

National Gallery of Art

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 10, 1994

CONTACT: Ruth Kaplan
Deborah Ziska
(202) 842-6353

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART APPOINTS NEW ADMINISTRATOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The appointment of Darrell R. Willson to the executive officer position of administrator of the National Gallery of Art was announced today by Robert Smith, president, National Gallery board of trustees. Willson, who succeeds Anne Borden Evans, came to the Gallery in 1989 as chief of administrative operations and was promoted to deputy administrator in 1990.

Earl A. Powell III, director of the National Gallery, said of the appointment, "Darrell Willson brings to his new position a wealth of experience gained throughout his career in law enforcement and museums. He is extremely knowledgeable about how the Gallery operates and is widely respected as a leader in the field of museum security."

As the Gallery's administrator, Willson is responsible for the Gallery's administrative departments, including protection services, facilities management, administrative services, audiovisual services, personnel, and resource acquisition.

Before coming to the National Gallery, Willson worked for The Art Institute of Chicago, first as associate director of

-more-

page 2

security, 1979-1986, and then as executive director of protective services, 1986-1989. Between the years of 1971 and 1979 Willson advanced from patrolman to administrative assistant to the chief of the Waukegan Police Force, responsible for the budget and program evaluation and development, while he also assisted in crime detection and prevention duties. During this period he received the Police Valor Award, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the National Law Enforcement Citation, and the City of Waukegan Police Citation, in addition to being named one of the Outstanding Young Men of America by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Among Willson's many leadership roles are as chair of the American Association of Museums' security committee, 1992-1994, and national chair of the museum, library, and archive committee of the American Society for Industrial Security in 1988. He is currently a member of the board of the security committee for the International Council of Museums, which is administered by UNESCO. He also serves on the executive committee for the Small Agency Council, Washington, D.C.

A native of La Porte, Indiana, Willson holds a bachelor of arts in criminal justice from Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and a master of arts in administration of justice and management from Webster College in St. Louis, Missouri. He resides in Manassas, Virginia, with his wife, Karen, and two daughters, Kimberly and Tara. Their sons, Darrell, Jr., and Stephen, reside in Florida and Maine.

#