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Meet the New Arts In Education Coordinator, Casey Polczynski

The Virginia Commission for the Arts welcomes Dr. Casey Polczynski as our new Arts in Education program coordinator. Casey comes to the Commission from the Virginia Museum of Fine Art where she served this past year as an adjunct faculty member and an educational assistant. From 2011-2013, Casey was the Program Coordinator / Educator for the ArtSmarts program with Richmond City schools and the Museum. She was the fine arts subject leader at the Ras Al Khaimah English Speaking School in the United Arab Emirates from 2009-2011 where she helped develop and manage their arts program. Casey received her doctorate in Education in 2013. She is a trained arts educator with extensive experience in both the public and private K-12 school systems here and abroad. She has mentored student teachers at Virginia Commonwealth University and has used her considerable administrative and organizational skills to develop state and national arts conference sessions and to lead several presentations herself.

Trained as a studio artist, Casey is a stone carver; she views her carving as “a personal metaphor for life in reducing forms to their essence and innate beauty”. She recently joined a schola at her church to learn Gregorian notation and says she was “attracted by the collaborative nature” of Gregorian chant. Casey will assume the leadership for the Commission’s Arts in Education grants program and will manage the NEA Poetry Out Loud program throughout Virginia. She will develop and organize special workshops and programs to expand arts education opportunities from pre-K to college level.

“Casey’s substantial network of arts educators and administrators, college faculty and students, and museum program directors will be a tremendous asset to us at the Virginia Commission for the Arts as we expand and enhance our current programs” said Executive Director Margaret Vanderhye. “She is a great fit for the talented, dedicated, and collaborative staff we have here at the Commission.” As of July 21st, Casey can be reached at 804-225-3132 or casey.polczynski@vca.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts supports the arts through funding from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Commission distributes grant awards to artists, arts and other not-for-profit organizations, educational institutions, educators and local governments and provides technical assistance in arts management.

For further information about the Virginia Commission for the Arts and its programs, contact the Virginia Commission for the Arts, 1001 East Broad Street, Suite 330, Richmond, VA 23219-2010; 804-225-3132; arts@vca.virginia.gov; www.arts.virginia.gov

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The following are sample tweets for you to use if you like or feel free to create your own tweet. Whichever you prefer, please use the hashtag #NEAOurTown14.

Go [name of state].Excited 2 host #NEAOurTown14 grant(s)! Art in #communitydevelopment makes places better. Go to arts.gov. (124 characters)

Go [name of state].Excited 2 host #NEAOurTown14 grants! #creativeplacemaking makes places better. Go to arts.gov (116 characters)

Congrats to [@org] and [@org] 4 receiving #NEAOurTown14 grant. Making [name of state] a better place. Go to arts.gov (118 characters)

Helping make US a better place w/ our #NEAOurTown14 grant. #creativeplacemaking #art in #communitydevelopment Go to arts.gov (127 characters)

#NEAOurTown14 & #creativeplacemaking. Changing places, connecting people in [name of state]. Go to arts.gov (111 characters)

#NEAOurTown14, #art in #communitydevelopment. Changing places, connecting people in [name of state]. Go to arts.gov (119 characters)

Excited! #NEAOurTown14 includes [number] grants in [name of state] Among only 66 grants awarded in US by @NEAarts. Go to arts.gov (132 characters)