



## *News Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NAMES ELANA SULLIVAN AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CEO**

**DETROIT-** Thomas C. Buhl, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Detroit Historical Society, announced today that Elana Sullivan has been named Executive Director and CEO of the Detroit Historical Society after an exhaustive search. She assumes responsibility for the overall strategic direction, management and operations of the Detroit Historical Museum in Midtown, the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle and the Collections Resource Center, home to the city's collection of more than 250,000 historic artifacts, effective July 9, 2018, when longtime CEO Bob Bury steps down. Sullivan most recently served as Chief Advancement Officer for Detroit Country Day School in Beverly Hills, Michigan and has spent her entire 28-year career in the nonprofit arena.

"I am honored and incredibly excited to have been selected as the Society's next CEO. Detroit and its history are worthy of being celebrated, something the Detroit Historical Society has done so well for nearly a century. This is a remarkable time of growth in our city, and I am proud to have the chance to be part of it" said Sullivan.

Sullivan began her career in nonprofit management and development in 1990 at the National Multiple Sclerosis Society-Michigan Chapter, holding numerous positions before joining the philanthropy department of Henry Ford Health System in 2001, where she spent nearly seven years. She returned to the MS Society-Michigan Chapter in 2007 and served as president for 10 years, leading the organization through a significant financial and cultural turnaround. Sullivan's efforts at the MS Society resulted in the organization receiving numerous workplace awards, including the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Excellence in Workplace Effectiveness and Flexibility (for which it was an eight-time winner), Metropolitan Detroit's Best and Brightest Companies to Work For, and Crain's Detroit's #1 Coolest Place to Work in Michigan in 2014.

Sullivan participates regularly in community events, frequently raising funds for associated charities, and also remains a committed volunteer for the National MS Society.

“This is an exciting transition for the Detroit Historical Society. Elana brings a depth of experience and an enthusiasm for nonprofit growth and innovation that will serve the Society well at this exciting juncture in our history” said Buhl. “We look forward to continuing our positive momentum and growing our capabilities under her leadership.”

The Society is coming off a high-visibility year with the launch of its *Detroit 67: Looking Back to Move Forward* community engagement project, for which it was recently named a 2018 National Medal winner from the Institute for Museum and Library Services. The *Detroit 67: Perspectives* exhibition remains on display at the Detroit Historical Museum through 2019.

**The Detroit Historical Society** is a private, nonprofit organization located in Midtown, the heart of Detroit’s cultural center. Founded in 1921, its mission is to tell Detroit’s stories and why they matter. Today, the Society operates the Detroit Historical Museum and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. In addition, the Society is responsible for the conservation and preservation of more than 250,000 artifacts that represent three centuries of our region’s rich history. Through its museum exhibits, school tour programs, community-based programs and history-themed outreach efforts, the Society serves more than 150,000 people annually. For more information on the Detroit Historical Society, visit [detroithistorical.org](http://detroithistorical.org).

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