

## **ASHEVILLE AREA CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

PRESS RELEASE

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### **"Progress Continues for Asheville's New Performance Center"**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – The Asheville Area Center for the Performing Arts began the new calendar year with an enlarged staff and board and with the launch of the selection process for design architects for the future complex.

Following a four-month national search, Kathy Wilson has joined the staff as Director of Development and Marketing. She has a track record of successful fundraising in both the private and public sectors.

Ms. Wilson relocated from Minnesota, where she completed a \$105 million capital campaign to construct the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul. Most recently, she initiated a \$50 million campaign to expand the museum's endowment and to underwrite new exhibits and education programs.

Previous employment included serving as a lead staff person for the Wildlife Conservation Society, the parent organization of the Bronx Zoo, Central Park Zoo, the NY Aquarium and other entities. "We are indeed fortunate to have attracted a proven professional with such outstanding credentials," stated James Baudoin, Executive Director of The Performance Center in Asheville.

Key leadership for the project expanded in the past year with the addition of new board members. Mack Day, John Rogers, LaVoy Spooner, Calvin Kelly and Charles Thomas, all highly recognized leaders in Western North Carolina, joined the board of directors, adding skills and community connections that will be essential to move the project forward.

The search for the design team began last fall with a national solicitation for qualified architectural and acoustic consulting firms. Forty submissions were received and evaluated. Final selection of key design team members is expected by mid-year; actual design work will begin following a period of community conversations and master planning.

Leadership of the Asheville Area Center for the Performing Arts, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, includes Bill Massey (President), Mack Day (Vice-President), Carol McCollum (Secretary) and Jack Sherman (Treasurer). Immediate Past President Joyce Dorr serves with the officers on the executive committee.

AACPA offers monthly updates with an email newsletter which can be subscribed to on its website, [www.theperformancecenter.org](http://www.theperformancecenter.org) or by calling the project office at 828.258.1850.