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County Commissioners Appoint New Trustees to Cuyahoga Arts and Culture Board

The Cuyahoga County Commissioners yesterday appointed two trustees to Cuyahoga Arts and Culture's (CAC) board, expanding it from three members to five. The new trustees are Linda Abraham-Silver, President and Executive Director of the Great Lakes Science Center and Christopher Coburn, Executive Director of Cleveland Clinic Foundation Innovations.

Steven Minter, President of the CAC Board of Trustees said, "Linda and Chris are outstanding leaders in their respective fields of science, education and technology and will bring tremendous skills to the Cuyahoga Arts and Culture board. We look forward to working with them to strengthen the county's vital arts and cultural sector."

Ohio law was recently changed to allow Regional Arts and Culture Districts to increase the size of their boards from three members to five. Dr. Abraham-Silver and Mr. Coburn join current trustees Steven Minter, former President of the Cleveland Foundation, Santina Protopapa, Executive Director of the Progressive Arts Alliance, and David Bergholz, former Executive Director of the George Gund Foundation who were appointed on April 1, 2007.

The Cuyahoga County Commissioners established Cuyahoga Arts and Culture (CAC), a Regional Arts and Culture District and a political subdivision of the State of Ohio, in June 2005. In November, 2006, voters in Cuyahoga County approved a tax on cigarettes to fund arts and culture in Cuyahoga County through CAC.

CAC is one of the largest local public sector funders of arts and culture in the country. It is the second Regional Arts and Culture District in the State of Ohio and the first with a dedicated revenue stream.

A primary purpose of CAC, established by the board of trustees through adoption of its bylaws in April 2007, is to make matching grants to nonprofit

organizations located in Cuyahoga County that have a primary mission of arts or culture or that have a proven history of arts or cultural programming.

The mission of CAC is to promote and support arts and culture in Cuyahoga County by making grants, using public funds, to secure the excellence of our established arts and cultural sector and promote access to, and participation in, quality arts or cultural experiences for all residents.

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