

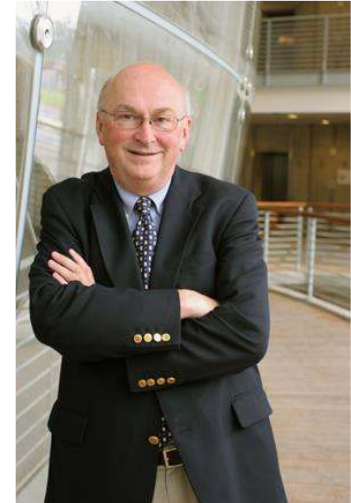


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY FARRINGTON ANNOUNCES PLANS TO RETIRE IN JULY 2014

SAN FRANCISCO (September 24, 2013) – Dr. Gregory C. Farrington, Executive Director of the California Academy of Sciences, has announced that he will retire from his position at the Academy at the end of the current fiscal year, which closes on June 30, 2014. Farrington has served as the head of the Academy for more than seven years, overseeing the opening of its award-winning new facility in Golden Gate Park and guiding the institution’s programs of scientific research, education, and public engagement.

The Academy’s Board of Trustees will form a committee to conduct an international search for a new Executive Director, who will replace Farrington when he retires next summer.

“It has been a great honor to lead this renowned institution through such a transformative chapter in its 160-year history,” says Farrington. “We set out not only to open a new building, but to reinvent the role of natural history institutions in today’s world, and we have made tremendous strides in that direction—focusing our efforts on some of the most pressing scientific questions of our time, integrating our scientists and research collections more fully into every facet of the institution, and laying the foundation for becoming a truly global Academy that reaches audiences around the world. This beloved institution is beautifully poised to play a central role in shaping the science and issues that will determine the world we leave to our children, and it’s the right time to start looking for a new leader to bring it into that future.”



When Farrington joined the Academy in early 2007, the stage was already set for a transformation—a record-setting new building expected to receive a LEED Platinum rating from the U.S. Green Building Council was under construction in Golden Gate Park. Farrington turned his attention to the play that would unfold on that stage, making sure the Academy’s programs of research, education, and public engagement would be every bit as “Platinum” as the building itself.

Farrington has focused the Academy’s programs on two of the most important questions of our time: “How did life evolve?” and “*How can we sustain it?*” The only institution in the world to combine a museum, aquarium, and planetarium, as well as innovative programs of scientific research and education, the Academy is uniquely positioned to explore these questions.

“A quote starts here from John Atwater about Greg’s contribution to the Academy,” says John C. Atwater, Chairman of the Academy’s Board of Trustees. “A quote continues here from John about how we are fortunate to have Greg’s continued leadership and dedication as we search for a successor.”

“A quote starts here from Randi Fisher about another aspect of Greg’s contribution to the Academy,” says Trustee Randi Fisher. “The quote continues here about the great strides the Academy is now positioned to make in the future.”

During Farrington’s tenure as Executive Director, the Academy’s reach and impact have increased dramatically. Between 2003, when the institution closed its previous facility in Golden Gate Park, and today, the Academy’s annual attendance has doubled from about 750,000 to about 1.5 million, and the number of students it serves through fieldtrips and after school programs has nearly tripled from 62,000 to 175,000. Additionally, annual fund giving has grown from about \$2.8 million to nearly \$14 million, and the number of grant dollars awarded to Academy scientists and educators each year have doubled from \$1.3 million to \$2.6 million.

A paragraph goes here about the one thing Greg considers to be his most important legacy for the Academy (I’m guessing it will be about integrating our scientists and research collections – the things that make us authentic and differentiated – more fully into every facet of the institution.)

“A final quote from Greg goes here about the previous paragraph,” says Farrington. “The quote continues here about the fact that he’ll be continuing to further these efforts—and more generally the mission of the institution—over the coming nine months.”

The California Academy of Sciences is a leading scientific and cultural institution based in San Francisco. It is home to an aquarium, planetarium, natural history museum, and research and education programs, which engage people of all ages and backgrounds on two of the most important topics of our time: life and its sustainability. Founded in 1853, the Academy’s mission is to explore, explain, and protect the natural world. Visit www.calacademy.org for more information.

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