

# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **OJAI VALLEY MUSEUM NAMES WENDY BARKER, LONGTIME MUSEUM ADMINISTRATOR, AS ITS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The board of the Ojai Valley Museum has named Wendy Barker, a longtime museum administrator from Escondido CA, as its new executive director, starting July 6. For the last 16 years Ms. Barker has been the executive director of the Escondido History Center.

Tony Thacher, president of the OVM board, said the selection came after a two-month search process that reviewed more than 20 candidates from throughout the nation. Ms. Barker's new duties include the day-to-day operations of the museum, overseeing the installation of several exhibits each year, as well as guiding the museum's fund-raising efforts.

"We are excited about the qualities Wendy brings to the job," said Thacher. "In Escondido she worked energetically to build outreach programs and events with all cohorts of the community, even during the past decade of financially difficult times."

Ms. Barker holds a BA degree in American Studies and a Master of Arts in history from Cal State University – Fullerton. Among her special achievements in her recent job was leading the charge by community leaders in revitalizing Escondido's Grape Day Park, which had gained a reputation as unsafe.

"The Ojai Museum is a dream job, with its broad emphasis on art and history," she said. "This is a perfect fit for my skills and interests, and I look forward to working with the many creative and friendly people I've already met here."

Ann Scanlin, who headed the Ojai Museum board for several years and remains an instrumental player there, said she was gratified by the excellent candidates that emerged during the search and that Ms. Barker was “the cream of the crop.”

The new executive director will be introduced to the community this Saturday (June 20) at the Museum’s annual meeting at the Chumash Garden and patio area of the Museum.



Ojai Valley Museum New Executive Director, Wendy Barker, presenting to museum members at the 2015 Annual Meeting