



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 1, 2021
Contact: Jonathan Harwell-Dye, Program Manager
(615) 460-8274 | jharwelldye@abcnashville.org

Arts & Business Council Expands Arts Board Matching

Fifteen Nashville Business Professionals Selected for First Cohort of 2021

Nashville, Tenn. — The Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville proudly announces the selection of 15 business professionals for Arts Board Matching. The first of two cohorts in 2021, this class marks the largest expansion of ABC’s signature leadership and board development program since its inception in 2012 effectively doubling the annual capacity of the program. To date, the Arts & Business Council has trained 110 board members and matched them with 52 arts organizations.

“We’re excited to work with this talented group of business leaders who are passionate about Nashville’s creative community and enthusiastic to serve as current and future board members,” said Jill McMillan Palm, executive director of the Arts & Business Council. “Nearly a decade since its inception, Arts Board Matching continues to grow and evolve—a testament to how engagement in the arts benefits businesses and engagement with businesses benefits the arts.”

Arts Board Matching training sessions provide an overview of the arts and culture sector as well as insights into board governance, fiduciary and financial responsibilities, fundraising, strategic planning, and arts advocacy. The program culminates with the Arts Board Matching Event where participants meet with a variety of arts organizations to find their match. Current arts board members may participate in the training sessions without taking part in the matching process to stay up-to-date on trends and best practices.

Serving on an arts board, professionals learn to lead and influence people, take risks, resolve conflicts, and practice creative decision-making. They gain opportunities to network with colleagues across industries and the chance to work in a visible role supporting Nashville’s creative community. The skills they acquire as a result make them stronger leaders within their companies and more engaged citizens within their communities.

The Arts Board Matching Spring 2021 Cohort is:

- Heather Crabtree, Architect, HASTINGS Architecture
- Lindsay DeCarlo, Director of Brand and Communications, HASTINGS Architecture
- Harmony Duke, Project Manager/Systems Director/HR Director, Powell Architecture + Building Studio, Local Honey & Great Feeling Studios
- Eric Hawkins, Architect, HASTINGS Architecture
- Mackenzie Koupal, CFO, BindTech, Publishers Storage & Shipping, Hampton Inn Massillon

- Nathan Martin, Event Planner, Big Events
- Laura Merritt, Partner, Waller
- Ashley Mintz, Artist, Wild Enemy Art
- Hunter Claire Rogers, Owner, HCR Events
- Katherine Smalley, Associate, Bass, Berry & Sims
- Sarah Stewart, Associate Attorney, Bradley
- Julia Sweitzer, Merchandiser, VF Workwear
- Ginny Webb, Project Manager, ESa
- Betsy West, Manager, Strategic Business Communications, Mars Petcare
- Samuel Wible, Studio Leader, HASTINGS Architecture

Arts Board Matching kicks off with its first session on March 5 and runs through June. For more information, contact the Arts & Business Council at info@abcnashville.org or (615) 460-8274.

###

About the Arts & Business Council

The Arts & Business Council (ABC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that leverages and unites the unique resources of the arts and business communities to create a thriving, sustainable creative culture in Nashville and beyond. To deliver its mission, ABC offers four core programs: Volunteer Lawyers & Professionals for the Arts, Education for the Creative Community, Arts Board Matching, and Fiscal Sponsorship. More information is available at www.ABCNashville.org.

Headshots and bios for cohort members are available upon request.