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Filoli Welcomes New Executive Director, Kara Newport

Filoli is delighted to welcome Kara Newport, one of the most respected public garden leaders in the country, as their new Executive Director. Ms. Newport started at Filoli on September 1, 2016.

"The Filoli Governing Board, staff and volunteers are united in our excitement to welcome Kara Newport to Filoli. Her extensive horticulture and museum background combined with her strong development and financial experience make her uniquely qualified to lead Filoli. As we celebrate our 100 year anniversary, we look forward to embracing Kara's stewardship and vision so that we can serve our community in creative ways that leave a strong legacy for Filoli's second century." said Donna Colson, Filoli's Governing Board President. "Kara is a visionary leader with over two decades of experience in the non-profit sector including most recently serving ten years as the Executive Director of the Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens in Charlotte, North Carolina. In addition to her horticulture experience, Kara brings to us a significant development and member services background having worked at The Franklin Institute, The Philadelphia Zoo, and Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library."

Heidi Brown, President of the Friends of Filoli Board of Directors added, "We are delighted to welcome Kara to Filoli! She brings with her a wealth of experience, expertise and passion and is perfectly suited to be Filoli's Executive Director. We all are excited to work with her."

"Kara will continue to serve as Treasurer for the American Public Garden Association. She is also chair of their Finance and Development Committees and serves on their Benchmarking Committee. She is a regular presenter and contributor to the organization focusing on key industry topics such as garden tourism, horticulture trends, event planning, and design," said Colson.

"Filoli is clearly beloved by the local community and has an excellent national reputation." said Kara Newport. "I am thrilled to come on board during the Centennial Celebrations so that I can learn about the past and work with the talented team of staff and volunteers, including the Friends of Filoli Board and the Governing Board, to plan for Filoli's next century."

About Filoli

Filoli, located in Woodside, California, is recognized as one of the finest remaining country estates of the early 20th century. The 654-acre property features a 54,256 square foot Georgian

revival style mansion designed by Willis Polk, and furnished with an extensive collection of 17th and 18th century English and Irish antiques. The house is surrounded by 16 acres of exquisite English Renaissance gardens. The property also has a historic 6.8 acre Gentlemen's Orchard and a nature preserve with more than seven miles of hiking trails. Established as a private residence in 1916, Filoli was opened to the public in 1976 as a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Filoli, which is listed on The National Register of Historic Places, is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization which is managed by a Governing Board, and which has a staff of 60 and 1,200 volunteers who are responsible for a wide range of day-to-day activities. Filoli is dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and stewardship of the cultural traditions and natural history of this country estate for public education and enjoyment. It is open Tuesdays through Sundays (February through October) and is closed in observance of Federal holidays. For more information about Filoli, please visit www.filoli.org.

About the National Trust for Historic Preservation

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, non-profit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. Recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the National Trust for Historic Preservation was founded in 1949 and provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to protect the irreplaceable places that tell America's story. Staff at the Washington, D.C. headquarters, six regional offices, and 27 historic sites work with the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 200,000 members and thousands of preservation groups in all 50 states. For more information, visit www.preservationnation.org.

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