



The Walt Disney Family Museum Appoints Alice A. Carter and Courtney Granner as New Education Co-Directors

January 6, 2016 (San Francisco, CA) – The Walt Disney Family Museum is pleased to announce the appointment of Alice A. Carter and Courtney Granner as Co-directors of the museum’s Education Department. Carter and Granner are key additions to the museum’s senior staff, as they will help usher in the next significant phase of the museum’s education and public engagement initiatives.

Co-founders of San Jose State University’s highly acclaimed Animation and Illustration Program, Carter and Granner bring decades of experience—in a variety of disciplines—to the museum. Their accomplishments include raising the bar for animation education at a major university, as well as helping launch hundreds of students into critical careers—students who are now influential animators, artists, designers, and thought leaders in a variety of industries and geographies.

The museum, which opened its doors just six years ago, has already established a significant presence in education and public programming. In 2015 alone, the museum served more than 37,000 education participants. As part of the ongoing fulfillment of its mission, the museum is excited to partner with Carter and Granner to expand its success in educational and engagement initiatives well into the future.

“Real education does not happen without inspiration, but it also does not happen without effort,” said Kirsten Komoroske, Executive Director of The Walt Disney Family Museum. “This museum inspires people of all ages to discover, or rediscover, their own imagination and creativity. The next step is to realize it. We are thrilled to have Alice and Courtney lead this effort.”

Carter and Granner will enhance current public program offerings and create new learning experiences

for museum visitors of all ages. Key initiatives in 2016 include an Earth Day celebration, the third annual Bay Area Teen Animation Festival, the second annual Big Draw celebration, after school workshops, and summer camp offerings, as well as continuing the success of the museum's legacy public program offering. These programs provide museum visitors and the Bay Area at large with access to an array of Disney luminaries, community partners, and animation professionals.

Alice A. Carter earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of the Arts and her Master's degree at Stanford University. Academic honors include San Jose State's Outstanding Professor award; a Fulbright Fellowship in Cairo, Egypt; the New York Society of Illustrators Distinguished Educator in the Arts award; and the Umhoefer Prize for Achievement in the Humanities. Carter's illustration clients have included LucasFilm Ltd., *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times*, and ABC Television. Carter is also a widely published author and in conjunction with her writing has curated exhibitions at the Woodmere Art Museum, The Norman Rockwell Museum, and The Society of Illustrators' Museum of American Illustration.

"Walt Disney's legacy is not only one to be remembered, but also continued through generations," said Carter. "Through our state-of-the-art educational programs, we are allowing people to carry on that legacy, and I'm honored to be a part of it."

Courtney Granner completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Western Kentucky University, post-graduate study at The Art Institute of Boston, and a Master of Arts degree from Syracuse University. Academic honors include the School of Humanities and the Arts Teaching Innovation Award and a Fulbright Fellowship in Cairo, Egypt. Granner has maintained an active professional career, first as a video game designer, then as an editorial art director, and more recently as a noted illustrator whose list of clients have included *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Businessweek*, *Reader's Digest*, and the *New Yorker*.

"Walt Disney's commitment to creativity and excellence has been an inspiration to me throughout my career," noted Granner. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to share that inspiration with others and to educate our visitors about the artistry of Disney animation."

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ABOUT THE WALT DISNEY FAMILY MUSEUM

The Walt Disney Family Museum presents the fascinating story and achievements of Walt Disney, the man who raised animation to an art, transformed the film industry, tirelessly pursued innovation, and created a global and distinctively American legacy. Opened in October 2009, the 40,000 square foot facility features the newest technology and historic materials and artifacts to bring Disney's achievements to life, with interactive galleries that include early drawings and animation, movies, music, listening stations, a spectacular model of Disneyland and much more.

Hours: 10am to 6pm, daily except on Tuesdays, January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25.

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