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PRESS RELEASE

MCAD's Arts Education Specialist Elected to National Council

For Immediate Release:

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Washington, D.C., January 7, 2008 — Americans for the Arts announced today the election of nine new members to its National Emerging Leader Council, a group that assists in developing programs and resources to promote the growth, development, and sustenance of emerging arts professionals nationwide. The Emerging Leader works to identify and cultivate the next generation of arts leaders in America.



Ben Fyffe, Arts and Education Programs Specialist at MCAD, has been elected into the National Emerging Leader Council for a three-year term. Fyffe previously served as Youth Docent Program Coordinator at the Austin Museum of Art and most recently as Assistant Head of Education at the El Paso Museum of Art. He juried the statewide *2005 Texas Biennial* as well as *YLA10: The 10th Young Latino Artists Exhibition* at Mexic-Arte Museum in Austin. Fyffe holds a B.A. in art history from the University of Texas at Austin and was a 2007 Wallace Foundation Fellow. His recent election to the council strengthens MCAD's continuous efforts for national recognition for both its own programs and those by the numerous artists and organizations it works with in El Paso.

"The Emerging Leader Council is an important part of our mission to bring the arts to all Americans. The development of new arts leadership is critical to the advancement of the arts in this country and we are thrilled to welcome these accomplished, bright, young individuals to the council," said Robert L. Lynch, President and CEO of Americans for the Arts.

Emerging arts leaders bring fresh perspectives, new ideas, and vibrant energy to careers that are built on a foundation of creativity. Council members are committed to enhancing that leadership capacity in themselves and throughout the national network of emerging leaders at Americans for the Arts.

Following is a list of the newly elected Emerging Leader Council members:

Stanlyn Brevé is the Subsidy Programs Specialist for the National Performance Network (NPN) in New Orleans, LA.

Marisa Catalina Casey is Founder and Executive Director of Starting Artists, Inc., a nonprofit organization based in Brooklyn, NY.

Ruby Classen is Grants and Services Coordinator for the Greater Columbus Arts Council in Columbus, OH.

Reed Colver is currently Campus and Community Engagement Coordinator for Carolina Performing Arts at the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill.

Priscilla Rodriguez is the Executive Director of the Brownsville Heritage Complex in Brownsville, TX.

Jason Schupbach is the Director of ArtistLink in Boston, MA.

Jessica Thompson is the Executive Director of the Foundation of Retaining Creative Energy in Madison, WI.

Jennifer M. Wijangco is the Deputy Director of the Texas Cultural Trust, Austin TX.

Americans for the Arts is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America. With offices in Washington, DC, and New York City, it has a record of 48 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.

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