



John C. Whitehead Founding Chairman  
Gretchen Dykstra President & CEO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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**WORLD TRADE CENTER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION NAMES CHIEF  
CURATOR AND DIRECTOR OF COLLECTIONS FOR MEMORIAL MUSEUM**  
*Jan Seidler Ramirez Brings Five Years of 9/11 Curatorial Experience to the Job*

The World Trade Center Memorial Foundation today named Jan Seidler Ramirez as Chief Curator and Director of Collections for the Memorial Museum. Dr. Ramirez has worked for almost five years as a curator of 9/11 collections, most recently as Consulting Curator to the Memorial Museum with Howard + Revis Design and previously as Vice President and Museum Director of the New York Historical Society.

As Chief Curator, Dr. Ramirez will oversee the collection's development and its conservation, preservation, documentation, use and analysis for the Memorial Museum. She will report directly to the newly appointed Executive Vice President for Programs/Director of Museum, Alice Greenwald.

World Trade Center Memorial Foundation President & CEO, Gretchen Dykstra said, "We are delighted to have Jan join our team. The Memorial Museum will be a world-class facility which will both inform and inspire. Jan brings with her extensive experience working on historical collections and an in depth knowledge of 9/11 exhibits. I am confident that Alice and Jan will develop a sensitive and meaningful program."

Jan Seidler Ramirez said, "It is an honor to be involved with a project of this tremendous significance. The Museum will preserve the stories of the individual lives which were lost and educate visitors about the horrific events of the day and the courageous recovery. It has been a privilege to work as a consultant on this project since its inception and I look forward to bringing the Memorial Museum from concept into reality."

In her new role, Dr. Ramirez will formulate the procedures for creating the Museum's collection and develop acquisition strategies which adhere to the WTC Memorial Museum Collections Management policy, professional museum operations and collections management, including proper preservation techniques, conservation and digitization; serve on the creative team to develop, organize, interpret, and present Museum exhibitions; ensure the proper integration of the collections with other Museum programs and bring knowledge of 9/11 collections to the development of events and education programs related to the Museum's mission.

Memorial Museum Director Alice Greenwald said, "September 11th had a profound impact on New York, the nation, and the world. Jan began working to preserve the historical memory of this event shortly after the attacks and brings this experience and perspective to the Foundation. She understands the sensitivities, challenges and significance of this project and I look forward to working with her to develop a Museum program which preserves the story of 9/11 for generations to come."

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Dr. Ramirez has extensive experience working on 9/11-related projects. She has served as a Resource Member of the WTC Memorial Museum Committee since 2004 and on the Professional Services Committee of the September's Mission educational website project. In addition, Dr. Ramirez is a content consultant for the documentary film "Objects & Memory" which explores museums and their response to 9/11.

As an independent museum consultant, Dr. Ramirez has worked on a variety of interpretive, collections development, and long range planning projects for a range of clients. She has also served as Deputy Director at the Museum of the City of New York, Chief Curator at the Hudson River Museum of Westchester, and as a Research Associate at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. She holds a Ph.D and M.A. in American Studies from Boston University and a B.A in English Literature from Dartmouth College.

The World Trade Center Memorial Museum will commemorate the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 and February 26th, 1993 through multi-layered exhibitions. The Museum's objective is to educate, inform, and inspire visitors by telling the individual stories of those lost in the attacks and the contributions from around the world toward the rescue, recovery, and relief efforts. Artifacts and exhibits in the Memorial Museum will range from personal objects marking everyday life in the Twin Towers to steel rescued from the wreckage of the site to witnesses' accounts of the devastation. A central exhibition will weave together the story of September 11th and February 26th, drawing on multiple perspectives and documentation to recount life in the towers leading up the disaster, the events of September 11th, the immediate aftermath and the world-wide response.

## **ABOUT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

The World Trade Center Memorial Foundation, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation established to raise funds as well as build and operate the Memorial and Memorial Museum at the World Trade Center site. The Memorial, "Reflecting Absence," will remember and honor the thousands of people who died in the horrific attacks of February 26th, 1993 and September 11th, 2001 and recognize the endurance of those who survived, the courage of those who risked their lives to save others, and the compassion of all who offered their support in the aftermath. "Reflecting Absence," designed by Michael Arad and Peter Walker, was selected from among 5,201 submissions from 63 countries in what was the largest design competition in history. Donations can be made through the Foundation's website, and more information on the Foundation can be found at [www.buildthememorial.org](http://www.buildthememorial.org).

Construction on the Memorial and Museum are expected to be complete in 2009.

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PLEASE NOTE: Renderings of the Memorial design are available at [www.buildthememorial.org](http://www.buildthememorial.org), under the "News" section, click on "Media Images."

Contact: The World Trade Center Memorial Foundation at 212-312-8800