

MEDIA RELEASE  
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**The Jewish Museum of Australia: Gandel Centre of Judaica's Director & CEO, Jessica Bram, has announced that she is stepping down from the role to focus on her wellbeing and health.**

After nearly three and a half wonderful years at the Jewish Museum, Jessica Bram has made the difficult decision to leave her position.

'While thankfully the outlook is very positive, my recovery from recent surgery is expected to be challenging, and I realise the importance of concentrating my energies on regaining full strength,' said Jessica.

'It has been the greatest gift to work alongside the Museum's talented team and Board, its partners and creative collaborators, to question, ponder, connect and inspire, and dream big in the illumination of Jewish life.'

Appointed in 2019, Jessica saw the Jewish Museum through the years of the global pandemic and extended lockdowns in Melbourne, leading the innovation of hybrid programming and digital rejuvenation. Her vision in the creation of Flagship exhibitions saw *MIRKA* (2021), *HELMUT NEWTON: In Focus* (2022) and the soon-to-come *CHAGALL* (2023).

'Jessica led the Museum through a very significant period of change, engaging with new audiences and the whole community, deepening existing and new partnerships for the Museum across the sector,' said Gideon Kline, Jewish Museum Board President.

'She sustained the Museum's vision through very challenging times when the pandemic closed its doors. Jessica's leadership is characterised by her commitment to the Museum's audiences, to excellence in the Museum's craft and an unwavering focus on fostering strong relationships within the Jewish and arts communities to best illuminate Australian Jewish life for all.'

Noè Harsel, previously Head of Brand & Partnerships at the Jewish Museum, has been appointed as Acting Director & CEO by the Board. Noè has over 15 years' experience in the arts and culture space. In addition to her time in the Museum's Leadership Team, Noè has been Co-Director of Melbourne Jewish Book Week, and worked with The Stella Prize, Australian Centre for the Moving Image and Monash University, among others.

An executive search is being conducted to secure a new CEO for the Jewish Museum of Australia.