Art Dealers Association of America Appoints Gallery Veteran Maureen Bray as Executive Director
She will replace Linda Blumberg, who is sleeping down after 11 years.

Henri Neuendorf

The Art Dealers Association of America (ADAA), a nonprofit that supports American galleries, has a new executive director. On January 2, Maureen Bray will succeed Linda Blumberg, who led the organization for more than 11 years.

A 20-year veteran of the New York gallery world, Bray has been director of David Nolan Gallery since 2014. Previously, she served as director of Sean Kelly Gallery and director of exhibitions for the now-defunct C&M Arts. She has also served on the organizing committee of the ADAA’s signature event, The Art Show, an annual fair for member galleries at New York’s Park Avenue Armory.

The ADAA boasts 180 member galleries in 25 cities across the US and works to establish best practices for the field.
Bray assumes her new role during a difficult and competitive time for galleries. The art market is increasingly dominated by a small handful of mega-galleries, while many smaller and mid-size businesses are finding they can no longer rely on traditional models to stay afloat.

“One of the biggest challenges facing galleries is finding ways to innovate and be nimble, while also staying true to the original goals for their programming,” Bray told artnet News. “The ADAA provides a support system and information network for its member galleries serving as a resource for practical advice, tools, and information to help them run their businesses successfully.”

In a statement, the ADAA’s president Adam Sheffer noted that Bray “brings two decades of experience in leadership positions at our member galleries, and understands every facet of the role that dealers play in the greater arts ecology.”