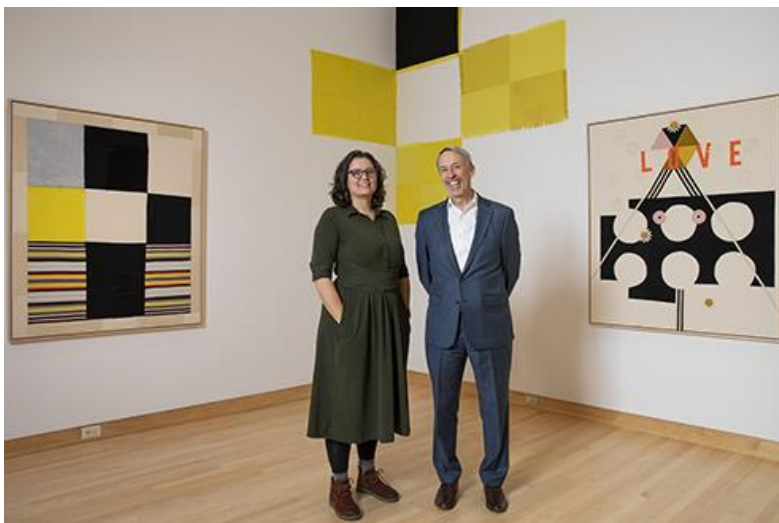
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Contact: Patricia DuChene
920-694-4525

Dec. 13, 2021 Sheboygan, WI

John Michael Kohler Arts Center announces retirement of Director Sam Gappmayer

~ Associate Director Amy Horst named his successor ~



The John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Wis., announced today that Arts Center Director Sam Gappmayer will retire February 28, 2022, and Associate Director Amy Horst will assume the directorship on March 1, 2022.

Gappmayer has served as director since 2016. He followed long-time Director Ruth DeYoung Kohler II, who had stepped aside to focus on creating a second JMKAC building dedicated to the presentation and study of artist-built environments. Horst has been with the Arts Center since 2005, when she joined the staff as a community arts coordinator.

“Thanks to Sam’s leadership, the Arts Center continues to fulfill Ruth Kohler’s vision that art, in all iterations, has the power to change lives for the better,” said JMKAC Board President Tony Rammer. “Amy Horst, with her years of working beside Ruth in the creation of programs and exhibitions, is uniquely qualified to carry that legacy forward.”

Highlighting Gappmayer’s leadership at the Arts Center is the June 2021 opening of the Art Preserve. After Kohler’s death in November 2020, Gappmayer led the Art Preserve project to completion. Upon its opening, the

Art Preserve immediately began drawing praise from national and international press, the public, and museum professionals for its innovative presentation of JMKAC's renowned collection of art environments.

During Gappmayer's tenure, the John Michael Kohler Arts Center also achieved American Alliance of Museums accreditation, developed an online model of art engagement that will expand access points beyond the pandemic, and instituted a plan to institutionally address diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Amy Horst worked closely with Ruth Kohler in mission fulfillment and program development initially as community arts coordinator and later as associate director. Horst has led all programming areas of the Arts Center, including exhibitions and collections, the Arts/Industry residency program, education, community arts, and performing arts since 2012.

Under Horst's direction, Arts Center exhibitions have regularly drawn critical praise, including citation by *Artforum* as among Best of 2020 (*Lenore Tawney: Mirror of the Universe* and Best of 2017 (*Things Are What We Encounter*). Hers was a critical voice in the creation of the Art Preserve and her interpretation of Kohler's vision guided the development of online and hybrid community engagement during the pandemic. In addition, her advocacy for the activation of a blighted city property as a venue for the Arts Center's free summer concert series is credited with providing the impetus for a \$10-million private investment in housing for downtown Sheboygan.

"My time at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center has been filled with admiration for the accomplishments of Ruth Kohler and the hard work of the staff in realizing her vision of what can be achieved through the arts," said Gappmayer. "I am so pleased to be handing the reins over to someone as accomplished and dedicated as Amy Horst."

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Available on JMKAC social media platforms 12/13/2021

John Michael Kohler Arts Center Director Sam Gappmayer will retire Feb. 28, 2022. Associate Director Amy Horst has been named to succeed him as director. The highlight of Gappmayer's tenure is the 2021 opening of JMKAC's Art Preserve, the first museum dedicated to artist-built environments.

IMAGES.



Horst_Gappmayer_gallery.jpg

John Michael Kohler Arts Center Director Sam Gappmayer (right) with Associate Director Amy Horst, who will succeed him as director of the Sheboygan, Wis., organization when he retires Feb. 28, 2022. Shown in the gallery featuring the *High Touch* exhibition at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center. Works shown by Diana Guerrero-Maciá. Courtesy of the artist, view includes works courtesy Carrie Secrist Gallery, Chicago. Photo courtesy John Michael Kohler Arts Center.



Sam_Gappmayer.jpg

John Michael Kohler Arts Center Director Sam Gappmayer will retire Feb. 28, 2022. Associate Director Amy Horst will succeed him as director of the Sheboygan, Wis., organization. Photo courtesy John Michael Kohler Arts Center.



Amy_Horst.jpg

John Michael Kohler Arts Center Associate Director Amy Horst will become director of the Sheboygan, Wis., organization with the retirement of current Director Sam Gappmayer on Feb. 28, 2022. Photo courtesy John Michael Kohler Arts Center.

About the John Michael Kohler Arts Center

Founded in 1967, the John Michael Kohler Arts Center (JMKAC) is dedicated to generating creative exchanges between an international community of artists and a diverse public. Central to its mission is promoting understanding and appreciation of the work of self-taught and contemporary artists through original exhibitions, commissioned works of art, performing arts, community arts initiatives, and publications.

The Arts Center's collection focuses primarily on works by artist-environment builders, self-taught and folk artists, and works created in the Arts/Industry residency program. JMKAC is the world's leading center for research and presentation of artist-built environments.

In June 2021, the Arts Center opened the Art Preserve, a second campus highlighting its collection of 25,000 individual works of art by more than 30 art-environment builders. The Art Preserve features immersive displays of art environments and curated visible storage of environment components. It also serves as a resource for research on art environments and the artists who create them.

The John Michael Kohler Arts Center is located at 608 New York Avenue, Sheboygan, WI. The Art Preserve is located at 3636 Lower Falls Road, Sheboygan. Admission to both is free. For more information, call 920-458-6144, or visit jmkac.org, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#).

The John Michael Kohler Arts Center is supported by corporate and foundation donors, government grants, and its many members. The Arts Center is not an entity of Kohler Co. or its subsidiaries.

Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Locations

John Michael Kohler Arts Center: 608 New York Avenue, Sheboygan, WI

Art Preserve: 3636 Lower Falls Road, Sheboygan, WI