

Jamie L. Bennett has been appointed Executive Director of ArtPlace America (ArtPlace), to lead the second phase of ArtPlace's strategic plan to support a national Creative Placemaking Movement, effective January 6, 2014.

Mr. Bennett, who is currently Chief of Staff and Director of Public Affairs for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), will be responsible for providing strategic and operational leadership for ArtPlace, a unique collaboration of philanthropic foundations, financial institutions, and federal agencies that promotes the inclusion of arts in community development strategies.

In September, the ArtPlace Presidents Council and Operating Committee approved a long-range plan that further develops the important body of work accomplished in the past three years. Mr. Bennett will oversee and refine the implementation of this plan, which includes an array of grant-making, a place-based lending initiative, a broader research agenda, and an emphasis on helping to strengthen the national creative placemaking movement. The plan will be presented at ArtPlace's second national summit to take place in Los Angeles in March 2014.

Mr. Rapson stated, "Jamie's extraordinary depth of experience in philanthropy, public policy, and the arts and culture—notably the vital role he played in the establishment of ArtPlace during his time at the NEA—made him the ideal candidate. Through his long-term involvement in and passionate commitment to the arts on a variety of levels, he fully grasps the role of creative placemaking, making the arts and culture central in community and economic development, civic engagement, and public investments. Jamie will be able to hit the ground running as he deploys his arsenal of wisdom, expertise, perceptiveness, creativity, resourcefulness, and good humor. The Presidents Council is thrilled to have him at the helm as we embark on the next phase of ArtPlace's critical work."

Mr. Bennett said, "It was a pleasure and a privilege being at the table as ArtPlace was launched and completed the first phase of its strategic plan. I am delighted to have this singular opportunity to work with Rip, the participating funders, and ArtPlace's partners, supporters, and staff as we move forward into the next phase. With great enthusiasm, I look forward to continuing to work with and support arts, civic, and elected leaders to contribute to the creative placemaking field and, most importantly, to serve a diversity of communities."

Mr. Bennett has been Director of Public Affairs at the NEA since 2009, and was promoted to additionally serve as Chief of Staff in June 2011. Prior to the NEA, he was Chief of Staff at the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, serving as a senior member of the Commissioner's leadership team, and Chief of Staff in the Office of the President of Columbia University, in New York. From 1997 to 2005, Mr. Bennett provided strategic counsel to the Agnes Gund Foundation and was actively involved with Ms. Gund's philanthropic activities. He has also held positions at The Museum of Modern Art, New York Philharmonic, and Columbia College Office of Alumni Affairs and Development. His non-profit affiliations have included the Board of Directors of Art21 and HERE Arts Center; Foot-in-the-Door Committee of the Merce Cunningham Dance Foundation; and Studio in a School's Associates Committee. Mr. Bennett received a B.A. from Columbia College.

Jeremy Nowak will continue to serve as Interim Director through 2013 and in an advisory capacity beginning in 2014.

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