

# FLAGLER MUSEUM

## Flagler Museum Hosts Annual Director's Spring Lunch Featuring Conversation on the Future of Retail Culture

**Palm Beach, FL — May 14, 2026** – The Flagler Museum welcomed its top supporting members to its Annual Director's Spring Luncheon this season for a reimagined program that reflected the Museum's evolving role as a leading cultural institution in Palm Beach and beyond.

Held at Whitehall on April 20, the annual gathering showcased the Museum's renewed focus on innovative programming and community engagement. Amanda Skier, Director and CEO, reflected on the Museum's accomplishments during her first season and shared a vision for the institution's future. During her remarks, Skier highlighted several key initiatives introduced this season, including a robust lecture series, an expanded exhibition program, and events designed to engage supporters in new and meaningful ways.

"From the beginning, my goal has been to build on the Flagler Museum's remarkable history while expanding its role as a cultural institution in Palm Beach," said Amanda Skier. "This season has been an expression of that vision through thoughtful programming that reintroduces the Flagler to the community not only as a place that preserves history, but as a living, breathing beacon of culture where ideas are explored, perspectives are brought into conversation, and the past becomes a lens through which we better understand the present."

Skier emphasized that the season represents the beginning of a broader evolution for the Museum, with future programming continuing to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and cultural conversation.

"The Director's Lunch beautifully reflected the energy and momentum Amanda has brought to the Museum in her first season," said Kelly Hopkins, President of the Flagler Museum. "The Flagler Museum has always been one of Palm Beach's most important cultural landmarks, and this vision honors that legacy while creating exciting opportunities for deeper community connection."

Breaking from tradition, this year's luncheon also featured a panel discussion titled "The Future of Department Stores and Retail Culture," inspired by the success of the Museum's recent exhibition *May I Help You, Madame: The Making of the Modern Department Store*. Moderated by Skier, the conversation explored the evolution of luxury retail, architecture, and cultural identity through the lens of department stores and Palm Beach's iconic shopping corridors.

Panelists included Simon Doonan, author and former Creative Director of Barney's New York and guest artist for the exhibition; Anne Fairfax, the architect who is guiding the next chapter of *The Esplanade*—the former site of Saks Fifth Avenue—and Kyle Bartholomew Fant, architect who is reimagining the former Neiman Marcus building. Together, these projects represent the most significant transformations currently underway on Worth Avenue, long considered an anchor of Palm Beach's retail and social life, now being thoughtfully reinterpreted for a new era.

The Annual Spring Director's Lunch underscored the Museum's continued commitment to presenting forward-thinking programming that bridges history, art, architecture, and contemporary culture while creating unique experiences for members, supporters and visitors.

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## About the Flagler Museum

The Flagler Museum is home to Whitehall, the magnificent 1902 Gilded Age estate of Henry Morrison Flagler, located in the heart of Palm Beach. Designated a National Historic Landmark, the Museum preserves and interprets Flagler's transformative legacy, and America's Gilded Age in ways that inspire every generation. Through the stewardship of an invaluable Collection of more than 13,000 artifacts on display and immersive exhibitions, the Museum brings to life the architecture, art, history, and traditions of this pivotal era, encouraging appreciation for the vision, values, and spirit that shaped the state of Florida and beyond.

As a not-for-profit, world-class cultural institution, Whitehall welcomes visitors year-round with guided tours, special exhibitions, and dynamic educational programs designed for all ages.

Situated at Coconut Row and Whitehall Way, the Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday from 12 pm to 5 pm. Admission is \$28 for adults (ages 13+), \$14 for children (ages 6–12), and free for children five and under.

For more information, please visit [FlaglerMuseum.org](http://FlaglerMuseum.org).

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