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Pacific Northwest College of Art Announces a Leadership Transition

Dr. Thomas Manley Accepts Presidency at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio

Wednesday, November 18, 2015 – Portland, OR – The Board of Governors of Pacific Northwest College of Art (PNCA) announce today a leadership transition as President Dr. Thomas Manley accepts the presidency of Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio. He will assume the new role on March 1, 2016.

In an announcement to the campus community, Board of Governors Chairman Craig Boretz expressed his deep gratitude to President Manley, acknowledging his commitment and vision over the past 12 years in leading the transformation of PNCA and solidifying its voice in the cultural and creative community of Portland and beyond.

“From where I stand,” President Manley says, ”PNCA is a genuine bright spot, shining the light of Portland style creativity and collaboration farther in every direction year after year. It has been a joy to be a part of a community of such dedicated artists, designers, writers and scholars and to witness how through their acts of invention, subtle and audacious, culture is enriched and lives transformed. My family and I feel very fortunate to have played a part in this remarkable college’s story and we will be excited to watch what great things come next.”

In Portland and throughout Oregon PNCA is acknowledged as the premiere center for art and design education. It has emerged on the national landscape with significant enrollment growth and solidified its presence among independent colleges of art and design. In recent years its student body has shifted from local to global, with nearly 60% of students coming from outside of Oregon.

PNCA has also seen expansion of its faculty, an increase in student scholarship aid, the establishment of six graduate programs and a post-baccalaureate program within the Hallie Ford School of Graduate Studies, which was established through the largest single gift to an arts organization in Oregon.
Located within Portland’s North Park Blocks, the college’s facilities include an award winning, LEED platinum renovated federal building, now the main campus center and a focal point of creative activity for the city; ArtHouse, a LEED silver student residence hall; the Falcon Building, a LEED gold sculpture and studio facility; and the Museum of Contemporary Craft.

“In addition to our facilities,” Chair Boretz says, “we are also extremely fortunate to have a solid internal governance structure of the College that leverages the participation of faculty, staff and students. These individuals represent a strong, vibrant and participatory voice in the overall leadership of PNCA.”

Demonstrating its confidence in the PNCA community, the Executive Committee of the Board will implement a transitional leadership structure that includes senior administrative staff members working closely with the committee on day-to-day operations and governance of the college. This structure will be in place beginning January 1, 2016, and remain in place until the Board appoints an interim president. Dr. Manley will remain involved with the college during January and February 2016 as a liaison to the Executive Committee to ensure a smooth transition.

“This is an extraordinary time for the college,” Boretz says. “We are entering a new chapter in the college’s history, moving forward after a successful relocation to the Arlene and Harold Schnitzer Center for Art and Design to a reinforced focus on academic programs, faculty, students and initiatives that exemplify the vision and mission of PNCA.”

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**About PNCA**

As Oregon’s premiere college of art and design since 1909, PNCA has helped shape the region’s visual arts landscape for more than a century. Today PNCA is a dynamic platform for 21st century art and design education at its new campus in the heart of downtown Portland. PNCA offers four BFA programs with 10 concentrations, six graduate programs within the Hallie Ford School of Graduate Studies and a Post-Baccalaureate program. pnca.edu