



## MEDIA RELEASE

**April 22, 2024**-- The National Quilt Museum (NQM) announced today that it has a new Executive Director, Bonnie Schrock, a quilter, and former COO of Baptist Health Paducah. Museum founder Meredith Schroeder recruited Schrock with a phone call. Schroeder said, "Bonnie's love for quilting and her leadership skillset is just what we need to ensure the next generation of quilters enjoy the magnificent collection of art quilts at The National Quilt Museum."

Dr. Barbara Veazey, Chair of the NQM Board of Directors states, "as a former board member of Baptist Health Paducah, I have worked closely with Bonnie and believe we have chosen an outstanding leader for The National Quilt Museum."

Schrock is a major fan of the museum and extremely familiar with Paducah's designation throughout the world as Quilt City, USA. Recently retired from Baptist Health Paducah, Schrock will assume the role of Executive Director of The National Quilt Museum on May 13, 2024. Prior to joining the hospital, Schrock was a seasoned reporter and anchor for WPSD-TV 6. She brings 40 years of experience in communications, marketing, executive leadership in operations, and a personal love of quilting.

She was first introduced to the art quilt world in the late 80's while covering the economic impact of the AQS Quilt Show and Contest. That experience inspired her to make her first quilt. After transitioning to health care, she connected the hospital to the vibrant Paducah arts community and in 2005 collaborated with Bonnie Browning, former AQS Executive Show Director on a quilt award for permanent display in the hospital's then planned Heart Center expansion. She worked directly with the museum curator at the time to ensure a museum quality exhibition. That quilt "November Fields" by Gail Stepanek of New Lenox, Illinois still hangs today in the Carson-Myre Heart Center.

Schrock joins a team of eleven museum professionals and support staff who oversee museum collections, and manage the acquisition, preservation, and display of award-winning quilts, as well as educational programming and the visitor experience.

"I've always been inspired by the textile artists who create beautiful quilts" Schrock said. "This role allows me to give back to the community by advancing our museum as a national treasure and opening up more opportunities for people to enjoy the outstanding quilts in our collection."

Schrock will focus on development and enrichment of the museum's acclaim as The National Quilt Museum of the United States and the repository for "today's quilts." She will begin her new role as executive director on May 13, 2024.