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## **Transforming the Business of Art? The BAC Takes on a New Director**

**Manitou Springs, CO, June 15, 2012**--As the Business of Art Center enters its 24<sup>th</sup> year and the city of Manitou Springs adopts a new vision plan for the town, the BAC board hires a new executive director. After a brief transition period, Natalie Johnson, community activist and Black Cat Books owner, will assume the executive director position. Interim ED Linda Boedeker, who led the BAC starting in early 2009, will resume her nonprofit consulting work in the community. Boedeker explains, "Knowing that I will be able to leave this organization in a financially healthy state warms my heart; I will always love and support the BAC. I wish the best for Natalie, the board and staff."

BAC board president Craig Cantrell states, "While we will miss Linda's skills and thoughtfulness, the board is 100 percent behind the vitality and enthusiasm that Natalie brings to the table. It is going to be a great year for the BAC."

This is an exciting time for the BAC. Jay Miller, Pikes Peak Arts Council president, is set to launch a series of BAC classes this fall. The BAC also will partner with other local organizations such as Partners for Healthy Choices, Concrete Couch, the Heritage Center and the Manitou Springs Library to make arts education a priority.

As Johnson says, "I am passionate about building community! I believe that as director of the BAC, I will have the opportunity to support a space for the artist in all of us. As they say, 'Art makes us human.' Arts are prospering in Colorado and I look forward to working with the staff, board, city, school district and Manitou residents to make it the best community art center that it can be." She is also honored to follow in the footsteps of all the amazing directors and volunteers who have come before her. Without their time, expertise and support, the Business of Art Center would be just an idea on someone's wish list.

Later this summer, the BAC will celebrate its members, welcome Johnson as the new director and express its gratitude to Boedeker; details of this event will be announced at a later date.

For more information or to schedule an interview with Natalie Johnson, please contact her at the above phone number or email address.