



NEWS RELEASE
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Arts and Education Council Announces New President

St. Louis, MO / June 11, 2008, The Arts and Education Council is pleased to announce that Cynthia A. Prost will become its new President upon the retirement of current President James F. Weidman.

Prost, currently Executive Director of Cultural Festivals, will assume her new position at the Arts and Education Council at the end of June. Beginning in 1997 as Executive Director of Saint Louis Art Fair, Prost grew the organization into Cultural Festivals. Cultural Festivals is a nonprofit arts organization that specializes in presenting unique community festivals and special events. These include the nationally ranked Saint Louis Art Fair and the award-winning Saint Louis Jazz & Heritage Festival, as well as the Big Read, celebrating authors and promoting literacy.

Prost's prior responsibilities included Director of Marketing for KSD-AM&FM, Sports Marketing and Director of Special Events, City of St. Louis. She received a Grand Center Visionary Arts Award in 2007 as the Outstanding Arts Professional and was a recipient of a YWCA Leadership Award in 2006 for Non-Profit Management.

Prost is a native of Washington, D.C. She resides in Richmond Heights.

Jim Krekeler, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Arts and Education Council, stated that "Cindy Prost has been successful in growing cultural events that showcase the St. Louis region. She has a proven track record of engaging thousands of volunteers and raising significant funds to advance the arts in our community. The Arts and Education Council board of directors welcomes Cindy as our new leader to succeed Jim Weidman, who has ably led the Council since 2002."

The Arts and Education Council enriches the vibrancy of the St. Louis community by investing in art organizations and growing the base of local arts supporters.

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