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DR. MORRIS J. VOGEL TO RETIRE AS PRESIDENT OF THE LOWER EAST SIDE TENEMENT MUSEUM

January 13, 2017, New York, NY— Dr. Morris J. Vogel, whose leadership has guided the Lower East Side Tenement Museum during a period that has seen the museum nearly double in size, staff, and visitorship, will retire from his position as President in the summer of 2017.

“We have been so appreciative for the brilliant leadership that Morris has brought to the Tenement Museum over the past decade,” said co-chairpersons Merryl Snow Zegar and Scott Metzner in a statement. “He has managed to successfully transform and expand this museum into the world class institution it is today, and amplify its influence on the national immigration debate that has been increasingly in the news.”

Dr. Vogel came to the Tenement Museum in June 2008 after serving on the faculty of Temple University for 30 years. Taking over the presidency from Ruth Abram, the co-founder of the Tenement Museum, Dr. Vogel oversaw the creation and implementation of a long-term strategic plan that helped usher in a period of unprecedented programmatic and physical growth. Innovative programming, including neighborhood-walking tours, evening events, and popular food programs became a hallmark of his tenure.

Under Dr. Vogel’s leadership, the museum opened two major permanent building exhibitions, *Irish Outsiders* and *Shop Life*, and a third, *Beyond the Melting Pot*, opening summer 2017. With the opening of *Beyond the Melting Pot*, which tells the post-World War II immigration stories of a family of Holocaust survivors, a Puerto Rican family and a Chinese family, Dr. Vogel has successfully continued the Museum’s story of American immigration to the present day. Additionally, Dr. Vogel helped the museum establish a strong digital presence with the creation of ambitious initiatives such as YOUR STORY, OUR STORY - the recipient of a National Leadership award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Over the course of eight years at the museum, Dr. Vogel has been a passionate advocate for the preservation of the museum’s historic tenement buildings. In addition to two Presidential citations for historic preservation, Dr. Vogel drove the process to have 103 Orchard Street Congressionally designated as a National Historic Site.

Dr. Vogel also successfully led a \$20 million capital campaign for the museum’s physical expansion. This included the opening of the Sadie Samuelson Levy Immigrant Heritage Center to the public in 2011. As a result, visitorship to the museum under Dr. Vogel has nearly doubled - from 138,000 visitors to 238,000 a year - with a further increase expected with the opening of a brand new exhibition *Beyond the Melting Pot* in summer 2017.

The Museum’s Board of Trustees have formed a committee that will begin the search for a new President.

Dr. Morris J. Vogel

Morris J. Vogel (PhD, history, University of Chicago) has been president of the Tenement Museum since June 2008. He served on the faculty of Temple University for 30 years, advancing in rank to professor, chair of the department of history, and—for four years—acting dean of the College of Liberal Arts. He is the author or editor of six books in the

social history of American medicine, cultural history, and urban history. While at Temple, Vogel founded the National Endowment for the Humanities-funded Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities and was a member of the Historic Preservation Board of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Before coming to the Museum, he served as director of Creativity and Culture at the Rockefeller Foundation, where he developed strategies for employing culture as an instrument of social change. Mr. Vogel is a first-generation American, born in Kazakhstan to a Jewish family who fled Poland during World War II. His family immigrated to the United States after the war. Today Mr. Vogel and his wife live in New York City; they have two adult sons and two grandsons.

About the Lower East Side Tenement Museum

The Tenement Museum tells the story of American immigration, the core of our continually evolving American identity and a central part of today's national conversation. Personal stories of immigrant families allow visitors to encounter immigration as an essential force in shaping this country and to absorb how much our open society, democratic institutions, cultural creativity and economic vitality owe to our experience as a nation of immigrants.

Established in 1988, the Tenement Museum has become one of New York City's preeminent cultural and educational institutions, welcoming in 2016 more than 238,000 visitors including 55,000 students. Its two historic tenements on Orchard Street were home to an estimated 15,000 people from more than 20 nations between 1863 and 2000, and represent the heart of the Museum. Educators guide visitors through restored apartments and retail spaces in the buildings and the surrounding neighborhood, and help them understand how immigrants weathered hard times and built new lives.