



NEWS AND INFORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

02/06/2007

Americans for the Arts Announces New Officers for the United States Urban Arts Federation

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Americans for the Arts, the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America, announced today one newly elected member and the re-election of seven members to executive committee for the United States Urban Arts Federation. The United States Urban Arts Federation (USUAF) is an alliance of the directors of arts agencies in the nation's 50 largest cities. USUAF members meet twice a year in conjunction with Americans for the Arts events to discuss urban arts policy and funding. Officers were elected at the USUAF winter meeting in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

"We congratulate the new officers of the United States Urban Arts Federation," said Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts. "Their work and cultural leadership will help guide the USUAF in addressing social, educational, and economic development issues through the arts."

Following is the brief bio of the newly elected USUAF member:

Yolanda R. Alameda is the Director of Museums and Cultural Affairs (MCAD) for the City of El Paso, Texas. She is responsible for the city's three public museums: El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso Museum of Archaeology, and El Paso Museum of History; as well as a public art program, funding programs, city-wide performance and gallery programs, and the development of collaborative marketing initiatives to enhance cultural tourism opportunities for the City of El Paso. Prior to beginning her position with the City of El Paso, Yolanda served as Assistant Director of the Office of Cultural Affairs for the City of Dallas.

Following are the brief bios of the seven re-elected USUAF members:

Victoria Hamilton, President

Victoria Hamilton is the Executive Director of the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and

Culture. Since its inception in 1988, the Commission funds the operational support of nonprofit arts and culture organizations, neighborhood arts and festivals programs, public art in public and private development, technical assistance services to artists and arts organizations, and cultural tourism initiatives.

Flora Maria Garcia, Vice-President

Since 2000, Flora Maria Garcia has been President of the Arts Council of Fort Worth Tarrant County in Texas, a private nonprofit arts council with a budget of \$1.7 million. Ms. Garcia initiated the first comprehensive community driven Cultural Plan in Fort Worth, which was completed in May 2002.

Michael Killoren, Vice-President

Michael Killoren is the Director of the Mayor's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs for the City of Seattle. The office manages Seattle's Public Art program, and a portfolio of more than 200 "Civic Partners", which includes artists and arts and cultural organizations of all shapes and sizes. The agency increases the visibility of arts and culture through a variety of programs, initiatives, and partnerships, including the Mayor's Arts Awards and work with a sixteen-member citizen volunteer Seattle Arts Commission.

Peggy Amsterdam, At-Large Member

Peggy Amsterdam is President of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance. The Cultural Alliance is the region's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the cultural sector, serving as a vital resource to its 330 nonprofit member organizations and the broader cultural community. Under her direction, the Cultural Alliance has launched major marketing and grant making initiatives while moving to the forefront of the sector's advocacy efforts.

Mary Becht, At-Large Member

Mary Becht is the Director of the Broward Cultural Division. It is one of the nation's largest public arts agencies with a staff of 31 and budget of \$21 million, serving a constituency of 450 nonprofit cultural organizations, 10,000 artists, and a community of 1.8 million residents.

Norree Boyd, At-Large Member

Norree Boyd has been Executive Director of the Metro Nashville Arts Commission since May 2004. The agency is responsible for administering \$2 million in grants annually to nonprofit arts organizations and non-arts organizations providing cultural programming throughout Davidson County. In addition, the agency administers Metro's percent for art public art program.

Camille Russell Love, At-Large Member

Camille Russell Love is the director of the City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs. Since 1998, she has directed the arts and culture programs for the City and managed facility contracts for Chastain Park Amphitheatre, Hi-Fi Buys Amphitheater, and the Trolley Barn.

Americans for the Arts is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education in America. With offices in Washington, D.C. and New York City, it has a record of more than 50 years of service. Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. Additional information is available at www.AmericansForTheArts.org.

###