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Newark Arts Council Names Susan Schear Deputy Director Executive Will Focus on Creative Placemaking and City-Wide Arts Plan

July 14, 2016 - The Newark Arts Council has named Susan Schear as Deputy Director. Schear is the founder and president of ARTISIN, LLC, which provides planning and business development, management and implementation services to arts and cultural organizations and artists throughout the country.



“We are excited to have Susan join our team,” said Jeremy Johnson, Executive Director of the Newark Arts Council. “Susan brings a wealth of experience in nonprofit operations, strategic planning, and the emerging field of creative placemaking. We welcome her formidable talents as we grow the organization to strengthen Newark’s expanding arts community,” he said.

“[Susan’s] background in working for artists’ economic vitality and sustainability, her caring vision for creative collaborative community possibilities in neighborhoods everywhere, and her long-standing commitment to Newark, as part of an exciting team, bode well for the leadership of the Arts Council in the years ahead,” said Ted Berger, Executive Director Emeritus, New York Foundation for the Arts.

Ann Marie Miller, Director of Advocacy & Public Policy, ArtPride New Jersey Foundation shared, “Susan’s expertise in cultural planning and creative placemaking are exactly what the arts council needs at this critical point in its development. Expect Newark’s local art scene to rise to even greater heights with her guidance and community building skills.”

Prior to founding ARTISIN, LLC, Schear was an executive with Waterford Crystal and Stern’s. Seeing the unique and unmet business needs of artists and nonprofit arts organizations in the 1990’s, Susan built upon her passion for the arts, and combined it with her business skills to create ARTISIN. From strategic and marketing plans to board development and artist workshops, ARTISIN has positively impacted hundreds of artists and arts organizations in many of the country’s urban centers. “Susan Schear is a passionate and dedicated advocate of arts and cultural programming that engages all sectors of the community in the creation of innovative and vibrant arts spaces. I congratulate the Newark Arts Council for selecting Susan as its Deputy Director...she will be a great asset to the

Council,” said Sandra García-Betancourt, Interim Director-Sugar Hill Children Museum of Arts & Storytelling, former Executive Director, Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance.

Susan has taught business planning and arts management courses at Pratt Institute, New York University, Fashion Institute of Technology and other higher education institutions as well as at numerous organizations nationally. “As a leader in the arts, Susan Schear has demonstrated incredible capacity to educate, guide, and transform individuals, organizations, and communities. Susan Schear’s experience in the arts, education, organization development, and community planning will serve the Newark Arts Council and the people of Newark well,” said Dr. Christopher M. Shrum, Associate Professor, Pratt Institute, NY

Most recently, Schear was invited to teach operations management and provide coaching to the inaugural Fellows of arts and media professionals of the Newark Business Hub, a program of the Center for Urban Entrepreneurship & Economic Development (CUEED), Rutgers Business School Newark and New Brunswick. She is a Lead New Jersey Fellow, Class of 2014.

Schear serves on the boards of Craft in America and the National Consortium for Creative Placemaking. She is also member of the Community Advisory Board of WBGO 88.3 FM. Schear has been a resident of Newark for 13 years. “Susan is great to work with. I was impressed by her knowledge of the nonprofit sector, and especially her concern with marginalized communities. I know she cares deeply about Newark, and I think she's going to add a lot to the Newark Arts Council,” said Leo Vazquez, Executive Director, National Consortium for Creative Placemaking.

Schear will help guide the Newark Arts Council’s collaborative work to foster more creative placemaking and the roll out of a citywide cultural plan. “It’s an honor to be a part of the Newark Arts Council, building on both my values and long interest in the city’s arts scene and cultural assets. I look forward to helping Newark further establish its reputation as a diverse, vibrant cultural center that emboldens artists and communities,” said Schear.

About the Newark Arts Council

The Newark Arts Council is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization created to advance and expand the artistic and cultural resources of the City of Newark, New Jersey. The Council’s mission is to bring the transformative power of the arts into the lives of those who live in, work in, and visit Newark. The Council is the umbrella for the Newark Arts Education Roundtable (NAER) and is a partner with the Mayor’s Office of Cultural Development, Arts, and Tourism. The Council awards neighborhood grants through its ArtStart program and sponsors the Open Doors Citywide Arts Festival every October. For more information, call 973-643-1625 or visit www.newarkarts.org.