



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Delaware Arts Alliance announces new headquarters and staff

Wilmington, DE (January 7, 2016) -- The Delaware Arts Alliance announced today that the organization has a new office, Suite 4, in the Community Service Building in Wilmington and the hiring of two new staff members: Operations Specialist Jessica Ball and Administrative Assistant Vaughn Fortier-Shultz.

DAA Executive Director Dr. Guillermina Gonzalez stated the new office marks a milestone, "The move to a new space comes at an opportune time for the Alliance. We are completing a new Strategic Plan for 2016 to 2018. Our staff has expanded to extend our arts advocacy reach statewide. We are mobilizing for the 2016 Delaware elections to ensure support of the arts is a priority for our elected officials. DAA's new office will serve as the hub of arts advocacy in the state during this critical election year."

Previously, the Alliance was located in the office of the Wilmington Renaissance Corporation (a DAA Institutional Supporter) at the Community Service building, since January 2010. Dr. Gonzalez stated, "DAA is very grateful to the Wilmington Renaissance Corporation for their support and partnership."

DAA's new Operations Specialist is Jessica Ball. Jessica is a 2013 graduate from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design with dual Masters Degrees in Historic Preservation and Landscape Architecture & Regional Planning and holds a Bachelor's degree in Architecture from Florida International University. While at Penn, Jessica was part of a team that conducted a study on the historic neighborhood of West Powelton Village in Philadelphia. Jessica's interdisciplinary knowledge allows her to be an effective advocate for the arts, design, and culture. "My role at DAA allows me to educate the public and elected officials about the transformative power of the arts on communities and community members," said Ball. "I believe in the ability of the arts to foster positive change in regions including economic growth and development and promotion of cross cultural understanding."

Vaughn Fortier-Shultz, an economics student at the University of Delaware, is DAA's new Administrative Assistant. Originally from Santa Fe, New Mexico, Vaughn was an administrative assistant with the Center for Nonlinear Studies at Los Alamos National Laboratory and has written for the Santa Fe New Mexican newspaper. His previous nonprofit involvement includes volunteering as a tax preparer with Nehemiah Gateway in Wilmington and serving as field operations intern with Santa Fe Forward.

The Delaware Arts Alliance is the unifying voice for the arts and arts education throughout the state, advocating for the central role of the arts in advancing dynamic communities and a creative citizenry. DAA firmly believe that a strong creative culture enhances education, the economy, and civic life. Since its founding in 2009, the Alliance has made presentations to the Joint Finance Committee of the Delaware legislature, hosted speaking events, and organized advocacy programs throughout the state. For more information, please visit www.delawareartsalliance.org.

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