

# PILCHUCK GLASS SCHOOL

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **James Baker to Retire as Pilchuck's Executive Director - Board of Trustees Begins Search for Successor**

SEATTLE, WA, August 15, 2017 - Today, Pilchuck Glass School announced that James Baker, Executive Director, will retire from his position in February 2018. He began working at Pilchuck in 2010 and has led the school through a vibrant period of growth, development and change.

Under Baker's leadership, Pilchuck's program and scholarship support expanded, an exhibition space was established in Seattle, and an Emmy-award winning documentary was screened at film festivals and currently airs on PBS. During Baker's tenure, the annual art auction was rejuvenated and the campus made significant upgrades to its studios, including increased energy efficiency of its glass making facilities. All of this was made possible through a dedicated Board of Trustees and committed staff. The school's accomplishments were honored with the 2016 Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass Organization Award, which cited Baker's leadership as "steadily moving Pilchuck ahead, both financially and programmatically, innovating as he goes."

"Pilchuck has a revered and storied history that has maintained and enhanced its relevance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as glass is increasingly integrated into the world of contemporary art," says Baker. "My goal has been to honor its enduring values while fostering new programs, facilities and professional practices. I am grateful to have been part of making these important improvements happen."

Speaking for the Board of Trustees, President Kent Carlson said, "The passion and professionalism of Jim's leadership, combined with his personal engagement with students, donors and the general public, have energized the school. For the past seven years, he has provided a vision keenly focused on change and opportunity. Thanks to his unwavering commitment, Pilchuck is now well positioned for continuing success."

The Board of Trustees has begun a search for a new Executive Director and hopes to complete the process later this year.

*Established in 1971, Pilchuck Glass School fosters and educates a worldwide community that explores the creative use of glass in art and design. Pilchuck offers classes, residencies, exhibitions and outreach through its campus in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains near Stanwood, Washington and its gallery and offices in Seattle, Washington.*

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