

Washington County Arts Council, Inc.

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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MARY ANNE BURKE TO STEP DOWN AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

Mary Anne Burke is stepping down after 15 years as the Executive Director for the Washington County Arts Council effective on or about August 31, 2024. During her tenure, the Washington County Arts Council has become one of the leading advocates for the arts in the tri-state area. In addition to its role in promoting the arts, the Washington County Arts Council has created both exhibition space and a Gallery shop where local artists can display and sell their artwork. The number of artists participating in either exhibits or with the Gallery shop has grown from a handful to over 2900 under Mary Anne's leadership.

As a strong leader in the arts community, Mary Anne has participated as a member or officer in many local arts and community focused organizations or committees including Barbara Ingram School for the Arts Foundation; Visit Hagerstown-Washington County Convention & visitors Bureau; Maryland International Film Festival-Hagerstown; Augustoberfest; Washington County Free Library; Hagerstown Rotary-Sunrise Club & Foundation; Leadership Washington County; and Hagerstown Arts & Entertainment District Management Board.

As Executive Director, Mary Anne has also established several grant and scholarship opportunities for artists and local arts organizations to participate in. Over \$522,000 has been either awarded or granted to artists and organizations in our community during Mary Anne's tenure with the Washington County Arts Council.

Jim Pierne, President of the Board of Directors says "Mary Anne's contributions to the arts community in the tri-state area has been instrumental for the growth and success of many projects and arts related activities. She has worked tirelessly to promote the importance of all

forms of art in our community and the tri-state region. The members of the Board of Directors are extremely grateful for the contributions that Mary Anne has made to the artists and arts organizations in our community.”

A Search Committee comprised of members of the Board of Directors has been formed. The Washington County Arts Council will conduct a search for a full-time Executive Director. Interested persons should submit their information (cover letter, resume and contact information for three arts related references) to the following email address: maryanneb@washingtoncountyarts.com by no later than July 1, 2024. A Job Posting for the Executive Director position is available on the Washington County Arts Council website... <https://www.washingtoncountyarts.com/employment>

James G Pierné
WCAC, Board President