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LLLCF Board of Trustees Welcomes New Executive Director

Submitted by Fran Miller



Beth Needel Photo provided

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation's new executive director will be Beth Needel - a non-profit professional with 30 years of expertise in leadership, development, marketing and program management.

Foundation Board President Caity Meaney Burrows said, "We are so fortunate to have Beth join the Foundation team as the new executive director. Her unique set of skills and experiences correspond wonderfully with our three main areas of focus during the search: strategic collaboration, programming and fundraising."

A resident of Walnut Creek since 1989, Needel considers herself fortunate to have been able to work in the East Bay for high-caliber corporate and nonprofit organizations, including Barnes & Noble, Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF), and Oakland Zoo.

Serving as community relations manager for Barnes & Noble, Needel worked extensively with award-winning authors to create and manage educational programs and community events throughout the East Bay. At ARF, Needel was instrumental in the creation of People Connect, a department established to design and develop programs aimed at education, teen volunteerism, community

engagement and animal-assisted therapy. Most recently she served as capital campaign and grants manager for Oakland Zoo, where she raised funds for education outreach programs, and construction projects including a new veterinary hospital, a biodiversity center and the California Trail project.

"As the Foundation's new executive director, I look forward to leading the outreach effort to local residents and library users about the vast array of library programs and services," said Needel. "That effort combined with the community's ongoing financial and volunteer support will be key to sustaining this fundamental community resource. The executive director position is an honor and a wonderful opportunity for me. I'm excited to work closely with the board, Friends and our community partners who are vital to the library's success as we collaborate on the Library Foundation's future."

Needel's first day with the LLLCF will be July 8.

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[back](#)

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