



Artist Communities Alliance (ACA) Welcomes Mary-Kim Arnold as Chief of Staff

Mary-Kim Arnold has joined the Artist Communities Alliance (ACA) leadership team as Chief of Staff. A resident of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Mary-Kim is a writer and artist with an active practice and more than two decades of administrative leadership experience in the arts, humanities, and education.

Most recently, Mary-Kim served as Dean of the Faculty & Academic Affairs at Vermont College of Fine Arts (VCFA), overseeing the college's six graduate programs. For six years prior, she taught creative and critical writing in the Nonfiction Writing Program at Brown University. With experience in creative nonfiction, poetry, and cultural criticism, Mary-Kim has also taught at Wheaton College, Temple University, Rhode Island School of Design, and in the Newport MFA at Salve Regina University.

Mary-Kim began her career in administration in Brown University's Office of Alumni Relations, where she worked with the newly-formed affinity groups for alumni of color. She has served as Executive Director for the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, an independent nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and as Program Officer for arts and culture at the Rhode Island Foundation, where she also was appointed to be the inaugural Director of Evaluation and Learning.

"Mary-Kim is an exceptional leader, celebrated for her ability to foster meaningful partnerships and build consensus within organizations. A brilliant and seasoned advocate for artist communities and creators, she excels at transforming ideas into impactful actions. It is an honor and privilege to work with her during this pivotal moment for the arts," said Lisa Funderburke, President of ACA. "As both a writer and artist, Mary-Kim embodies the essence of a creative administrator and will be instrumental in advancing ACA strategic initiatives."

"I have long held a deep respect and admiration for the work ACA has done, raising the visibility of the artist residency field, connecting artists and residency programs, and offering a global vision for the sector that centers artists and creative practice. It's an honor to join ACA at this critical moment for artists and artist communities," says Arnold.

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Communities
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Mary-Kim holds a BA and MFA from Brown University, and an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She has served as Board President for the International Charter School of Rhode Island, the Women's Fund of Rhode Island, and as Co-Chair of the Board of Dirt Palace Public Projects. Additional board service includes New Urban Arts, the Providence Athenaeum, and the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

More information on ACA's staff and board is available [on our website](#).