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Longtime Arts Council employee accepts position with Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services (KNHS)

The Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo today announces that its director of development and programs has accepted a position with a Kalamazoo-based, nonprofit organization. Beth McCann will join Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services (KNHS) as its director of marketing and development. “While I am excited about my new opportunity with KNHS, I will miss the Arts Council tremendously,” says McCann. “Over these last ten years I’ve met many amazing and talented artists and had experiences that I will treasure always. I’ve also worked with the best people at the Arts Council, all of whom are smart, dedicated, lots of fun — and now some of my best friends!”

Beth served in her most recent role since August of 2018 and prior to that as the deputy director. “Beth was a staple at the Arts Council, helping so many to get their art shown and have their music heard,” says Executive Director Kristen Chesak. “Her passion and commitment to the arts were evident through her commitment to our programs and to the community of artists that rely on our support. We know that the only thing constant in our lives is change. While Beth served with the Arts Council for ten years in many capacities, we want her to know that we appreciate and admire her for her successes here at the Arts Council. We also wish her nothing but the best in the next chapter of her professional career at KNHS.”

Beth began working at the Arts Council in August of 2009 as director of marketing and community relations, was promoted to deputy director in September of 2010, and served as interim executive director from June 2015 to June 2016. Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services “is excited to welcome Beth to its leadership team,” says KNHS Executive Director Matt Lager. “Beth brings excellent nonprofit leadership that will keep KNHS’ services strong and accessible. She will be an important part of helping low income households buy, fix, and keep their own homes so that Kalamazoo’s neighborhoods thrive.”

In addition to her professional experience, Beth has served on many community boards of directors including Housing Resources, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts Corporate Giving Committee, the American Heart Association – Kalamazoo, AHA Heart Ball and Go Red for Women, Hospital Hospitality House, and the Discover Kalamazoo Advisory Council.

Prior to joining the Arts Council Beth spent 12 years in healthcare marketing and administration working for the Heart Center for Excellence, Borgess Ambulatory Care, and Bronson Healthcare



Group. She has a strong background in event management, professionally as marketing coordinator for Downtown Kalamazoo Incorporated, and as a community volunteer for various non-profit organizations. She has served as a consultant to numerous non-profits in Southwest Michigan and the Midwest.

Beth is past chair of the Discover Kalamazoo Board of Directors, chair of Kalamazoo Downtown Partnership Engagement Coalition and Kalamazoo Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, past president of Pretty Lake Camp Board of Directors, and a board member of Glass Art Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestras and Friends of the Richmond Center for Visual Arts. She has been a member of the Junior League of Kalamazoo for over 20 years, serving as its president from 1999-2000.

Beth's last official day with the Arts Council is Friday, February 15, 2019. "We've shared some great times," she says of her work with the Arts Council. "It's been an honor and a privilege to serve the arts in Kalamazoo. As I've said to many, 'I'm not saying goodbye, just see you soon.'"

The Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo (ACGK) is a nonprofit organization that seeks to improve the cultural life in greater Kalamazoo. Founded in 1966, ACGK's mission is to enrich and engage the Kalamazoo community through the arts. Members include arts organizations, individual artists and business and community partners. Support comes from a wide area and includes individual donors, foundation and state grants, and community and business partners. The Arts Council accomplishes its mission through arts programming, management services, regranteeing programs, education, advocacy, and event promotion. For additional information visit KalamazooArts.org.