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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS WELCOMES SEVEN NEW COMMISSION BOARD MEMBERS

Richmond: Virginia Commission for the Arts welcomes seven new Commissioners today. Governor Terry McAuliffe announced the appointments on June 20th effective July 1st. The Commissioners will join six other members who are also gubernatorial appointees. Eleven Commissioners are appointed according to their respective Congressional Districts and two serve at large for a single five-year term.

Joining the Commission today for terms concluding June 30th, 2019 are:

Robert (Bob) Behr, Chincoteague Island: Founder and past president, Chincoteague Cultural Alliance; owner, Island Cottage Collection; artist, educator/administrator.

Dorothy S. Blackwell, Lexington: Graphic artist and painter; founding member, Rockbridge Studio Tour; founder, Cooperative Gallery of the Nelson Gallery

Lorita Copeland Daniels, Spotsylvania: Former education specialist, Department of the Air Force.

Jay Dick, Alexandria: Senior Director of State and Local Government Affairs, Americans for the Arts

Jo Hodgin, Annandale: Past director, Planning and Initiatives, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts

John Rainero, Bristol: Assistant General Manager, Permatile Concrete Products, Inc; Chair, Bristol Convention and Visitors Bureau; Past President, Birthplace of Country Music Alliance

Grace Han Wolf, Herndon: Member, Herndon town council; immediate past president, Council for the Arts of Herndon.

“We are so pleased to welcome this impressive group of professionals in such different arts disciplines” said Virginia Commission for the Arts Executive Director Margaret Vanderhye. “Each one of them brings a breadth and depth of expertise and experience to the work we do here funding and supporting the arts throughout the Commonwealth”.

The Commission wishes to acknowledge the seven dedicated Commissioners who have just completed their terms and thank them for their public service on behalf of the arts in Virginia.

They are: Lisa Alderman, Wytheville; Willie Dell, Richmond; Tina Lea, Virginia Beach; Ann Edwards Rust, Herndon; Marcia Neuhaus Speck, Alexandria; Marcia H. Thalhimer, Richmond; and Ann Bondurant Trinkle, Roanoke.

The thirteen member Commission board makes funding decisions and provides support and advocacy for arts groups throughout the state.

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 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 Commission 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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