By KIARA RICH
STEN TISLAND ADVANCE

According to Oscar Wilde, “Life imitates art far more than art imitates life.” But for some people, art is simply in their life. Such is the case for Elizabeth Egbert. Her career has taken the path of talented and accomplished sculptor to art teacher to full-time museum administrator. Her recent relinquishment as president and CEO of one of the borough’s gems, The Staten Island Museum, is an example of how life, art and business can intertwine.

Egbert was named as president and CEO of the Staten Island Museum in 2002, a position she held for five years. During her tenure, the museum expanded its programming, added new exhibitions and increased its membership. She also oversaw the development of the museum’s new facility onabyrinth Avenue, which opened in 2008.

The museum’s mission is to provide a welcoming and engaging environment for people of all ages to learn about and experience the arts, sciences and history. Under Egbert’s leadership, the museum has become a hub for community events, educational programs and cultural programming.

Egbert received her bachelor’s degree in art history from the University of Michigan and her master’s degree in museum studies from the University of London. She has been a member of the American Institute of Museum Directors and has served on the boards of several other cultural organizations.

Egbert’s achievements have not gone unnoticed. She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her work, including the 2018 Outstanding Achievement in the Arts Award from the Staten Island Council on the Arts.

Egbert’s new position as executive director of the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden marks a new chapter in her career. The museum is located on the former site of the Snug Harbor Naval Hospital and is a hub for cultural and education programs. The garden features over 500 species of plants and is a popular destination for visitors.

Egbert’s passion for art and her commitment to the community make her a unique and valuable addition to the Snug Harbor team. She is looking forward to continuing her work in creating opportunities for people to engage with the arts and sciences.

For more information about the museum, visit www.statenislandmuseum.org.

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Slopes Sculpture Park, The Newhouse Gallery, The American Craft Museum and the Sculpture Center. But Ms. Egbert is more than just an artist and museum head; she’s also proven to be the bearer of the island’s next artistic generation—literally. Her daughter, Ingrid Michel, is the island’s only indie pop sweetheart; the talented singer-songwriter has been featured on "Grey’s Anatomy" and has even helped mom out by performing at fundraisers for the museum.

Born in Charleston, West Virginia, Ms. Egbert was raised on Rouses Point, New York, and in Stamford, Connecticut, before moving to Manhattan in 1990.

But her family has deep ties to Staten Island; she is a descendent of a Dutch family who was prominent here and is represented in the town name Egbertville.

She has been married to composer Carl Michaelson for 35 years. They currently live in Stapleton and also have a son, Charles.

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The Staten Island Museum is a hub for cultural and educational programs. Under Elizabeth Egbert’s leadership, the museum has expanded its programming, added new exhibitions and increased its membership.

Egbert is looking forward to continuing her work in creating opportunities for people to engage with the arts and sciences at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden. She is the executive director of the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden, assistant director of the Staten Island Children's Museum, and interim director for the Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art at Snug Harbor. She has a degree in art history from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in museum studies from the University of London.

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