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Forthcoming Rubell Museum names its first director

[Drew Hansen](#)



The Rubell Museum is opening in October.

BEYER BLINDER BELLE

[Caitlin Berry](#), a former art dealer, has been named the first director of the Rubell Museum set to open this fall in Southwest D.C.

Berry is also a former director of the Cody Gallery at Arlington's Marymount University. IN her new role, she will work closely with [Juan Valadez](#), director of Miami's Rubell Museum, in showcasing Don and [Mera Rubell](#)'s extensive contemporary art collection at the new D.C. museum. She will be responsible for developing public programming, overseeing the operations and staff of the museum and engaging the community, the Rubell Museum said in its announcement.

The D.C. museum is set to open Oct. 29 in the redeveloped Randall Junior High School building at 65 Eye St. SW, located just across South Capitol Street from the Capitol Riverfront and Navy Yard neighborhoods.



Caitlin Berry is the inaugural director of the Rubell Museum D.C.

In 2010, Telesis Corp. and the Rubells acquired the development rights to the historic school building. The redeveloped museum, spanning 32,000 square feet, will house galleries, a bookstore and a restaurant with indoor and outdoor dining. A May press release announcing the museum's opening date said the redevelopment project also includes the construction of an adjacent 492-unit apartment building, 20% of which will be set aside as affordable housing.

“Caitlin’s knowledge and passion for the D.C. arts community make her the perfect partner for weaving the museum into the city and surrounding region,” [Mera Rubell](#) said in a statement. “She is deeply committed both to artists and to making art accessible to a wide range of audiences, which is our goal in creating this museum.”

The Rubell Museum said Berry’s areas of focus include the Washington Color School, midcentury African American art and contemporary art. She has previously served as an independent contemporary art adviser to several private and public collections and was director at D.C.’s Hemphill Fine Arts.

Berry also serves on the board of the Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art in Reston and is a member of the D.C. chapter of ArtTable, an organization advocating for women leaders in the visual arts field.

The Rubells' personal collection spans more than 7,400 works from hundreds of artists. It includes works from Jean-Michel Basquiat, Keith Haring, Damien Hirst, Jeff Koons, Cindy Sherman, Kara Walker and Andy Warhol. Don Rubell is the brother of Steve Rubell, the co-owner of notorious New York City disco Studio 54.

The big numbers

\$4.78 billion — That's the estimated value of the Washington Commanders, according to a new ranking [released Monday by Sportico](#). The Commanders, owned by the [embattled Dan Snyder](#), came in at No. 8 overall on the list of NFL teams, falling two spots from last year's Sportico tabulation. The sports business news site said the valuation of the Commanders grew 12% from last year, one of the five smallest one-year changes in the entire league. Sportico said it tabulated NFL team valuations by adding the sum of the "fair-market value" of a franchise and added the value of team-related businesses (the Commanders recently [launched](#) their own content studio) and real estate holdings.