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Arkansans for the Arts

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# MISSION + HISTORY

## MISSION

ARfTA's mission is to advance the arts, arts education, and the creative economy in Arkansas.

ARfTA's purpose is to serve the people of Arkansas as an independent statewide organization providing leadership focused on the promotion and advancement of the creative economy, on transforming policy in arts education, and uniting the state into one voice with a call to action by policy makers to increase investment in the arts.

## HISTORY

Through regional meetings and solicitation of public opinion facilitated by the Arkansas Arts Council, arts supporters determined the need for a statewide arts advocacy organization. Primarily through the efforts of Garbo Hearne (Little Rock) and Mitch Mitchell (Fayetteville), ARfTA was founded in 2014.

Hearne and Mitchell connected through their service on the Arkansas Arts Council Board and agreed the state was capable of doing more to support the arts. With assistance from Americans For The Arts, they discovered that Arkansas was one of only five states that did not have an arts advocacy network, and resolved to change this reality.

After much planning, Arts Advocates Arkansas was launched. Hearne and Mitchell began building the infrastructure to support the organization. Hearne retired from the Arkansas Arts Council Board to devote more time to recruiting board members and building relationships with partners while Mitchell served as Interim Director, handling the day-to-day operations of the organization.

The Arkansas Arts Council provided initial funding for ARfTA. In 2015, Arkansas was selected by Americans for the Arts as one of 10 states to participate in a 3-year pilot project to promote and increase the availability of quality arts education. ARfTA manages this project with funding from Americans for the Arts and the Windgate Charitable Foundation.



**Garbo Hearne,**  
*ARfTA Founding Member*



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Sandy Royce Martin, Chair | District 1
- Andrew Clark, Vice-Chair | District 7
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## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

- Garbo Hearne, Immediate Past Chair | District 6

## ADVISORS TO THE BOARD

- Ed Clifford | District 1
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- Talicia Richardson | District 4
- Lenore Shoults | District 2
- Wil Watson | District 1



**Sandy Royce Martin,**  
*ARfA Board Chair*



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## ERIN HOLLIDAY

eholliday@arkansansforthearts.org

Holliday is a native of Hot Springs. An active participant in the arts as a teen, she volunteered for arts organizations and frequented gallery exhibits and poetry readings downtown. After graduation, Erin relocated to Kansas City, MO receiving a BFA in sculpture from the Kansas City Art Institute.

Erin has worked in many capacities within the arts community including nonprofit management, professional art handling and installation, commercial and community gallery management, art consulting, and historic restoration. She has been responsible for curating over 100 gallery exhibits, primarily composed of local community artists.

Since returning to Hot Springs, she has led a varied professional life balancing business, artistic, and community objectives. In addition to serving as Executive Director for Arkansans for the Arts, she also serves as the Executive Director of Emergent Arts, a community art center in Hot Springs. Her passion for community development is fulfilled through serving as City Director for District 1 in Hot Springs, which she has done since May 2019. Prior to her board service, she sat on the Hot Springs Community Development Advisory Committee (2013-2017) and Planning Commission (2017-2019). Erin received the Professional Community and Economic Developer certification through the Community Development Institute at the University of Central Arkansas (2019).

Erin was one of three finalists for the Arkansas Nonprofit Professional of the Year (2016), and was awarded the first Artist Residency through the Hot Springs Sister City Program, where she spent a month in Hanamaki Japan representing the arts community of Hot Springs (2018). Erin returned to Hanamaki that fall to install a site specific illuminated sculpture as a gift from the City of Hot Springs to Hanamaki in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Sister City relationship. Erin's illuminated sculpture and kinetic installations have been exhibited and collected regionally, and public works can be seen at St. Luke's Women's Center in K.C. and the Olathe, Kansas Community Center.



**Erin Holliday,**  
**Executive Director**



# INFO + CONTACT

## PRESS RELEASES + NEWS

<https://arkansansforthearts.org/news-events/newsroom/>

## WEBSITE

[www.ArkansansForTheArts.org](http://www.ArkansansForTheArts.org)

## SOCIAL MEDIA



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[Arkansans for the Arts](https://www.youtube.com/ArkansansfortheArts)

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# LOGOS + GRAPHICS



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