

WHAT'S ON

Mississauga's museums manager leaving for new position

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various roles in Mississauga immensely but says the time is right for him to move on to other professional challenges. He feels he accomplished a fair amount - such as growing the municipality's various arts and heritage programs and exhibitions while also ensuring they've become more representative of the city's diverse population.

While tough to leave his current position, he says a "passion" for working with artists, new ideas and cultural communities drew him to his new job.

"Mississauga hasn't seen the last of Stuart Keeler," he said with a laugh. "There's lots of great talent here and I'll bring Mississauga with me (moving forward)."

Looking back on his time with the municipality, Keeler says an emphasis on storytelling was one of biggest priorities. He's proud of the work they've done being a facilitator for the

city's Indigenous, black and South Asian communities so they had a greater opportunity to share their stories and insights.

He pointed to a project such as Black Sauga Voices, a community-based conversation exploring the black experience in Mississauga. There's also The Story of M initiative, which collects stories from the city's residents and use them to influence exhibits and programming, that emerged from the heritage management strategy approved by city council last year.

"It's important for people to see themselves in the arts and heritage experience," he said. "Through storytelling, we see ourselves reflected and have our voices be heard."

He added that it has been a pleasure working with the city's arts and heritage community and feels he's leaving a strong legacy in place.

Stuart Keeler has been a fixture in Mississauga's arts and culture community for almost a decade with a pair of high-profile jobs.

He spent about five years as curator and director with the Art Gallery of Mississauga. And, for the past three, he's been the chief curator and manager of Museums of Mississauga with the City of Mississauga.

However, his final day in that role will be Oct. 13 as he leaves to become senior curator with TD Bank Art Collection and Acquisitions, which is a contemporary collection of Canadian art as well as an historical Inuit art collection.

The municipality plans on conducting a national search for his replacement and an acting manager is expected to be announced later this month.

Keeler has enjoyed his



Rob Beintema/Metroland

Stuart Keeler, who served for the past three years as chief curator and manager of Museums of Mississauga, is stepping down. His last day is Oct. 13.