

## AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME WELCOMES NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

**NEW YORK and ROME**, August 21, 2014 — The American Academy in Rome announced that following a robust search this spring, Paul Francis has accepted the position of Vice President for Finance and Administration, and will assume this role on September 2, 2014. Francis succeeds Curt Sharp, who stepped down in June after having worked at the American Academy for 16-years, first as Director of Finance and Administration, then as Vice President for Finance and Administration/CFO.

“We are very pleased to find someone of Paul’s caliber for this role,” said Academy President, Mark Robbins. “His exceptionally strong record in finance and management distinguished him during the search. Paul will fill a critical role at the Academy, encompassing strategic financial planning, general operations and human resources.”

Most recently Francis was the CFO of American Express Publishing, a partnership between American Express and Time Inc. that published *Travel + Leisure*, *Food & Wine*, *Departures*, *Executive Travel* and *Black Ink*. As CFO he oversaw finance, accounting, technology, legal, production, real estate and procurement. Previously he held senior finance and general management positions at various Time Inc. publications including *People* and *Money*. Born in London, Francis was raised in the United States, New Zealand, and Singapore. He received his BA in History from the University of Auckland in New Zealand and an MBA from Columbia Business School.

Regarding his appointment, Francis said: “I am very pleased to be part of the American Academy in Rome, which plays a vital role in contemporary arts and humanities, and especially during this exciting moment in its history.”

### **The American Academy in Rome**

The American Academy in Rome supports innovative artists, writers, and scholars living and working together in a dynamic international community.

Founded in 1894, the Academy emerged in 1914 in its present form as a hybrid center for the arts and humanities. It remains the premier American overseas center for independent study and advanced research. A not-for-profit, privately supported institution, the Academy annually offers the Rome Prize to approximately 30 individuals, following a national competition in which independent juries select candidates across disciplines, which include Literature, Music Composition, Visual Arts, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Design, and Historic Preservation and Conservation, as well as Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance and Early Modern, and Modern Italian Studies. The application deadline for the 2015 Rome Prize is 1 November.

## AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

The Academy community also includes a curated group of Residents, Affiliated Fellows, and Visiting Artists and Scholars. This exceptional group of artists and scholars live and work at the Academy campus located in the Janiculum hill, the highest point in the city of Rome.

To learn more about the American Academy in Rome, please visit: [www.aarome.org](http://www.aarome.org).

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