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Virginia Commission for the Arts Elects New Chairman

RICHMOND, VA--- Deborah Wyld of Smithfield has been elected Chair of the Virginia Commission for the Arts for 2011-12. Ms. Wyld retired in 2010 after a 32-year career with Norfolk Southern Corporation, the last 12 spent as executive director of Norfolk Southern Foundation. With a long history of involvement in the arts and arts advocacy, she has served on the boards of Virginia Opera and Virginia Opera Guild, where she was chairman in 1993; Tidewater Performing Arts Society; and the Isle of Wight Arts League, where she curated gallery exhibits for four years and served as president in her final year. She was a member of the Business Consortium for Arts Support's Allocations Committee for eight years, has been a judge for the Cultural Alliance's annual Alli Awards competition, served as an advisory panelist for the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and served on the Chesapeake Fine Arts Commission for five years, including two years as chairman. During her chairmanship, the Commission launched its inaugural free outdoors summer performing series in Chesapeake City Park.



In 2008 Governor Kaine appointed her to a five-year term on the Virginia Commission for the Arts. She also serves on the board of the United Way of South Hampton Roads' Women's Leadership Council and is chair of its grants committee. She is a journalism graduate of Ohio State University. In retirement, she does volunteer projects for many of Hampton Roads' major arts and other charitable organizations, works part-time at The Smithfield Times, and sees as many Broadway shows as she can on frequent visits to New York.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts is the state agency that supports the arts through funding from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Commission awards grants to artists, arts and other not-for-profit organizations, schools, and local governments, as well as providing technical assistance in arts management.

For more information about the Virginia Commission for the Arts and its programs and resources, visit the Commission website at www.arts.virginia.gov or call 804-225-3132.