

# ‘LIGHT BULB MOMENTS’



Historic Capitol Museum is featuring an exhibit on inaugurations. TORI SCHNEIDER/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

## Capitol Museum director Tiffany Baker relishes storytelling role

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A few weeks ago, a program about dressing for political events kicked off the “On the Steps of History: Florida’s Inaugurations” exhibit at the Florida Historic Capitol Museum. Museum director, Tiffany Baker, remarks on how the program sparked a lively debate among her staff as to how they would go about dressing for their own inaugurations.

While Baker would opt for a bedazzled ball gown, she was excited to see how exchanges like these could further connect visitors with museum content.

“A funny or silly conversation can be just as impactful or important as a serious one because then you feel connected to it,” says Baker. “You see the possibility that maybe someday you will participate in this process and that you can see yourself there.”

As a child, Baker could clearly envision herself seated in the Oval Office. She had aims of becoming a lawyer and president, and was fully supported by her mother who already had “china picked out for the dining rooms and flowers for the Rose Garden.” However, during Baker’s freshman year of college at



**Tiffany Baker is the director of the Florida Historic Capitol Museum.**

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American University she discovered she was far more interested in researching political history than its resulting legislature.

Baker volunteered at a local historical society, cementing her career path as a historian. She visited numerous historical sites while living in the nation’s capital, and after graduation decided to pursue her master’s degree at Florida State University.

Baker’s historical interests follow her every curiosity from her undergraduate research in children’s fantasy fiction of post-war Britain to her graduate thesis on Florida’s 1985 state license plate contest.

“I find almost anything with a story compelling and I always want to know ‘why,’” says Baker. “Recently we put an [1890s] toilet from the historic capitol bathrooms on display and people walked into the exhibit room and immediately went to it. The history of the everyday is so interesting.”

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