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**SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN ARTS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES NEW  
ART IN PUBLIC PLACES ADMINISTRATOR**

Sacramento, CA—The Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission (SMAC) recently announced the appointment of Shelly Willis as the new Art in Public Places (APP) Administrator. Ms. Willis will be responsible for the management and administration of the program which is a part of the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission (now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year of operation).

APP is a nationally recognized 2% for art program which utilizes a percentage of development dollars to create and install works of art throughout Sacramento County. To date, APP has over 600 pieces of art in its collection.

Ms. Willis will continue to build the programs strong foundation and will focus on creating processes and systems that support public artists while developing educational programs that engage the public in the many facets of the program. She also has plans for community-based events, innovative public art projects, and seeks to work with on cross-agency programs at SMAC.

"Sacramento is an inspiring place to live and work because of its rich history, stunning geography, and diverse and exceptional art community. I am privileged to be part of the community, to assist artists with the complexities of making art in the public realm and connect that work to the community."

Ms. Willis' managed a similar program for the University of Minnesota for six years. She is the co-editor of "The Practice of Public Art", to be published by Routledge, New York this spring. She has managed public art programs for the City of Fairfield and City of Sonoma and developed curriculum in public art for a graduate program at the University of Minnesota. She received undergraduate degrees in business administration and art history from California State University, Chico.

SMAC Executive Director Rhyena Halpern is very pleased with the new appointment "Shelly was chosen as the successful candidate after an extensive national search and a rigorous community-based interview process. Shelly brings a wealth of experience, vision and knowledge to our program. She has the ability to work with many constituents. She will be an asset to SMAC and the Sacramento visual arts scene. We are looking forward to the creation of many exciting public art projects under her leadership."

## **BIO--Shelly Willis**



Shelly Willis managed the University of Minnesota public art program for six years accomplishing the development and installation of over thirty temporary and permanent public artworks on campus throughout the University of Minnesota system. She developed a public art minor program at the University, the first program of its kind in the United States, and taught courses in public art in the Department of Urban Studies and the Department of Landscape Architecture. Among other writings, her essay on the state of public art education in the United States was published by Americans for the Arts in the book titled Public Art by the Book, edited by Barbara Goldstein. Willis is co-editing and writing the book, *Public Art Practice*, to be published by Routledge New York in the spring of 2008. Willis came to Minnesota in October 1999 after 10 years managing visual arts programming for the City of Fairfield, California. She founded and directed the city gallery and the city's public art program, with an emphasis on exploring community identity through temporary and permanent public artworks and exhibitions. While in Fairfield, Willis also developed the curriculum and taught gallery management at Napa Valley College and Solano Community College. Before that, she worked as program coordinator at the California Arts Council and as the Director of the Institute for Design and Experimental Art, a visual arts center in Sacramento. She received undergraduate degrees in art history and business administration from California State University, Chico. Willis is on the advisory board of *FORECAST, Public Artworks*, a St. Paul non-profit organization that publishes *Public Art Review*, and supports and advocates for public art nationally. She began her work developing a public art policy for the City of Sonoma, CA in May, 2005.