

BARNUM MUSEUM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RE-UPPED TO SEAT ON
CT HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL

August 10, 2016 – Kathy Maher, Executive Director of Bridgeport’s historic Barnum Museum has been re-appointed by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy to the Connecticut Historic Preservation Council.

The Council, founded in 1955, includes 12 members who advise the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on critical historic preservation issues. The Council is tasked with working directly with the Office of the Attorney General to review and approve requests to perform work on properties which SHPO holds preservation restrictions; assist in the establishment of local historic districts; promote heritage conservation in the state and; to prevent the “unreasonable destruction” of property listed on, or under consideration for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. In performing these functions, the Council relies on staff support from the State Historic Preservation Office.

Maher said in accepting her appointment, “I am thrilled to continue my service to the citizens of Connecticut and safeguard the unique buildings, sites, landscapes and districts that compose the cultural heritage of the state”. “While I am entrusted with protecting and ensuring the future of the great, historical Barnum Museum”, she said, “it is so important to the citizens of Connecticut that all National Historic Landmarks, those on the State and National Register of Historic Places and Municipal Historic Districts are protected, cherished and celebrated now and for future generations”.

Maher has 29 years of experience working for museums that are additionally recognized as nationally significant historic landmarks. Throughout her career, she has envisioned, created and implemented numerous social historical exhibitions and programs that explore themes ranging from the struggles and triumphs of an emerging 19th century industrial America to the transformation of society during Civil War reformation. Authoring numerous publications and exhibition narratives, Maher has been the recipient of numerous State and National awards for research and presentation.

Maher is the champion of the Barnum Museum’s major disaster recovery effort that began as a result of an EF1 tornado strike several years ago. Her knowledge of historic preservation has greatly benefited the ongoing restoration and re-envisioning of the landmark and work continues to revive the iconic site back to former glory.

Maher is an active leader in Connecticut and Washington DC, advocating for historic preservation, urban revitalization, arts and cultural heritage. She is also a Field Reviewer for the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. Maher works diligently to forge new partnerships and alliances to stimulate broader interest and awareness of American history, and

works to expand history as a fundamental and critical component of curriculum based education for all seekers of knowledge.

Ms. Maher is regularly sought for on air appearances as a guest historian for History Channel, Arts & Entertainment Network, Madison Square Garden Network, Travel Channel, American Heroes Channel, British Broadcasting Company (BBC), National Public Radio (NPR) and has presented a TEDx Talk.

Ms. Maher also holds gubernatorial appointments to the **State Library and Museum of Connecticut History and Heritage**, Museum Advisory Committee, currently Chairman of the Museum Advisory Committee, and the **Connecticut Civil War Commemoration Commission**.

Pending legislative approval, Maher will serve through 2020.