

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Cedarhurst Center for the Arts launches search for next director of visual arts**

MT. VERNON, Ill. — Cedarhurst Center for the Arts has officially launched a search for its next director of visual arts, marking an important moment of opportunity and forward momentum for the organization.

The museum’s current visual arts director, Rusty Freeman, has announced his retirement effective June 2026. He began his tenure at Cedarhurst in 2009 as the seventh visual arts director in the museum’s 52-year history. A separate announcement recognizing his service will be shared at a later date.

The board of directors and leadership team have initiated a comprehensive search to identify a strategic and collaborative director of visual arts to serve as lead curator for the nationally accredited museum.

The nationwide search will utilize several professional museum organizations, including the American Alliance of Museums, Illinois Arts Council, and the Association of Midwest Museums, to attract applicants for the position.

“This is an exciting opportunity to build upon the strong foundation that Rusty has established and to position Cedarhurst for continued growth and impact,” said Cedarhurst Executive Director Hillary Esser.

The museum’s art collection — begun in the 1940s and 1950s by founding philanthropists John and Eleanor Mitchell — is presented in dialogue with regional exhibitions, education programs, and community partnerships that serve a largely rural, multi-county region and impact more than 50,000 people annually. As a nationally accredited institution, Cedarhurst is poised for continued growth, and the next director of visual arts will help advance its curatorial excellence, broaden institutional partnerships, and further position the museum within the national arts landscape.

Qualified candidates are encouraged to learn more about the position and application process. Full details and submission instructions are available at [cedarhurst.org/join-our-team/](https://cedarhurst.org/join-our-team/).