



LexArts Welcomes New Chief Operating Officer

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Lexington, KY, January 27, 2010 – LexArts this week welcomes the arrival of its new Chief Operating Officer, Tania Blanich. She will partner with LexArts President and CEO, Jim Clark, to expand the organization's ability to support the arts by ensuring its financial strength and operating efficiency.

"To say that I am thrilled that Tania has joined our team is an understatement," said Clark. "This new addition is a strategic investment in the growth of LexArts and the arts community. We will be able to tackle projects such as the development of a community-wide arts and cultural plan while also intensifying efforts to increase funding to arts organizations and artists."

Blanich has more than 25 years of nonprofit management and leadership experience. She served for nearly a dozen years as Director of the Program for Media Artists, a Rockefeller Foundation initiative that supported the creation of innovative film, video and new media projects. Concurrently, she was Associate Director of National Video Resources, a New York-based foundation dedicated to assisting the dissemination of independent media. Clark noted that further developing LexArts' support of the media arts would be a part of the new COO's portfolio.

"It is truly exciting to join LexArts and work with Jim to devise programs and strategic partnerships that support and share the vibrancy of the Lexington arts community," noted Blanich. "I'm impressed by the richly diverse cultural community that exists here in Lexington, the warmth of its people and the untapped possibilities for strengthening our support for artists and arts organizations city-wide. I'm delighted and honored to be a part of its future."

Among other service to the arts community, Blanich has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, been a reader for the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Residency Program in Italy, and currently serves on the international consulting board of the TyPA Foundation in Buenos Aires. She began her career in public administration working as an analyst for New York City government. A native of North Dakota, Blanich earned her master's degree from New York University's Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and her BA from the University of Michigan.

About LexArts

LexArts is a nonprofit community organization that works for the development of a strong and vibrant arts community as a means of enhancing the quality of life in central Kentucky. Through its annual *Fund for the Arts*, LexArts raises millions of dollars in support of local arts. In turn, LexArts underwrites the operating expenses for a variety of Partner Organizations, offers affordable exhibition and performance space for arts organizations, as well as competitive grants for community outreach projects. Visit LexArts website at www.lexarts.org.

Major support for LexArts programs and services is provided by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, supports LexArts with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.