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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE CARLE ANNOUNCES SEARCH FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Founding Director Nick Clark to become Chief Curator as rapidly-growing museum
expands senior leadership team**

Amherst, Mass. (August 1, 2008) – The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art has formally initiated a search for an Executive Director, a newly created position aimed at expanding the senior leadership team at the now five-year old organization. Founding Director Nick Clark, who has been with the Museum since its inception, will assume the full time, newly-created role as Chief Curator. The change in leadership structure is a direct reflection of the organization’s growth and the need to separate the curatorial and programming functions from the day-to-day administrative oversight.

“As far as we’re concerned, Nick is a lifer with this organization. He’s not going anywhere at all,” stated Christopher Milne, chairman of The Carle’s board, “we’ve simply taken the position of Founding Director and split it in two. So we will now have a Chief Curator and an Executive Director as the two most senior management positions. Nick is going to be the Chief Curator, because it’s important that he be able to spend 100 percent of his attention in this area. There is no one more qualified for this job than Nick.” The Museum will be "retiring" the position of Founding Director. Milne continues, “Thanks to Nick's tireless and dedicated leadership we've been successfully ‘founded’, and now we're ready to move on to the next phase. It’s a function of our growth and our success that, wherever possible, we need to move away from people having to do multiple functions that can't be reasonably and effectively accomplished by one person – which is so common in a start-up operation – to allow people to focus on their strengths and areas of expertise.”

When asked about the restructuring, Clark replied, “As we quietly grew to 25 full-time employees, the administration was getting sufficiently complex and time consuming. I was also beginning to spend a lot of time on the road, so the opportunity to focus on curatorial and programming affairs was a welcome relief and allows me to sail into my dotage doing what I truly love.”

Asked when the new executive director might come on board, Milne said, “Nick is still functioning as he’s always functioned - there is no vacancy. So we’re going to hire the new person as soon as we can find the perfect candidate for the job.”

(Continued)

For more information on the newly-created position of Executive Director of The Carle, visit www.picturebookart.org/About_Us/Employment/Current_Open_Positions.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

Founded in part by Eric Carle, the renowned author and illustrator of more than 70 books, including the 1969 classic *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, and his wife Barbara, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art is the first full-scale museum in this country devoted to national and international picture book art, conceived and built with the aim of celebrating the art that we are first exposed to as children. Through the exploration of images that are familiar and beloved, it is the Museum's goal to provide an enriching, dynamic, and supportive context for the development of literacy and to foster in visitors of all ages and backgrounds the confidence to appreciate and enjoy art of every kind.

The Museum—which houses three galleries dedicated to rotating exhibitions of picture book art, a hands-on Art Studio, a Reading Library, an Auditorium, a popular Café, and a Museum Shop—is located at 125 West Bay Road, Amherst, MA. Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday 10 am to 4 pm, Saturday 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday 12 noon to 5 pm. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under 18, and \$20 for a family of four. For further information and directions, call 413-658-1100 or visit the Museum's website at www.picturebookart.org.

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