



Harriet Beecher Stowe Center  
77 Forest Street  
Hartford, CT 06105  
[www.StoweCenter.org](http://www.StoweCenter.org)

CONTACT: Anita Durkin  
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center  
860.522.9258  
[adurkin@stowecenter.org](mailto:adurkin@stowecenter.org)

**For immediate release:**  
October 25, 2022

## **The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center Announces Karen Fisk As Its New Executive Director**

- **The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center Board of Trustees announces the appointment of Karen Fisk as the organization's new Executive Director. Fisk began her tenure on October 17, 2022.**
- **Fisk most recently served as the Vice President of Community Investment and External Affairs at the Springfield Museums.**

HARTFORD, CT –The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center Board of Trustees announces the appointment of Karen Fisk as the organization's new Executive Director. Fisk was selected after a nationwide search facilitated by Arts Consulting Group, and began her tenure on Monday, October 17, 2022.

"The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center's innovative approach to historic house tours absolutely ignited my imagination when I took my first tour years ago," Fisk said. "I returned for many visits, each different thanks to the Center's willingness to turn to the visitor to share personal insights. What a powerful way to say 'what you think matters; let's talk.' Facilitated dialogue also emphasizes that listening, acknowledging, and building from other people's ideas leads to stronger insights."

As a museum professional, Karen Fisk is committed to sharing stories that illuminate humanity, nurture empathy, and motivate positive change. One of her ongoing goals is to ensure that all people feel welcome, seen, and heard in museum spaces. Following a career in publishing, Fisk entered the museum and historic house field, serving most recently as the Vice President of Community Investment and External Affairs at the Springfield Museums. There she directed the restoration of Dr. Seuss's childhood home (Ted's House), in addition to leading the marketing, public relations, and development teams. She additionally worked with community advisory groups, as well as staff working groups, to help facilitate cultural competency in all aspects of the museum experience.

Fisk's time at the Springfield Museums included work, with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, for a Native Voices Initiative to offer a fuller, truer history of First Peoples in the region and celebrate the thriving presence of Native peoples today and into the future. With funding from the National Federation for the Blind and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Fisk engaged with advisors who are Blind and allies of those who are Blind or Low Vision, to create an equitable museum experience for all visitors using audio descriptions and tactile exhibits.

"We are so pleased that Karen has joined us," said Dave Jenkins, Board Chair. "We are excited about all that she and our remarkable staff can do together to share the mission and vision of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center."

Fisk looks forward to leading the Stowe Center toward an accessible, inclusive, and inspiring future, noting that, "Harriet Beecher Stowe is an inspiring example of the power one person has to effect change not only during their lifetime, but for generations, especially in dialogue with others. I am devoted to helping to facilitate positive, innovative, transformative experiences through the Stowe Center and forging alliances to exponentially increase our ability to work together for good."

Karen Fisk has a master's degree in English Literature from the University of Michigan and a BA in both Art History and English from the University of Rochester. She has extensive training in Inclusion, Equity, Diversity, and Accessibility and continues to explore ideals essential to fostering feelings of belonging and connection, invitations to dialogue, and inspirations for action. The Stowe Center is delighted to welcome her.

**The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center** is a museum, research library, and program center in Hartford, Connecticut. The Stowe Center's mission is to preserve and interpret Stowe's Hartford home and the Center's historic collections, promote vibrant discussion of her life and work, and inspire commitment to social justice and positive change. For general information and updates, visit [www.HarrietBeecherStoweCenter.org](http://www.HarrietBeecherStoweCenter.org).

#####