



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 8, 2024

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### **Embracing Arlington Arts Announces New Leadership Team**

(Arlington, VA) – The non-profit organization [Embracing Arlington Arts](#) (EAA) is excited to announce that the organization has new leadership that will be continuing the organization’s mission and advocacy work. “We are very excited to start our 7<sup>th</sup> year with new Board members and leaders,” stated Janet Kopenhaver, the organization’s past president. “As our founding Board members serve out their remaining years over the next three years, we are pleased to be bringing in new talent, expertise and professionals to take their places,” added Kopenhaver. As part of the transition plan, Kopenhaver has been appointed as the organization’s Executive Director.

Eric J. Rubio, an arts and non-profit management professional, joins the Board as Co-President, bringing with him much experience in the arts finance and management area. “I firmly believe that the arts are a public good, and I am really looking forward to working with the rest of my fellow Board members as Embracing Arlington Arts enters its next chapter of supporting and championing a vibrant arts and culture sector in Arlington,” Rubio stated. “I welcome any Arlingtonians who are inspired by our mission to join us in our efforts,” he added.

Also joining the Board and serving as the other Co-President is Sara Barker who is currently serving as the Artistic Director of Avant Bard Theatre. Her vast experience in the local theater industry will bring a unique understanding of the needs and goals of the performing arts sector to the EAA Board. “My personal passion is to see a visual and performing arts venue built in Arlington that includes a gallery in its lobby showcasing local artists’ work, studio space for performing and visual arts classes, and a black box theater with a non-stop schedule of productions from independent theater companies and local musicians,” Barker explained. “I also aim to work on affordable artist housing so more artists can both work and live in our community,” Barker expounded.

For more information on all the Board members, click [here](#).

Embracing Arlington Arts is also beginning a Strategic Planning project and will be surveying arts organizations and the public over the next several months about its mission, services, projects and impact. The goal is to ascertain what specific priorities the organization should pursue as it transitions to the new leadership and post-COVID world. Make sure you have [signed up](#) to receive the monthly [Update](#) so that you can participate in this important survey.

The mission of Embracing Arlington Arts is to advance the vibrancy and health of the arts and culture in Arlington through advocacy and awareness programs, outreach initiatives, and projects

that enhance equitable access to the arts and cultural environment. One of the long-term goals of the organization is to have a [quality, flexible performing arts center](#) built in the County that will serve as the home for several professional theater groups, live music events, showcase local artists and overall serve as an arts hub.

[\*\*\*Embracing Arlington Arts\*\*\*](#) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to advance the vibrancy and health of arts and culture. Interested supporters are encouraged to “follow” and “like” us on [Facebook](#); visit our [LinkedIn](#) page; and follow us on [Twitter](#). Also sign up for our monthly *Update* [here](#).

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