



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### WILSON CENTER APPOINTS VETERAN ARTS LEADER KATHRYN R. MARTIN AS INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO



**Brookfield, WI** (February 22, 2016) The Board of Directors at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts (Wilson Center) announce that San Diego-based management transition expert and veteran arts leader Kathryn R. Martin, Arts Consulting Group, Inc. (ACG) project consultant, has been appointed as Interim President & CEO, effective February 23, 2016.

“Kathryn’s appointment comes at a very exciting time for the Wilson Center,” said Wilson Center Board Chair Jan Wade. “This season alone, more than 45,000 community members are engaging in arts experiences at the Wilson Center. In addition to preparing to celebrate our 15th anniversary this fall, plans are underway for our annual Big Event gala in June and our fourth annual Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival in August.”

The Big Event is the Wilson Center’s premier fundraiser for educational programming, which will take place on Saturday, June 4. An exhilarating evening filled with dinner, dancing, and first-class entertainment, guests at this year’s event will also join in the unveiling of the inaugural Lynn Chappy ArtsPark sculpture, ‘Flit,’ by Wisconsin artist Nizar Schaller. Taking place August 18-20, the Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival is the only guitar competition and festival in the world to feature four different genres—Rock/Blues, Jazz, Classical, and Fingerstyle—with simultaneous competitions, concert performances, educational master classes, and guitar industry exhibits.

“We cannot wait for Kathryn to be a part of all that the Wilson Center offers to our Greater Milwaukee area community,” added Wade.

In the Interim President & CEO role, Martin replaces Jonathan Winkle, who left the Wilson Center in January. This appointment is part of the services that the Wilson Center has engaged ACG to provide and will include the launch of an Executive Search. ACG is the leading provider of hands-on interim management, executive search, revenue enhancement consulting, facilities & program planning, and organizational development services for the arts and culture industry.

Martin will be onsite beginning February 23, and she will work with the Wilson Center Board of Directors and staff, as well as members of the community, to leverage this leadership transition into opportunities for future growth and success. Passionate about helping organizations and individuals have the impact they envision, Martin is a leadership coach & strategist, and a frequent speaker and author on navigating personal and professional change. As Vice President at ACG from 2003-2015, Martin has served in numerous Interim Executive Director roles, including the Linda Pace Foundation in San Antonio to launch the David Adjaye *Ruby City* building project; ArtPower!, the multi-arts presenter at the University of California San Diego; and Malashock Dance. She has also supervised, trained, and coached more than 20 ACG professional interim executives placed in cultural organizations across the United States.

“The Wilson Center’s mission to be the catalyst for lifelong discovery and exploration of the arts is reflected in the diversity of their programming—from performances by world-renowned artists and ensembles to innovative classes and arts education programs,” said Martin. “It is an honor to be leading this organization and working alongside the

Board, staff, volunteers, supporters, and community members who champion and share a commitment to this mission.”

In the coming months, Martin will have many opportunities to engage with the Greater Milwaukee area community through the numerous performances and festivals, art exhibitions, classes, and events taking place at the Wilson Center.

#### **About the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts**

The Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts is Southeast Wisconsin’s premier, non-profit, multi-disciplinary cultural arts center that presents performances by world-renowned artists and ensembles; offers arts education opportunities; curates the Ploch Art Gallery, which features both national and Wisconsin-based fine artists; and is committed to extending the arts beyond the walls of the Center through Lynn Chappy ArtsPark—a vibrant, outdoor sculpture landscape that will engage and inspire the broader Southeastern Wisconsin Community. In August, the annual Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival celebrates the world’s leading classical, rock/blues, jazz, and fingerstyle guitarists. The Center nurtures lifelong learning through innovative programs and classes for all interests, ages, and abilities in state-of-the-art studios and classrooms. Some of Southeast Wisconsin’s finest arts organizations offer professional instruction at the Wilson Center, including First Stage Theater Academy, Trinity Irish Dancers, and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. To learn more, visit [www.wilson-center.com](http://www.wilson-center.com).

#### **About Arts Consulting Group, Inc.**

ACG is the leading provider of hands-on interim management, executive search, revenue enhancement consulting, facilities & program planning, and organizational development services for the arts and culture industry. The firm has offices in Boston, Calgary, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Halifax, Los Angeles, Nashville, New York, Portland, San Francisco, Tampa, Toronto, and Washington DC, with consultants located throughout North America to best serve the needs of its clients. Over the past 20 years, ACG has assisted more than 400 organizations achieve extraordinary impact in the communities they serve. Long considered a mainstay intellectual resource to the arts and culture industry, ACG’s team members are specialists in every artistic and cultural discipline and have provided project consulting in revenue enhancement, donor prospecting & research, strategic planning, team building, marketing strategy & implementation, financial planning, transition management, Board training, and capital campaign management among other services. With years of hands on senior leadership experience, ACG is able to provide practical and transformative solutions to cultural organizations of all sizes. ACG is committed to growing institutions, advancing arts and culture, and enhancing communities. For more information, visit [www.ArtsConsulting.com](http://www.ArtsConsulting.com) or call (888) 234.4236.

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