

## **ANDERSON RANCH ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES INTERNATIONAL SEARCH FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Nancy Wilhelms Who Has Successfully Led The Organization For Five  
Years To Step Down As Executive Director Late 2018**

**Ms. Wilhelms To Continue In The Role While Search For Successor  
Is Conducted To Ensure Smooth Transition**

**SNOWMASS VILLAGE / ASPEN, COLORADO, January 17, 2018** — Anderson Ranch Arts Center, a premier art making destination and catalyst for critical dialogue in the contemporary art world, today announced that Nancy Wilhelms has decided to step down as Executive Director and that its Board of Trustees and Search Committee have begun a international search for the Ranch's next Executive Director. Ms. Wilhelms, who has served as Executive Director since June 2013, will continue in her role until late 2018, while the Search Committee conducts its search for her successor, to ensure a smooth transition.

The Board of Trustees and the Executive Director have appointed a Search Committee to oversee the international search for the next Executive Director. The committee is led by Board Vice-Chair, Sue Hostetler, and also comprises Board Vice-Chair Judy Mann, as well as Board Members Marianne Boesky, Ann Cook, Reggie Smith, Ann Korologos, and FITZ & CO's CEO & President, Sara Fitzmaurice.

Anderson Ranch's Board Chair, David Fuente, commented: "The Board of Trustees is deeply grateful to Nancy for her significant contributions to the success of the Ranch over the past five years as Executive Director. While we regret she will be leaving the Ranch, we wish her huge success in pursuing other opportunities in the fields of arts and culture. During her tenure, Nancy has been instrumental in the successful growth of the Ranch. To name a handful of her most significant accomplishments, Nancy has been responsible for promoting and recruiting a strong executive team, implementing an enhanced Featured Artists Series Program and developing the new Critical Dialogue Program. She has also innovated such programs as the highly successful Advanced Mentored Studies Program – a huge point of pride for the Ranch community – and the Scholarship/Partnership Program, enabling greater college student access to Ranch workshops, as well as the highly successful planning and execution of the Ranch's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year celebrations."

Mr. Fuente continued, "Looking to the future, the Board is focused on a smooth transition that will ensure the ongoing success of Anderson Ranch's mission to enrich lives with art, inspiration and community. As we move to new leadership, it is of paramount importance to continue to provide the Ranch's community of artists with the same world-class experience with which it has always been associated. As the Ranch transitions to the next stage of its evolution, new leadership has the opportunity to continue growing Anderson Ranch's distinction in every arena, from programing and fundraising to operations and artistic excellence."

Executive Director of Anderson Ranch, Ms. Wilhelms, comments, “I am truly honored to have been a member of the Ranch family since 2011 and am extremely proud to have served as Executive Director at the Ranch these past five years. The Ranch’s success is the result of the collaborative efforts of its collegiate and talented Board members, senior management and entire staff, with whom I have had the privilege of working so closely. Anderson Ranch is perfectly positioned to flourish moving forward with such a strong team in place.”

Ms. Wilhelms, continued, “I am looking forward to pursuing new opportunities in arts and culture, and working with the Board to help the Ranch enter the next phase of its growth. I plan to remain a very active member of the Ranch family and community. As the Committee embarks on its search for my successor, I will continue in my position until late 2018 to continue our momentum and ensure a smooth transition in leadership.”

Vice-Chair of the Board, Sue Hostetler, said, “As Vice-Chair of the Board I extend my sincere thanks to Nancy for all of the exceptional growth she implemented and increased recognition of the Ranch achieved under her strong leadership. As Chair of the Search Committee, we look to build on a storied history and the strong national reputation of the Ranch, with the goal of further increasing its resonance in the contemporary art world. We are excited for the future of Anderson Ranch.”

During her tenure, Ms. Wilhelms improved Anderson Ranch’s fiscal position and future sustainability, increasing its operating budget by 34%, its endowment by 27% and the total enrollments by 22%. Ms. Wilhelms also presided over significant growth in the membership and financial contributions of the National Council donor group, and oversaw the creation and implementation a Long Range Plan for Anderson Ranch to ensure a sustainable future.

Over the course of her five years as Executive Director, Ms. Wilhelms’ programmatic accomplishments include:

- Implementing an enhanced Featured Artists Series, bringing the most important contemporary artists and art influencers today to the Ranch, including: Frank Stella, Christo, Tom Sachs, Marina Abramovic, Theaster Gates, Steve McQueen, Massimiliano Gionni, Carrie Mae Weems, Catherine Opie, Trevor Paglen, Ryan Trecartin, and Wangechi Mutu, among others.
- Developing a robust Visiting Artists and Visiting Critics Programs where leading contemporary artists work in the Ranch studios and share in the Ranch community, including artists such as: The Haas Brothers; Mickalene Thomas; James Casebere; Enrique Martinez Celaya
- Creating a new Critical Dialogue Program for dialogue on ideas in contemporary art, with programs by Helen Molesworth, Hank Willis Thomas and others
- Developing the Advanced Mentored Studies Program, where talented emerging artists work with a master artist mentor during a three-year period in the fields of documentary photography, painting and ceramics
- Creating the important Scholarship/Partnership Program, partnering with 65 leading colleges and universities to send the Ranch over 100 talented seniors and graduate students each summer, focusing on students who might not otherwise be able to come to Anderson Ranch
- Oversaw planning and execution of the Ranch’s highly successful 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2016.

Before her appointment as Executive Director in 2013 at Anderson Ranch, Ms. Wilhelms served as Director of Marketing and Communications (since 2011). Prior, she was president of WestGroup Marketing Communications, Inc., a firm she founded in 1982 serving national and international corporate clients. She has also served as press secretary to Nevada Governor Robert List, director of marketing for a Las Vegas hotel group, director of communications for Harnischfeger Corporation, a Fortune 500 company, and program manager for Milwaukee Summerfest.

### **About Anderson Ranch Arts Center**

Founded in 1966, Anderson Ranch Arts Center is a premier destination in America for art making and critical dialogue, bringing together aspiring and internationally renowned artists to discuss and further their work in a stimulating environment. Nestled in the Rocky Mountains of Aspen/Snowmass, Colorado, the Ranch hosts extensive workshops for every day, emerging and established artists in eight disciplines, including Photography & New Media, Ceramics, Painting & Drawing, Furniture Design & Woodworking, Sculpture, Woodturning, Printmaking and Digital Fabrication.

In addition to the Summer Series: Featured Artists & Conversations, the Ranch also hosts engaging events throughout the year including: the Recognition Dinner (July 19, 2018) honoring the National Artist Award, Service to the Arts Award and Extraordinary Leadership Award recipients; the Annual Art Auction & Community Picnic (August 4, 2018), a thirty-seven-year-old tradition which features works of local, national and international artists; and the Artists-in-Residence Program, fostering artistic growth for emerging and established visual artists. In 2016 Anderson Ranch celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, furthering its mission to enrich lives with art, inspiration and community.

Learn more at [www.andersonranch.org](http://www.andersonranch.org) or [970/923.3181](tel:9709233181).

Join the conversation on social media by mentioning Anderson Ranch Arts Center and using the hashtag **#AndersonRanch** when posting.

# # #

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