

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RE: PPHM Announces New Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs

Canyon, TX- The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum is proud to announce that Bill Mercer has begun work as the Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs and the Curator of Art. PPHM and Friends of Southwestern Art invite the public, membership and media to meet Mercer on Friday November 8th at 6:30pm.

Bill Mercer has worked extensively in numerous museums as a curator and administrator. His primary areas of expertise are Western and Native American art and cultural history and has taught at Portland State University and California State University Northridge.



“The museum has exceptional collections, a meaningful mission, and a great staff. I was also attracted to the position because of the university community, small town atmosphere, and wide open spaces,” said Mercer.

Bill has worked at various museums including the Buffalo Bill Historical Center of the West, and served as the Curator for the Art of Africa and the Americas at the Cincinnati Art Museum, Curator of Native American Art at the Portland Art Museum, and Director of the Montana Historical Society Museum. His education consists of an undergraduate degree in anthropology and history from California State University Northridge, an M.A. in museum studies from Texas Tech University, and he did additional work at the PhD level in Native American art history at the University of New Mexico.

“One of Bill’s strengths is a lifelong interest in and knowledge of Native American Culture. He has opened the door to a new area of focus for our museum,” said Carol Lovelady, PPHM director.

ABOUT PPHM

Located on the campus of West Texas A&M University, the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum is the largest history museum in Texas, with more than 285,000 square feet—and over two million artifacts—dedicated to preserving this area’s past. PPHM offers visitors a chance to step into panhandle history with special exhibits, a permanent collection, Pioneer Town, cell phone tours, educational tours and special events. For more information about PPHM please visit www.panhandleplains.org .