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Maxwell L. Anderson Biography

Maxwell L. Anderson has been The Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO of the Indianapolis Museum of Art since May 2006. Born and raised in Manhattan, he received an A.B. from Dartmouth College in 1977 with highest distinction in art history, and A.M. (1978) and Ph.D. (1981) degrees in art history from Harvard University. His career began at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1981, where he served for five years as assistant curator of Greek and Roman art. Anderson was decorated with the rank of Knight Commander in the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic in 1990. Since 1987 he has directed four art museums, including the Whitney Museum of American Art (1998-2003). During his tenure in Indianapolis, the IMA has added more than \$30 million to its endowment through gifts and pledges, added significantly to the permanent collection, introduced multiple new practices to the museum field, and more than doubled attendance to 450,000 annually. He has long advocated progressive museum practices with regard to the ethical collecting of antiquities, institutional transparency, free expression, artists' rights, and uses of new technologies. Anderson is a former president of the Association of Art Museum Directors.