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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOUNT VERNON, Illinois - The Mitchell Foundation Trustees announced today that Cedarhurst Center for the Arts Executive Director Sharon Bradham will retire from her position at the museum in April 2019. Bradham first became involved with Cedarhurst as a volunteer over 30 years ago, and in June 1998 accepted the position of Executive Director. The Board of Trustees is initiating a search to fill the position.

During her volunteer years, Bradham served as an Administrative Counselor, the Director of Performing Arts, and a member of the Mitchell Foundation Board of Trustees. As Executive Director, she led the museum through many milestones including a multi-million dollar expansion project. And in 2016 Bradham and her staff at Cedarhurst, achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition afforded the nation's museums.

"These last 20 years overseeing the operation of the Mitchell Museum and Cedarhurst Center for the Arts has been exciting and gratifying," said Bradham. "I have had the privilege of working with an extraordinary group of trustees, an amazing and passionate staff, many dedicated Administrative Counselors and volunteers, and incredibly generous supporters. My goal has been to make Cedarhurst a major art and educational resource as well as an economic engine for this region."

"On behalf of the entire Board, I commend Sharon for her dedication and leadership during her career at Cedarhurst," stated Board of Trustees chairperson Hunt Bonan. "Her forward-thinking vision has played a significant role in the institution's current level of art exhibitions, quality programs, and community outreach."

Bradham has been involved in many state and local groups and projects such as the Illinois Association of Museums, Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, Mt. Vernon Rotary, and the Jefferson County Development Corp. "Retirement will allow me to spend more time with my husband and family," she commented. "I do however intend to remain involved in our community and continue to serve on both state and local boards."

"We have such an incredible staff and I am thrilled to watch as Cedarhurst continues its forward momentum," Bradham continued. "I am humbled and honored to have worked with so many wonderful people and supporters who are passionate about Cedarhurst Center for the Arts."

Bradham, a native of Effingham, Illinois, has a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Indiana State University and taught school for five years. She is a life long learner and obtained her master's degree in Arts Management at the University of Illinois, Springfield. She resides in Mt. Vernon with her husband Gary (Pete) Bradham. They have a son, Collin Bradham, daughter, Amanda (Jason) Little, and grandson Tyler Bradham.