

beat



## APRIL SALOMON

*The new executive director grows up with the MIM*

BY SUSAN LANIER-GRAHAM

PHOTO BY CARL SCHULTZ

The Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) opened to the public in April 2010. During its first five years, the MIM ([www.mim.org](http://www.mim.org)) has become a world-class museum offering a musical immersion to visitors through its collection of 15,000 instruments from around the world. The new executive director, April Salomon, says becoming a world-class facility has always been the intent—and she would know. Hired as the executive assistant to the first president in 2007, she has been involved with the museum from its earliest days, and in many different roles.

Salomon developed an interest in art early on.

“I was always drawn to the creative aspects of life,” she explains. “I loved the history of art, where artists got their ideas.”

But with her Puerto Rican and Cuban heritage, she also loved cooking. She studied culinary arts and worked as a private chef for several years before completing degrees in art history and museum studies.

“My job [as executive director] is to steward, guide and shepherd what we’ve built,” says Salomon. “The MIM is unlike any experience you’ll ever have.”

### *Etc.*

**Have you always been interested in art and music?** I traveled the world as a child thanks to my mom being married to an Air Force man, so I had the good fortune early on of being exposed to different peoples, cultures and music. I dabbled in music and even picked up a paintbrush. Although I originally went into culinary arts, museums were always my intention. **How do you describe the Musical Instrument Museum to those who’ve never been?** MIM allows people to connect around music. Everything here feels special as it transports visitors through their experiences. The guest experience is second to none—there is no comparison.

**If someone has already visited, is it worth coming back?** A week later, a month later, six months later, it brings you back. We’re not a one and done. We’re always going to give you a reason to come back.