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Wichita, KS – The Board of Directors of Arts Partners is pleased to announce Aimee Geist will serve as the organization’s new Executive Director. Geist replaces Katie Lynn, who is retiring after serving 14 years as Executive Director.

“The board is thrilled to have Aimee join Arts Partners,” said Linda Newman, Arts Partners Board President. “Our goal is to continue to build on the significant work Katie spearheaded on behalf of the children in our community. Aimee’s collaborative spirit and dedication to arts and education make her the right leader at the right time to take us to the next level, particularly in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) curriculum.”

Geist is no stranger to the Wichita arts community. A graduate of Wichita State University, she spent the past eleven years at the Ulrich Museum of Art at WSU where she started as Education Coordinator and worked as Curator of Education since 2007. During her time at the Ulrich, attendance more than doubled; she led more than 15,000 children, youth and adults on tours of exhibitions and through the campus outdoor sculpture collection; and welcomed significant creative minds such as Tom Otterness, Margaret Wertheim and Trenton Doyle Hancock to WSU and the Wichita community.

Geist says she is honored to follow in Katie’s footsteps and is excited to lead Arts Partners. "Working with the Arts Partners community will be exciting and invigorating—building on a community that fosters memorable, educational experiences through the arts has been my lifelong passion." This is a passion she is eager to share with students. Aimee says, "Learning through the arts gives students the opportunity to better express themselves and to develop higher-order thinking skills and problem-solving abilities.”

Geist is the recipient of the Kansas Art Education Association 2012 Museum Educator of the Year award; Wichita Arts Council 2013 Educator of the Year award; as well as the Wichita State University 2013 Presidential Distinguished Service award.

She assumes the duties of Arts Partners Executive Director on June 3.

Arts Partners, affiliated with the national Young Audiences Arts for Learning network and a regional program of Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts, provides innovative classroom experiences that ignite the full creative potential of all young people by integrating the arts into early childhood through high school curriculum. Because we believe that creative minds make communities better, Arts Partners is dedicated to providing opportunities for students to discover learning through the arts.

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