



# THE PROVIDENCE ATHENÆUM

## *Press Release*

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For Immediate Release

### **MATT BURRIESCI APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PROVIDENCE ATHENÆUM**

(Providence, RI– July 30, 2015) The Board of the Providence Athenæum announced this week the appointment of Matt Burriesci as Executive Director. Matt will begin his role on September 1, 2015.

Board President Candy Adriance remarks, “In its review of a wide and accomplished field of applicants, the Search Committee sought an experienced executive to lead and inspire our talented staff; a dynamic ambassador to represent the library to external audiences; and a proven fundraiser capable of sustaining and expanding our institutional vision. With Matt, we have found this rare combination of strengths.”

Matt began his career at the Tony Award-winning Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier, and later served as Executive Director for both the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) and the PEN/Faulkner Foundation. During his tenure at AWP, he helped build the largest literary conference in North America, and he served as a national advocate for literature and the humanities. In his work as a consultant, he has interviewed dozens of global leaders in healthcare, scientific research, and high education. Most recently, as Director of Advancement & Strategic Partnerships for the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation, Matt has built upon his considerable fundraising skills to secure the foundation’s annual \$2.5 million budget entirely through corporate and foundation gifts.

Described by former colleagues as a voracious reader with far-reaching connections to the writing world, Matt is himself the author of two recent books: *Dead White Guys: A Father, His Daughter, and the Great Books of the Western World*, an argument for the civic and personal value of great literature; and his debut novel, *Nonprofit*, a razor-sharp satire rightly praised by NPR’s book critic Alan Cheuse.

He tells us, “I’m humbled, honored, and thrilled to be part of this enduring cultural treasure. I look forward to joining the outstanding staff and dedicated Board at the Providence Athenæum, and to serving the institution in every way I can.”

Matt, his wife Erin, and their children Violet and Henry will be moving to Providence from Alexandria, VA in the coming month.

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*The Providence Athenæum, a unique library and cultural center, welcomes and enriches the educational and cultural pursuits of its members and the community and encourages a diverse public to engage in spirited conversation. It offers a wide range of experiences by providing and conserving extraordinary collections, offering innovative and compelling programs, promoting and collaborating with the community’s vibrant cultural sector, and highlighting and preserving its historic building. For more information, please visit [providenceathenaeum.org](http://providenceathenaeum.org) or contact Danielle Kemsley for membership queries at 401.421.6970x15 or [dkemsley@provath.org](mailto:dkemsley@provath.org).*