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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHF Artistic Director Matti Bunzl Named Director of Vienna's Wien Museum

CHICAGO, IL—Sept. 10, 2014—Earlier this morning, Wien Museum, Vienna's premier destination for the city's history, art, and culture, named **Matti Bunzl** Director of the Museum. Bunzl will leave his position as the Chicago Humanities Festival's (CHF) Artistic Director at the conclusion of the Fall Festival, *Journeys*, and return to his hometown of Vienna to oversee the Museum and be closer to family. Official confirmation for Bunzl's appointment will take place September 16.

Bunzl joined the CHF staff in January of 2010, serving as its creative and artistic voice, and helping to make it the largest organization of its kind in the nation. During his tenure, he oversaw the development of nearly one thousand programs—from insightful and inspirational talks and conversations to some of today's finest performance—that make up CHF's year-round programs. He brought world-class artists to Chicago audiences, including: opera star Jessye Norman and performance artist Marina Abramovic; leading scholars, such as historian Anthony Grafton and philosopher Julia Kristeva; and showcased pop-culture sensations James Franco and Lena Dunham.

Bunzl also spearheaded CHF's involvement in *Humanities Without Walls*, a consortium of fifteen humanities institutes in the Midwest and beyond working together to bring the humanities to the wider public.

"Matti is a professor at heart and a true champion of the humanities," said **Phillip Bahar**, executive director of the Chicago Humanities Festival. "His wide-ranging interests and passion for the arts and humanities have had a real impact on the programs we bring to Chicago."

"We take pride that the Festival has brought this extraordinary talent to the attention of the world, and that he is assuming a post of such international importance," said **Clark Hulse**, Chair of the Festival Board of Directors and Emeritus Professor of English and Art History at the University of Illinois at Chicago. "Matti Bunzl is a rare individual who connects the academic and public humanities and is master of both. He has done great things in his five years as Artistic Director of the Festival, and we expect he will do great things in Vienna."

CHF is immediately launching the search for its next Artistic Director. "We seek to identify an individual in the creative tradition of Ren Weschler and Matti Bunzl, who understands the core value and excitement of the humanities," said Hulse. "We may find that person right here in Chicago, or in one of the other cultural capitals of the globe. In either case, our goal is to open the next chapter for this dynamic and visionary organization."

"With Matti in place through the end of this year's Festival, and a strong team led by program director **Alison Cuddy**, planning for 2015 is well under way," added Bahar.

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ABOUT CHF:

For 25 years, the Chicago Humanities Festival has celebrated the questions that shape and define us as individuals, communities, and cultures. For the intellectually curious, CHF's vibrant **year-round programming** and robust **Fall Festival** offer the opportunity to engage with some of the world's most brilliant minds. Collaborating with leading arts, cultural, and educational organizations, it presents scholars, artists and architects, thinkers, theologians, and policy makers that change how we see the world, where we're from, and where we're going. CHF also presents the spring **Stages, Sights & Sounds**, Chicago's only international children's theater festival. Visit chicagohumanities.org for more information.