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## **President and CEO of the American Alliance of Museums visits Naper Settlement**

**Naperville, IL (March 4, 2016)** — Laura L. Lott, president and CEO of the American Alliance of Museums, visited Naper Settlement, Naperville's history museum, on Friday as part of the Alliance's "Faces from the Field" initiative.

Last June, Lott became the ninth president of the 110-year-old Washington, D.C.-based organization and the first woman to lead the Alliance since its founding. During her first year in her new role, Lott is visiting museums around the country to reach out beyond the traditional conference and lunch meeting to connect with people in offices, galleries, collection facilities, classrooms and on the front lines, who do the specialized work that keeps museums running and thriving in their communities.

"We are honored that Laura chose Naper Settlement to visit as part of the Alliance's new program," said Naper Settlement's President and CEO Rena Tamayo-Calabrese. "Naper Settlement hosted 140,000 visitors last year, the highest number in our organization's history, and we enjoyed showing her all the reasons people love our museum."

While at Naper Settlement, Lott talked to staff members about the museum's operations; took a behind-the-scenes tour of the curatorial workshop, where artifacts are processed, followed by a visit to the Research Library and Archives. She also met the museum educators and joined a school group to experience a "School for Tools" field trip that connects children in grades 2 to 5 with hands-on history and aligns with their classroom curriculum.

"The opportunity to meet and spend time with a few of the hundreds of thousands of talented museum professionals in this country is a real privilege," said Lott. "I am impressed and inspired by the work of Naper Settlement and the real impact they have on their guests and the Chicagoland community."

Naper Settlement is the fifth museum to be part of the "Faces from the Field" program. Previously, Lott visited the National Air and Space Museum, focusing on exhibit installation; the Tampa Bay History Center, focusing on the reinvention of Accreditation and the museum's participation on the Continuum of Excellence; the National Building Museum, focusing on museum retail operations; and San Diego Zoo Global, focusing on zoo operations.

Naper Settlement has been accredited twice by the American Alliance of Museums in 2002 and 2012. Accredited status from the Alliance is the highest national recognition achievable by an

American museum. Of the nation's estimated 35,500 museums, 1,049 are accredited, including 33 in Illinois. Naper Settlement is the only accredited outdoor history museum in Illinois.

**About the American Alliance of Museums**

The American Alliance of Museums has been bringing museums together since 1906, helping to develop standards and best practices, gathering and sharing knowledge, and providing advocacy on issues of concern to the entire museum community. Representing more than 30,000 individual museum professionals and volunteers, institutions and corporate partners serving the museum field, the Alliance is the only organization representing the entire scope of the broad museum community. For more information, visit [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org).

**About Naper Settlement and the Naperville Heritage Society**

Naper Settlement is an award-winning outdoor museum, nationally accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, set on 12 magnificent acres in the heart of Naperville, where history comes to play and the community comes to connect. For more information, visit [www.napersettlement.org](http://www.napersettlement.org) or call (630) 420-6010.

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