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Education

Kansas City Art Institute hires a Smithsonian director as its next president



Kansas City Art Institute Chair Sue Nerman (from left), KCAI President Tony Jones and Newmark Zimmer's Dan Musser accept a 2021 Capstone Award for the Paul and Linda DeBruce Hall during the 2021 Capstone Awards at Arvest Bank Theatre at the Midland in downtown Kansas City.

ADAM VOGLER | KCBJ



By Andrew Vaupel – Data Editor, Kansas City Business Journal

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Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI)
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The Kansas City Art Institute has curated its 25th president from one of the nation's best known institutions.

Ruki Neuhold-Ravikumar, acting director of the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Museum of Design and

Ruki Neuhold-Ravikumar

Person

Tony Jones

Person

Sue Nerman

Person

More

an award-winning graphic designer, will take over leadership of KCAI on July 1. She succeeds [Tony Jones](#), who is [retiring after seven years as president](#) of the four-year private college of art and design.

"For seven years, Tony has worked tirelessly as a champion for this college and led a complete transformation of the campus," [Sue Nerman](#), chair of KCAI's board, said in a Tuesday email. "Thanks to his efforts, the school is poised for great things ahead."

According to the email to the college's constituents, Neuhold-Ravikumar currently manages more than 100 full-time employees and a collection of 215,000 design objects spanning 31 centuries at the nation's only museum devoted exclusively to historic and contemporary design.

RECOMMENDED

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TECHNOLOGY

Airbnb, 5 other tech businesses knock Cerner out of Nasdaq's index of 100 most valuable nonfinancial companies

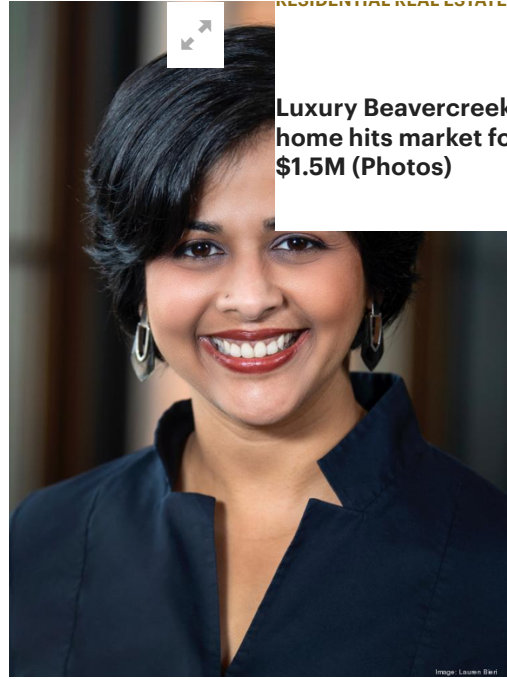


RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE

Previously, she served as acting under secretary for education at the Smithsonian Institution from November 2019 to May 2021. That role included leading the Smithsonian's response to the distance learning needs of teachers, students and families during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Before that, she was the interim associate provost of education and access. Earlier still, she was the director of education at the Cooper Hewitt from 2017 to 2019.

"Ruki brings a tremendous amount of experience to the college," Nerman said in the email. "She embodies a creative resiliency and dynamic spirit that is the essence of KCAI. Her innovative approach to learning and teaching, strong leadership skills, and commitment to community partnerships is exactly what KCAI needs to lead us into the next chapter."



RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE

Luxury Beavercreek home hits market for \$1.5M (Photos)



Ruki Neuhold Ravikumar, incoming president of the Kansas City Art Institute, will join the college on July 1.

LAUREN BIERI

Originally from Chennai India, Neuhold-Ravikumar worked extensively in higher education at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, where she advanced from professor in graphic design to director of graduate programs and associate dean of the College of Arts & Design.

She earned a bachelor's in fine arts focused on the history of fine art and drawing and painting from the Stella Maris College in India. She subsequently earned a master's degree in graphic design from Iowa State University.

She is married to [Patti Neuhold-Ravikumar](#), president of the University of Central Oklahoma.

T H E L I S T

Largest Kansas City-Area Colleges and Universities

Ranked by Total local fall 2021 enrollment

Rank	Name	Total Local Fall 2021 Enrollment
1	Johnson County Community College	16,643
	University of	16,017