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**Progressive Arts Alliance Announces Rick Grahovac as New Executive Director**  
***Organization poised for growth under new leadership***

Cleveland, Ohio (August 3, 2017) – [Progressive Arts Alliance](http://www.paalive.org) (PAA) is pleased to announce Rick Grahovac as its new Executive Director. Grahovac brings 20 years of nonprofit leadership experience to PAA, most recently serving as President/CEO of Common Ground in Oberlin, Ohio.

“Over the past six months, the PAA Board worked to identify key staff needed to position the organization for the future,” said Chann Fowler-Spellman, Board President, Progressive Arts Alliance. “Rick not only possesses the management expertise required for this position, but brings a strong dedication and passion for the arts and education. As an artist and an art therapist, Rick has a true understanding of the impact of the arts on education and personal growth.”

Grahovac has implemented art-based programs for youth and adults in community programs across Lorain County. Throughout his career, in each of his roles, he has used art as a tool to encourage experimentation, creative problem-solving, and critical thinking. Prior to Common Ground, Grahovac led two nonprofit organizations in Elyria, Ohio – The Center for Body, Mind & Spirit at Mercy Cancer Center and The Phoenix Center for Grieving Children – where he infused art therapy into organizational programming.

At Progressive Arts Alliance, Grahovac will lead a team of both seasoned and young professionals, including several new additions to the staff, that bring the education and artistic expertise needed to positively impact students, teachers, and the way education is delivered.

“I’m excited to join the Board and staff of Progressive Arts Alliance to build on its wonderful history, further its mission and impact, and lead the organization through its next phase of development,” said Grahovac. “The focus of the organization’s integration of the arts into other subject areas emphasizes the learning process as well as outcomes.”

A resident of Elyria, Ohio, Grahovac received a Master of Arts in Art Therapy from Ursuline College (Pepper Pike, Ohio) and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Columbus College of Art and Design (Columbus, Ohio). He is a 2016 recipient of Leadership Lorain County’s “Difference Maker” Excellence in Leadership award.

### About Progressive Arts Alliance

Since its founding in 2002, Progressive Arts Alliance (PAA) has been innovating how students are taught 21<sup>st</sup> century skills through contemporary arts and media. Its mission is to deepen the learning experience for students, educators, and artists by designing and implementing innovative, arts-integrated, project-based learning programs. PAA's staff and artist-educators create and deliver customized programs and professional development training that adopt and adapt emergent trends in education, such as STEM, the Maker Movement and social emotional learning, to deliver the most relevant programs for the needs of students, teachers and the community.

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