



For Immediate Release

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### Subashini Ganesan-Forbes appointed to Oregon Arts Commission

Salem, Oregon – Subashini Ganesan-Forbes, the former creative laureate of Portland and the founder of [New Expressive Works](#), has been appointed to the [Oregon Arts Commission](#) by Governor Kate Brown.

Ganesan-Forbes is a curator, arts administrator and choreographer who served as Creative Laureate of Portland from 2018 to June 2021. Her contemporary works include deep collaborations with acclaimed artists and arts organizations including Mike Barber (Founder, Ten Tiny Dances), Michelle Fujii (UNIT SOUZOU), Sabina Haque, Amna Mawaz Khan (Pakistan/Germany), Anita Menon, DJ Anjali, Third Angle New Music, PICA, APANO and Portland Center Stage.

“We are thrilled to have Subashini join us in supporting the arts in Oregon,” said Commission Chair Jenny Green. “Her energy, creativity and unwavering commitment to equity and access will be invaluable in our planning and service to artists, arts organizations and all Oregonians.”

Ganesan-Forbes founded New Expressive Works (N.E.W.) in 2012. Through residencies, artist conversations and performance seasons, the vibrant performing arts venue celebrates bold new works created by multicultural independent performing artists. Ganesan-Forbes is also an adjunct professor at Pacific University, teaching arts advocacy, an active Community Advisory Committee member of the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center and serves on the boards of the James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation and the Portland Parks Foundation.

“It is both an honor and a complete joy to serve on the Oregon Arts Commission,” said Ganesan-Forbes. “This appointment comes at a time when our arts and culture communities across the state are both blossoming with rich vibrance AND concerned about our stability and future. I am particularly excited to bring my deep knowledge in

grassroots advocacy to the work that is already at flow through the leaders and staff of the Arts Commission.

“I believe that the last two years have revealed the gaps, inequities and opportunities in our arts ecosystem,” she added. “It means a lot to me to now be a part of the ongoing, statewide, meaningful discussions about access for rural artists and arts collectives, how individual artists and creatives constantly get shut out of funding opportunities, and what the next chapter of a truly equitable arts ecosystem looks like.”

Ganesan-Forbes’ four-year term begins immediately.

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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](http://www.oregonartscommission.org).