



UMass Amherst
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NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Shawn Farley AT 413-545-4159 or
Carolyn Kilmer at 545-3671

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WHAT: UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center Hires New Programming Director

WHERE: University of Massachusetts Amherst Fine Arts Center
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(UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center Welcomes New programming Director)

The University of Massachusetts Amherst Fine Arts Center is pleased to announce Kathryn Maguet as the new Director of the Center Series program. She comes to western Massachusetts from the Sun Valley Center for the Arts in Sun Valley, ID where she served as Director of Performing Arts. While at Sun Valley Center for the Arts, she created an extensive residency program with artists from many disciplines, commissioned new works, programmed an outdoor summer concert series, festivals and special events. She worked collaboratively with the education and visual arts departments to create multidisciplinary projects that explored such diverse topics as Chinese Immigration to the Western States, contemporary art and culture from the Middle East, the legacy of Woody Guthrie and the role of social activism during the Depression era and the development of skateboard/graffiti culture.

Prior to joining the staff at Sun Valley Center for the Arts, she was Director of Peery's Egyptian Theatre in Ogden, UT. Her achievements in Utah include hosting the Bud Greenspan Olympic documentary program for the Salt Lake 2002 Olympics, doubling the number of student matinees and residency programs, creating a "Blues in the School" program which has now served over 10,000 students, and increasing attendance by more than 50%. She developed several collaborative projects with community groups and area educational institutions. Peery's Egyptian Theatre was named by *City Weekly* magazine as "Best Venue/Best Concerts" in 2002 during her tenure.

Quoting Dr. Willie Hill, Director of the Fine Arts Center, "We are thrilled to have Kathryn join our staff. She comes to us with an exemplary vision of programming that is exciting and innovative. We chose her for this position because of her outstanding reputation in the field, her experience in creating community collaborations and her ability to work as part of a team."

"I am excited by the opportunity to build on the past successes of the presenting programs at the Fine Arts Center and to work collaboratively with the Five Colleges faculty, staff and students to maximize the benefits of this world-class fine arts center," said Maguet. "I hope to deepen the connection to community, and by community, I mean the campus community as well as the broader community, to a whole range of performing arts experiences and to present programs that reflect the rich cultural complexion of western Massachusetts and beyond."

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Ms. Maguet has over 20 years experience in performing arts management. Prior to joining Peery's Egyptian Theatre, she was the Director of Performing Arts at Hamilton College in Clinton, NY where she was responsible for programming the performing arts series and coordinating the use of the Center between the academic departments of Music and Theatre & Dance, as well as other university departments and community groups. She created an extensive master class program with the performing arts departments, developed several projects jointly with the academic departments and initiated several community based programs with other civic groups and cultural institutions in the area.

She has held various management positions with several universities and arts organizations including Mankato State University, Zorongo Flamenco Dance Company, Ballet Arts Minnesota/City Children's *Nutcracker*, and Kirkland Fine Arts Center. She received a B.S. in Communications and Dance from Illinois State University in Normal, IL, a B.A. in Theatre from Millikin University in Decatur, IL, and an M.A. in Arts Management from The American University in Washington, D.C. She has also been a member of the Utah Presenters' Network, the Upstate New York Presenters' Group, the Salt Lake City Cultural Olympiad Committee, the Minnesota Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, the Minnesota State Arts Board Arts in Education Committee, the Salt Lake City Arts Council's Living Traditions Festival. In addition, she has taught theatre and arts management at Mankato State University in Mankato, MN and Weber State University in Ogden, UT. Ms. Maguet is an avid reader and enjoys dance, music, traveling, biking and skating.

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