

JEWISH MUSEUM IN PRAGUE HAS NEW LEADERSHIP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(PRAGUE, July 11, 2023) Pavla Niklová became the new director of the Jewish Museum in Prague as of July 1, 2023.

Pavla Niklová has experience at prominent arts organizations in the Czech Republic and in the United States. Her focus is the conception, production, and promotion of innovative programs that encourage multidisciplinary collaboration and exchange. In addition, she has experience in fundraising and public relations. From July 2014 to June 2023, she served as Executive Director of the Vaclav Havel Library Foundation in New York. Over the course of nine years, the Foundation dedicated the bust of Vaclav Havel in the U.S. Capitol on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, established the annual Disturbing the Peace award for dissident writers, and filmed numerous interviews with prominent U.S. politicians, academics, writers and artists. Since 2017, the Foundation has organized the annual Rehearsal for Truth festival of Central European theater at the Bohemian National Hall in Manhattan.

During her previous engagement at the Jewish Museum in Prague (October 2004-January 2010), when she was the head of the Department of Development and Public Relations, Pavla Niklová was also in charge of the project "A Year with Jewish Culture - 100 Years of the Jewish Museum in Prague." The goal of the anniversary celebrations was to present the museum as a unique holding place of Jewish history connected to Czech culture and society. Thanks to this program, the museum established partnerships with a total of one hundred and twenty institutions and participated in events in fifty cities around the world.

"The museum represents an extensive collective memory not only of Czech and Moravian Jews but of the whole Central European region. I feel an enormous responsibility and motivation to run the museum as an institution that is based on Jewish traditions but is also welcoming to the general public, and documents contemporary life besides preserving history. With our colleagues at the museum, we will be developing new and inspiring programs that should become one of our core activities, expand the interest of the public, open up new funding opportunities, and attract media attention. We would like the museum to be recognized as an essential part of cultural and social life in Prague," says Niklová.

Pavla Niklová was appointed Director by the Board of Trustees for a five-year term. She succeeded Leo Pavlat, who had been director since 1994, when the museum was returned to the Jewish community. Over the past thirty years, after the turbulent period of World War II and forty years of survival under the communist regime, the Jewish Museum has become one of the most visited memory institutions in the Czech Republic and has gained a reputation as one of the most important public collections of Judaica in the world.





Photo © Madeline Windland

For more information please contact:

Gabriela Zdražilová, Head of Public Relations

gabriela.zadrazilova@jewishmuseum.cz / +420 605 246 233