

March 16, 2015

To: Mayor Bemrich and City Council

**From: David Fierke, City Manager
Jamie N. Anderson, HR Director**

**Subject: Appointment of Eric Anderson to
Permanent Blanden Art Museum Director**



ACTION: For vote Monday, March 23, 2015

Brief History

Per the City Charter, the City Council needs to authorize and approve appointments at the Department Head level. The Blanden Board of Trustees wishes to fill the director vacancy internally by promoting Eric Anderson, who has served as Acting Museum Director since November 2014. An Administrative Order appointing Eric Anderson as the Blanden Museum Director has been prepared and signed by the City Manager.

Analysis of Issue

The previous Museum Director suddenly resigned in July 2014. Recruitment to fill the director position began in September 2014 after several discussions with the Board about the current state of the museum and possible options to ensure success of the Blanden. A Midwest regional search was conducted. The Board has a strong desire for the new director to grow an appreciation of arts and culture within Fort Dodge and the surrounding areas, to attract visitors to the museum, and fully embrace the potential of the Blanden to serve as an educational experience for all ages. Ten resumes were received between September and December, including one internal applicant Eric Anderson who was hired in August 2014 as the Art Educator/Assistant Director.

Early January 2015 the Board selected four candidates to invite for in-person interviews. Saturday, February 28th the Board conducted interviews at the Smeltzer House. Staff provided candidates a tour of the museum and city tours were also arranged. The Board voted and decided to offer the position to the Eric Anderson.

Eric has done a great job in the Acting Director's role and has demonstrated his ability to manage the operations, promote and direct the art programs, and gain community support of the Blanden, while working within budget constraints. In his short time here Eric has:

- Managed the installation and de-installation of exhibitions;
- curated current and ongoing exhibitions;

- re-developed (brought back to life) the Arts in the Schools, Art Education Program here in Fort Dodge;
- integrated technology into the Blanden by purchasing new equipment for a digital interaction program (through the use of QR codes) to enhance visitor experience with the artwork;
- coordinated the Blanden's holiday open house event with a variety of area vendors, music, and refreshments and raised \$1000 for art education;
- developed grant requests for various programs, new equipment and supplies;
- participated in City and community events, serving as the "face" of the Blanden, representing the museum in a positive light.

Budget Impact

The acting pay and permanent pay at the same grade 29A salary of \$58,988.80 annually.


Staff Conclusions / Recommendations

The Human Resource Director and City Manager recommend approval.

Signed

Approved

Jamie N. Anderson
Human Resource Director



David R. Fierke
City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 15-002

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT DODGE, IOWA THAT Administrative Order 15-002 is hereby approved.

The above Resolution passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Fort Dodge, Iowa this _____ day of _____, 2015.

AYE: _____

NAY: _____

OTHER: _____

CITY OF FORT DODGE

Matt Bemrich, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeff Nemmers, City Clerk

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 15-002

SECTION I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Administrative Order is to appoint a Department Head. Pursuant to the Charter of the City of Fort Dodge, Council approval is required.

SECTION II. APPOINTMENT

The following named individual is hereby appointed as Blanden Art Museum Director for the City of Fort Dodge, Iowa. Such appointment is to take effect on March 23, 2015, however the classification start date is November 25, 2014 because it represents the start of the Acting Blanden Art Museum Director assignment.

Eric Anderson

SECTION III. COMPENSATION GRADE/STEP

Said appointment shall be at Management 29A.

Issued at Fort Dodge, Iowa this 23th day of March, 2015.



David Fierke, City Manager