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Gage Academy of Art Names New Executive Director

Former One Reel executive to lead Capitol Hill arts institution.

SEATTLE, WA – June 19, 2013 – Gage Academy of Art is proud to announce the appointment of Sheila Hughes to the position of Executive Director. Hughes will take over for outgoing Executive Director, Pamela Belyea, who co-founded Gage in 1990 with her husband, noted artist, author and speaker Gary Faigin. Hughes will begin her stewardship of the Capitol Hill arts and cultural center on August 12, 2013.

The former Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Communications at One Reel, Hughes was instrumental in leading the fledgling company from an annual operating budget of \$2 million dollars in 1995, to more than \$25 million at the time of her departure in 2010. Hughes advanced from the marketing and communications team at One Reel at a time when they had only six employees to an executive leadership position, where she was responsible for overseeing the operations of both One Reel and their dynamic entertainment brand, Teatro Zinzanni. Additionally, Hughes was instrumental in creating, managing and growing One Reel events including Bumbershoot, Summer Nights at the Pier, Family Fourth, the Zinzanni Institute of Circus Arts and WOMAD. Hughes served as a key architect of both the short- and long-term, strategic planning for One Reel, and personally designed and implemented many of the powerful operational initiatives that drove their incredible success.

“We are thrilled to begin working with Ms. Hughes,” said Gage Board of Trustees President Julie Tall. “Her proven success in leading a nationally celebrated arts institution will help us realize our strategic vision for Gage Academy of Art as a destination for artists, at any point in their training, seeking the very best in classical training and extraordinary cultural experiences.”

In addition to her role at One Reel, Hughes repositioned the Icicle Creek Center for the Arts in Leavenworth, and was the Principal for Little Birch Productions, a private consulting firm that provided strategic and creative services to organizations including AMF Entertainment, the Wenatchee River Institute, the Harmony Project and more. A graduate of Hamilton College in Clinton, NY, Hughes has also completed the legal program at Cornell University, and currently sits on the boards of directors for The Icicle Fund and the Harmony Project. She is a founding member of the Partners for Urban Renaissance. Hughes is a resident of Bainbridge Island, WA.

Under the leadership of Belyea, Gage grew from a tiny art school run from the couple's basement, to a \$2M venture reaching artists from all walks of life. “We are eternally indebted to Pamela for her

decades of innovative, energetic and passionate leadership,” said Julie Tall. “In her new role as Director Emerita, we are excited about Pamela’s new professional path and look forward to continuing to work together in support of Gage's future.”

ABOUT GAGE ACADEMY OF ART

Celebrating more than 20 years as a national center for classical training in the foundation principles of drawing, painting, and sculpture, Gage Academy of Art, a 501-C3 non-profit, features fine-art programs year-round that engage and inspire emerging and established artists of all ages and abilities through rigorous study and practice in the Realist tradition. For more information, connect with Gage on Facebook and Twitter, or visit GageAcademy.org.

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