



Virginia Commission for the Arts' Board Chair Abigail Gómez Elected to National State Arts Agency Board

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For Immediate Release

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RICHMOND, VA-- On Friday, November 6, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies announced the addition of Virginia Commission for the Arts' (VCA's) Board Chair, Abigail Gómez, to a three-year term on its Board. The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is the professional association of the nation's 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies, and a national, nonpartisan organization that champions public support for the arts in America.

As a board member of NASAA, Gómez joins others from throughout the nation in advancing the work of state arts agencies that support arts and culture here in Virginia and throughout the United States.

In speaking to the addition of Gómez and four other new members, NASAA President and CEO Pam Breaux said, "These experienced and diverse leaders bring a breadth of knowledge and perspectives, fierce commitments to service the public and genuine passion for the arts."

VCA Executive Director Janet Starke said of the addition, "We are proud and honored that Chairperson Gómez has been selected to serve on NASAA's Board. We have been so fortunate to benefit from her experience and advancing leadership over the past nearly five years, and we know she will help govern tremendous growth with our leading member service organization."

Gómez was appointed to the Commission board in 2016 by Governor Terry McAuliffe. Abigail Gómez is a Latinx visual artist, teaching artist, arts advocate, and owner and artist at Pretty Girl Painting, a fine art and mural painting business in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. She has a B.F.A. from Virginia Tech and an M.F.A. in painting from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. She teaches art classes and workshops and is an adjunct art professor at Shenandoah University. She also facilitates international community mural projects in the United States, the Dominican Republic and Cuba. Gómez founded Arte Libre VA, a nonprofit arts organization that empowers Latinx, Black and youth of color through equitable access to quality arts education and programming. She is the chair of the Virginia Commission for the Arts and

chair of the Commission's IDEA Committee. Nationally, Gómez serves as co-chair of NASAA's People of Color Affinity Group and is a committee member of the Arts Administrators of Color Network's Cousin's Regime.

About the Virginia Commission for the Arts

The Virginia Commission for the Arts is the state agency that supports the arts through funding from the General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Commission, created in 1968, is guided by 13 Commissioners appointed to five-year terms by the Governor and confirmed by the General Assembly. To ensure statewide representation, at least one Commissioner -- and no more than two -- is appointed from each Congressional district. The Commission is assisted by a statewide network of advisory (grants) panelists. Virginia Commission for the Arts supports artistic excellence and encourages growth in artistic quality for the benefit of all Virginians. For more information about the Virginia Commission for the Arts, visit www.arts.virginia.gov.

About the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies is the membership organization that serves the nation's state and jurisdictional arts agencies. NASAA helps state arts agencies fulfill their many citizen service roles by providing knowledge services, representation and leadership programs that strengthen the state arts agency community. NASAA also serves as a clearinghouse for data and research about government support for arts and culture in America, supplying statistical data, policy analysis and information on exemplary practices. For more information on the work of state arts agencies, visit nasaa-arts.org.

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