

## **DEBORAH GILPIN NAMED CEO OF PHOENIX FAMILY MUSEUM**

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PHOENIX, Ariz. (Oct. 26, 2004): Deborah Gilpin, who spent 10 years as Executive Director of The Discovery Museums of Acton, Mass., and the past year and a half as Vice President of Exhibits and Programs at the Arizona Science Center, has been named Executive Director of the Phoenix Family Museum.

Gilpin, a north Scottsdale resident, will be responsible for directing all phases of the development, administration and operation of the Phoenix Family Museum at the historic Monroe School building at 7<sup>th</sup> St. and Van Buren in downtown Phoenix.

“After an extensive national search, we realized that the person with the experience, skills, talent and drive we sought was already a member of our community,” said PFM Board President Tom Ambrose. “That very fact illustrates two points: first that Arizona is attracting more and more top-level, top-thinking individuals to every phase of life and business in the Valley. And, second, that, as a community, we need to take full advantage of the incredible talent base right here at home.”

At the Arizona Science Center, among other responsibilities and achievements, Gilpin supervised three departments and 40 employees, and directed plans for opening the center’s 22,500 square-foot expansion.

During her 15-year tenure at the Massachusetts-based Discovery Museums, the organization tripled in size, expanding its three-acre campus to include two age-focused museums. The organization earned regional and international recognition for the fun and educational experiences it provides, including the 2001 Award for Innovation from the Association of Science and Technology Centers. Other achievements included creating nationally recognized programs including Girls get SET (Science, Engineering and Technology) for Life in a partnership with Tufts University, and expanding the number of annual programs to include school outreach and Teacher Training for pre-K through school-age educators. She also was able to double the museum's annual operating budget, establish an endowment fund and increase contributed income through fundraising and financial stewardship.

Gilpin holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin, and has completed the Harvard University Extension program LEAP (Learning Extensions for Arts Partnerships) and the Getty Leadership Institute's Museum Management Institute. She has often provided consultation to emerging children's museums from around the world as they sought to create their own unique environments.

"The potential reach and impact of the Phoenix Family Museum is truly without boundaries," Gilpin said. "Our immediate goals will be to push forward on plans to renovate and open the museum at the Monroe School site, to build a strong support base among private individuals and corporations and to provide the type of inspirational and diverse programming that the community clearly wants. I can't wait to get started."

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