



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***P.S. ARTS CEO, Dr. Kristen Paglia, Announces Retirement***

**Los Angeles, California** - March 1, 2022 -- The P.S. ARTS Board of Trustees announced today that its Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Kristen Paglia, will be retiring.

"After an incredible 14 years at P.S. ARTS, Kristi Paglia has let us know that she will retire as CEO at the end of June. We are very grateful for her many years of outstanding leadership, and we will miss her immensely," commented Laura Fox, Board Chair of P.S. ARTS.

During Dr. Paglia's tenure, P.S. ARTS became the largest in-school arts education provider in Los Angeles County, serving over 25,000 students in 16 school districts. It expanded its offerings to include family and community arts events, and professional development programs for educators and merged with Inside Out Community Arts to offer an award-winning after school program for middle school students.

Over the last two years, as the organization faced the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, P.S. ARTS continued to make progress toward its mission by offering virtual classes and digital program alternatives so students could continue creating at home. It developed a strong reputation for responsiveness and innovation, launching numerous curriculum and faculty training initiatives that measurably contributed to public schools' ability to provide an equitable high-quality education centered around the arts.

"I have had the rare gift of learning from, and, most of all, taking action with, an incredible staff, faculty, Board of Trustees, and steadfast group of donors and community partners. It has been a remarkable journey, particularly over the past two years as we globally navigated so much disruption, suffering, and uncertainty. P.S. ARTS is not only surviving through these difficult times, we are growing in our role as a key component in students' healing and ability to discover their purpose and realize their dreams," said Dr. Paglia.

Dr. Paglia leaves the organization well-positioned for sustainable growth. P.S. ARTS Board Chair Laura Fox commented, "In the coming months, we will conduct a national search for P.S. ARTS' next chief executive. Deborah Gribbon, Board of Trustees Secretary and Chair of the Governance Committee, will lead the search committee composed of members of the Board of Trustees."

P.S. ARTS' Founder Paul Cummins will also support the search efforts, providing input and feedback for the committee. "We are confident that we will find an extraordinary leader who is passionate and devoted to our mission. At this time though, we want to thank Kristi for her years of service."

*To learn more about P.S. ARTS, please visit [www.psarts.org](http://www.psarts.org).*

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