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## **WICHITA CENTER FOR THE ARTS SELECTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**WICHITA, Kan.** – The Wichita Center for the Arts (WCFTA) announced today that Katy Dorrah has been named Executive Director of the Center. She will join the Center Nov. 3, taking on a role held most recently by Howard Ellington, who was named Director Emeritus in June.

“Katy brings a great deal of expertise to Wichita Center for the Arts,” said Dr. Vincent Farha, Interim President of the Board of Trustees. “We are excited that she will be joining us, and know that Katy will continue the Center’s focus on bringing quality art and art education programs to the community.”

Dorrah most recently served as Vice President of Resource Development at United Way of the Plains, where she helped raise more than \$235 million over 16 years through corporate and individual gifts, and employee campaigns. She has also served as President of the Junior League of Wichita, where she put her talents to work on projects such as Holiday Galleria, *Pinches & Dashes* cookbook and a recruitment drive that brought 76 new members to the League in 2011. She is a graduate of Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development and Family Studies. Dorrah will work part-time at the Center beginning Nov. 3 and assume the role full-time on Dec. 1.

“As a life-long Wichita resident, I have dedicated over a decade of my career to helping Wichita become a stronger community,” Dorrah said. “Both my professional and personal interests have focused on cultivating relationships that result in creating a community of excellence for my hometown. I am honored to join Wichita Center for the Arts as they continue to make our community a better place by providing a strong arts program to our citizens. I have a passion for Wichita and for this organization, and I can’t wait to see what the future brings.”

“Howard did an incredible job of leading the Wichita Center for the Arts for 16 years,” Farha said. “He built a strong foundation for the future. We are also grateful for the service of Becky S. Turner, who has served as Interim Director since May and has helped continue the educational work of the Center.”

Shoko Severt and Linda Brantner co-chaired the Executive Search Committee.

“The Board thanks Shoko and Linda for their excellent work in leading the committee through the search process and identifying highly-qualified applicants,” Farha said.

### **About Wichita Center for the Arts**

*Founded in 1920, Wichita Center for the Arts is Wichita’s oldest and most comprehensive visual and performing arts organization, and the region’s only arts center that includes a school. It is primarily a*

*privately funded organization, generating most of its revenues through gifts, endowment earnings, tuition and ticket sales. The mission of the Wichita Center for the Arts is to improve understanding about the visual and performing arts among citizens in the region by providing programs which develop the creative process, expand aesthetic appreciation, and bring new meaning through exploring human potential. Visit [www.wcfta.com](http://www.wcfta.com) for more information.*

***Visit Wichita Center for the Arts for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Auction Oct 2-4.***

***Don't miss our 2014 Holiday Tables event Nov. 6-8. The Center's galleries will be transformed into a decorating idea-fest with exquisite tablescapes for the upcoming season.***

***Editor's note: Please see attached photo of Katy Dorrah, Dorrah.jpg***

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