



For Immediate Release

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Matthew Stringer of Ontario appointed to the Oregon Arts Commission

Salem, Oregon – Matthew Stringer, the executive director of The Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, Oregon, has been appointed to the Oregon Arts Commission by Gov. Kate Brown. Stringer fills the position previously held by Libby Unthank Tower, who completed her second four-year term in December.

Born and raised in Nyssa in Oregon’s Malheur County, Stringer graduated Cum Laude from the University of Oregon with a bachelor’s in journalism and marketing before embarking on a successful 29-year career in New York City. He worked in advertising for Ogilvy & Mather and Young & Rubicam, and spent more than 20 years managing marketing departments for mainstream music labels such as Island, Arista and Sony Music. He has in-depth experience in all marketing disciplines, new product development and project management. After choosing to return to Oregon, he accepted the position at Four Rivers Cultural Center in 2011.

“Matt brings an incredible wealth of experience and passion to our work,” said Commission Chair Christopher Acebo. “I am thrilled to work with him on ensuring our programs and services are enriching the lives of Oregonians in rural Eastern Oregon. I am also excited by the business and marketing acumen he will undoubtedly contribute to our discussions.”

“I am so excited to be chosen as a commissioner of the Oregon Arts Commission,” said Stringer. “Arts have the power to make change; change in communities, hearts, histories, economics and so much more. The arts are so positively influential that I feel the need to support them in any way I can,” he added. “I am humbled to be a servant in my community and the state in an effort to advance the arts for Oregonians.”

The Four Rivers Cultural Center contains a 13,000 square-foot museum, a Japanese garden, an exhibit gallery, a theater and a conference facility. It served more than

89,000 unduplicated people in 2017, including more than 16,000 children, through 680 meetings or events. As executive director, Stringer spends the bulk of his time writing grants, programming for the theatre, conference facility, garden and gallery and in community engagement. The center programs more than 52 events each year, ranging from exhibits of Basque, Japanese and Hispanic culture to events like Mexican Independence Day and the Obon Festival. It offers the biggest music event in the Western Treasure Valley, a summer concert series called Live After 5.

Stringer's hobbies include music, hiking and swimming. He began his four-year term on Dec. 18.

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The Oregon Arts Commission provides leadership, funding and arts programs through its grants, special initiatives and services. Nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine arts needs and establish policies for public support of the arts. The Arts Commission became part of Business Oregon (formerly Oregon Economic and Community Development Department) in 1993, in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities. In 2003, the Oregon legislature moved the operations of the Oregon Cultural Trust to the Arts Commission, streamlining operations and making use of the Commission's expertise in grantmaking, arts and cultural information and community cultural development.

The Arts Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature and with federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts as well as funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust. More information about the Oregon Arts Commission is available online at: www.oregonartscommission.org.