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**AMOS Announces New Executive Director***Amanda Bryant Takes the Helm as Museum Continues to Grow*

**ASHEVILLE, NC – July 24, 2018 –** Asheville Museum of Science (AMOS) has completed its search for a new Executive Director and is pleased to announce Amanda Bryant has accepted the position. Ms. Bryant has been serving as Interim Executive Director since April. Her leadership has allowed daily museum operations to continue seamlessly during the transition period and she has proven her skill and resolve in managing the day-to-day functions as well as helping shape a strategic plan for the museum’s future.

“We were fortunate to have Ms. Bryant step in as Interim Director and are immensely pleased to have her permanently fill the role after a national search,” said Matthew Maultsby, President of the Board of AMOS. “She’s a strong leader with the background AMOS needs to achieve its goals of expansion as an educational resource to schools and families, and continued partnership development with Asheville industries, art community, and city and county entities.”

In addition to her experience within the organization, Ms. Bryant’s strong relationships in the community and her commitment to the AMOS mission and vision will be key as the museum continues its growth. She also brings a wealth of expertise in overseeing programs with city and county impacts that will help AMOS during its evolution into a flagship regional science museum.

A Western North Carolina native who has lived and worked in both Washington, DC and Asheville for the past 12 years, Ms. Bryant most recently served as a Strategic Communications Executive at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) External Affairs. She brings extensive experience from that role as well as her role at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Her work at both agencies has given her a solid science background, along with crucial organizational and communications skills.

“To be given the opportunity to grow the museum into a showcase of science, technology, and innovation is extremely gratifying. I’m honored to work with an incredible team who is transforming AMOS into the attraction that locals and tourist alike put on their must experience list while also leading the conversation on how we attract more science and technology professionals to our diverse area and support workforce development through STEM education.”

Ms. Bryant also holds a degree in education and communications – a tremendous advantage as AMOS plans to expand its educational offerings, including camps and at-school and afterschool programs. She and her husband, Brandon, live in North Asheville with their six-year-old daughter, Charlee, and their dog, Tag.

**About the Asheville Museum of Science (AMOS)**Asheville Museum of Science is a premiere exploratory science experience in downtown Asheville. The museum has evolved to provide an array of educational services to surrounding schools, homeschooled students and adults alike, inspiring local interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM). With plans to open three new exhibits this year and a growing collaboration with The Collider, housed in the same building, AMOS is poised for a phase of exciting growth. Visitors can immerse themselves in geology in the Colburn Hall of Minerals, archaeology while digging for fossils and examining the Teratophoneus dinosaur skeleton, biology, dendrology and botany climbing into the tree canopy in the Southern Appalachian Forestry exhibit, and much more.

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