

# BUSHNELL PARK CONSERVANCY



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Bushnell Park Conservancy Names First Executive Director

**HARTFORD, CT – July 10, 2025** – After a nationwide search, the Bushnell Park Conservancy Board of Directors has announced the appointment of Morgan Fippinger as its first Executive Director. Fippinger, who previously served as the Executive Director for The Carousel Museum and Museum of Fire and History in Bristol, CT, assumed the role this week. Reporting to the Board, she will be responsible for strategic and operational leadership of all matters related to the Conservancy and its mission, including fundraising, management of the Carousel and Pump House Gallery, and Park use and stewardship. She takes over leadership from Nyesha McCauley, who has served as Interim Conservancy Manager since April 2024.

“This is a new chapter for the Conservancy, and we are thrilled to welcome Morgan as our first Executive Director,” said Lisa Karam Nickoletti, Board President and a member of the Search Committee. “Her skills and experience are aligned with our organization’s goals and objectives and will benefit the well-being and vibrancy of Bushnell Park. We’re confident Morgan’s leadership will be instrumental as we continue to strengthen the Conservancy’s impact for current and future generations of Park users.”

Fippinger became the Carousel Museum’s Executive Director in 2020, having previously served as its Assistant Director and Museum Manager for four years. Previously, she was the Manager and Volunteer Services and Coordinator of Public Programs at the New Britain Museum of American Art. She holds a bachelor’s from Plymouth State University and is currently pursuing a master’s in museum studies at Harvard University.

“I am deeply honored to serve as the first Executive Director of Bushnell Park Conservancy,” said Fippinger. “I am excited to work alongside the Conservancy’s Board, the City, local businesses, dedicated donors and volunteers, and the public works employees who help maintain its beauty and ensure it thrives for all who visit.”

“In the last five years, we have seen how essential public parks are, particularly in urban environments,” said Tom Baptist, Past President of the Board and a member of the Search Committee. “It was important that we hired someone with the vision and experience to help us fulfill our role as stewards of Hartford’s historic central park.”

The Search Committee worked to identify an accomplished non-profit administrator with a collaborative spirit and executive experience to partner with a group of highly supportive civic and business leaders,

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dedicated employees, volunteers, and supporters. In addition to Nickoletti and Baptist, Bushnell Park Conservancy Board Members Jonathan Vasquez, Joseph Linhart, Biota MacDonald, and Angela Quick spearheaded the search process. Melanie J. Cecarelli of Harvest Development Group, a nonprofit consulting firm, advised the committee and led the nationwide search and recruitment activities.

## ***About Bushnell Park & the Bushnell Park Conservancy***

Bushnell Park was the first publicly funded park in the country, approved by Hartford voters on January 5, 1854. It is named for the Reverend Horace Bushnell, who advocated for a public park in the center of the city as a place for people of all ages and walks of life to have a place to play, relax, and enjoy. Bushnell Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Bushnell Park Conservancy is a private, non-profit organization established in 1981 by a group of citizens concerned about the condition of the Park's landscape and landmark sculptures. The Conservancy is dedicated to the protection, preservation, and enhancement of Bushnell Park and works collaboratively with the City of Hartford. The Conservancy has raised more than \$6.5 million for capital improvement projects.

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