National WWI Museum and Memorial Names Emma Kail Senior Director of Campaign Strategy and Foundation Relations

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The National WWI Museum and Memorial announced today the appointment of Emma Kail as the organization’s first Senior Director of Campaign Strategy and Foundation Relations.

Serving millions of visitors at the Museum and Memorial and throughout the campus from 2020 to 2026 will require significant support for the organization’s ongoing, comprehensive operating costs. The position of Senior Director of Campaign Strategy and Foundation Relations has been created to provide operational and strategic leadership to all aspects of campaigns and foundation relations in an effort to enable the organization to meet its 2020-26 strategic objectives.

“We are extremely pleased to have Emma join our team,” National WWI Museum President and CEO Dr. Matthew Naylor said. “Emma provides a vast and diverse amount of experience in non-profit leadership and she will undoubtedly enhance the efforts of one of the world’s great museums and memorials.”

Kail boasts more than 15 years of leadership in the non-profit sector, most recently serving as the General Manager of the Kansas City Symphony for nearly a decade.

“When institutions understand, value and connect with their communities, ripples of impact occur,” Kail said. “I have watched the National WWI Museum and Memorial grow its programming and reach throughout our region and more broadly throughout the world with great admiration. The Museum and Memorial is a testament to the long-standing spirit of our community to create and support world-class institutions—working with and knowing these major supporters over the past decade continues to make me proud to be a Kansas Citian. I very much look forward to continuing this work in our community in support of the Museum and Memorial.”

At the Kansas City Symphony, Kail managed day-to-day operations, providing direction and leadership for the staff and their support of the orchestra in its acclaimed successes. She also oversaw key contract partnerships for the Symphony with both non-profits and corporations, including with Symphony in the Flint Hills, Kansas City Young Audiences, Edward Jones Investments and AdventHealth, as well as other vital relations with the Kansas City Ballet, Lyric Opera of Kansas City and Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Kail designed and booked all popular programming for the Kansas City Symphony, including the highly successful Pops Series, Special Concerts and Live Film + Orchestra events, all of which broadened the
Symphony’s audience reach and contributed significantly to the organization’s financial stability. As Executive Producer of the Emmy Award-winning Bank of America’s Celebration at the Station, Kail increased the artistic and philanthropic boundaries for the event by creating meaningful partnerships on and off stage with veteran’s advocacy and support organizations.

A lifelong musician, Kail previously held positions with the Alabama Symphony, Omaha Symphony and the Humanities Division at the University of Chicago. In 2007, she was selected for the highly competitive Orchestra Management Fellowship Program of the League of American Orchestras. Over the 13-month fellowship, Kail worked in all aspects of management during Fellowship assignments with Aspen Music Festival, Pacific Symphony, and Atlanta Symphony.

Kail is a graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy and earned her bachelor’s degree in music from Indiana University’s Jacobs School of Music. Her Master’s degree is in trumpet performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music and Kail further pursued musical study at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Canada and the Vienna Conservatory in Vienna, Austria.

Kail resides in Overland Park with her husband Jeff, the Principal Bass of the Kansas City Symphony, and their two young sons.

About the National WWI Museum and Memorial
The National WWI Museum and Memorial is America’s leading institution dedicated to remembering, interpreting and understanding the Great War and its enduring impacts on the global community. The Museum and Memorial holds the most comprehensive collection of World War I objects and documents in the world and is the second-oldest public museum dedicated to preserving the objects, history and experiences of the war. The Museum and Memorial takes visitors of all ages on an epic journey through a transformative period and shares deeply personal stories of courage, honor, patriotism and sacrifice. Designated by Congress as America’s official World War I Museum and Memorial and located in downtown Kansas City, MO., the National WWI Museum and Memorial inspires thought, dialogue and learning to make the experiences of the Great War era meaningful and relevant for present and future generations. To learn more, visit theworldwar.org.

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