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BELLEVUE ARTS MUSEUM

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As Part of Transition Plan, BAM selects Interim Executive Director Mark Crawford

Bellevue, WA - The Board of Trustees of Bellevue Arts Museum announced today the appointment of Mark Crawford as the Museum's Interim Executive Director/CEO. Crawford brings 25 years of experience in successfully leading and managing growth in both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, and will assume his role on October 20, 2008. At the same time, Michael Monroe who has served dual roles as Executive Director and Chief Curator for the past four years, will reduce his hours and transition into the role of Director of Curatorial Affairs. "I'm pleased to continue to lead the artistic aspects of the Museum while reducing my role on the administrative side," Monroe states. "I expect to be part of the Museum's success for a long time to come." Monroe and Curator Stefano Catalani will continue their collaboration on the exhibition programming.

Over three years in operation under a new mission of art, craft and design, the Museum has gained the community trust along with the financial stability to ensure the organization's long-term success. "This is the perfect time for us to grow the Museum's leadership capacity and we are pleased to welcome Mark Crawford on board," says Susan Edelheit, President of the Board of Trustees. "Mark's in depth expertise in non-profit and organizational development as well as strategic planning, fundraising and advocacy will be instrumental in growing the Museum's cultural impact in the community and the world of art, craft and design."

Mark Crawford has worked professionally in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors and has extensive management and executive experience in the arts. His most recent position was Interim Chief Executive Officer at the Seattle-based Talaris Institute. He also held the position of Executive Director at the Committee for Children (Seattle, WA) between 2003 and 2007, and was Managing Director and Associate Managing Director at two theatre companies, Portland Center Stage (Portland, OR) and A Contemporary Theatre (Seattle, WA) between 1993 and 2002. "I'm extremely excited to join the Museum's dedicated staff and board," Crawford states. "Bellevue Arts Museum has a highly regarded artistic reputation and continues to build its administrative and support functions for its exhibitions and programs. It occupies a special niche within the scope of museums around the country, and I look forward to working towards strengthening the already existing structure and presence."

The Board of Trustees expects to launch a search for a permanent Executive Director in 2009.

About Bellevue Arts Museum

Bellevue Arts Museum is the Pacific Northwest's center for the exploration of art, craft and design through exhibition, educational programs and partnerships, emphasizing the work of regional artists. For more information about Bellevue Arts Museum, please visit www.bellevuearts.org.

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