



For immediate release

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**Liora Sponko named Senior Program Manager;
Eleanor Sandys promoted to Visual Arts Coordinator**

Salem, Oregon – Liora Sponko and Eleanor Sandys have been promoted to new positions on the Oregon Arts Commission staff team. Sponko, the former Community Arts Coordinator, is now Senior Program Manager for both the Arts Commission and the Oregon Cultural Trust, the Arts Commission's sister agency. Sandys, the former Registrar and Research Specialist, is now the Arts Commission's Visual Arts Coordinator.

Sponko, who served as the Executive Director of the Lane Arts Council before joining the Arts Commission 18 months ago, assumes the responsibilities previously held by the Assistant Director.

"Liora has become a tremendous asset to our team," said Arts Commission/Cultural Trust Executive Director Brian Rogers. "She has become a statewide and team leader, providing great development and implementation support to new programs and services, and is currently leading the bridge-planning process and the development of our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plan for both agencies. I am grateful for her partnership in leading our work."

Sandys had been serving as the Acting Visual Arts Coordinator for almost two years, while also continuing her previous responsibilities.

"To say Eleanor proved herself under fire is an understatement," said Rogers. "Her capacity and commitment have been incredible. She not only stepped in to manage the artist grant programs and the Percent for Art Program, but she improved processes and relationships in the process – and also found time to lead the Artist Relief Program in partnership with Oregon Community Foundation and the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation. She more than earned this promotion."

Sponko and Sandys have assumed their new roles. Job postings are expected soon for the Registrar and Research Specialist position and the Program and Arts Learning Coordinator; in

the interim the duties of the Community Arts Coordinator will be shared by Sponko and other members of the staff.

Oregon Arts Commission

The Oregon Arts Commission provides leadership, funding and arts programs through its grants, special initiatives and services. Nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine arts needs and establish policies for public support of the arts. The Arts Commission became part of Business Oregon (formerly Oregon Economic and Community Development Department) in 1993, in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities. In 2003, the Oregon legislature moved the operations of the Oregon Cultural Trust to the Arts Commission, streamlining operations and making use of the Commission's expertise in grantmaking, arts and cultural information and community cultural development. The Arts Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature and with federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts as well as funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust.

More information about the Oregon Arts Commission: www.oregonartscommission.org