

## Lori Harris Named Board President of 18th Street Arts Center

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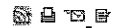
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SANTA MONICA, Calif. - (Business Wire) 18th Street Arts Center, a live-work community for national and international artists wishing to publish, perform, work and/or exhibit in Los Angeles County, has elected Lori A. Harris, a Los Angeles County Deputy Public Defender and avid arts advocate, to president of the board.

"I'm honored by this appointment," said Harris, a graduate of Chapman University and California Western School of Law. "This is an exciting yet challenging time for arts organizations, and I look forward to helping 18th Street sustain itself currently and into the future."

Co-founder of Kaos Network, a center that provides creative space to Los Angeles artists, Harris' experience includes over 20 years in arts management. As founding president of the Los Angeles chapter of Art Against Apartheid, she helped stage dramatic and artistic events and protests prior to the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa. Harris represented the organization in New York, Washington, D.C. and in the former U.S.S.R.

As a public defender, Harris advocates for youth in state prisons. "Los Angeles County is a rare defender organization providing an advocate for our clients, and I am pleased to be a part of a team that

monitors the care of our incarcerated youth."

Board officers elected along with Harris are renowned native California visual artist and teacher Laddie John Dill, vice president; award winning independent filmmaker, photographer and musician Michael W. Barnard, secretary ; and affordable housing consultant and activist Alice Salinas, treasurer.

18th Street Arts Center's mission is to provoke public dialogue through contemporary art making. As an artists' community, 18th Street values art-making as an essential component of a vibrant, just and healthy society.

The center recently transformed their exhibition model to an 'artist laboratory' where the gallery becomes activated space for the public to engage with artists at work. Selected artists were awarded a 'lab' and \$5,000 to promote ideas through works in progress, stressing processes that stimulate a maximum amount of public engagement and shared critical inquiry.

18th Street Arts Center kicked off its 2010 season with "Love in a Cemetery", a collaboration between curator Bob Sein, the students of Otis MFA Public Practice and guest artist Andrea Bowers. This expansive collaboration between artist, curator, graduate students, and community organizations consists of a participatory laboratory that sponsors community dialogues, public presentations and interventions, exhibits of artworks and project data to explore the social and political dimension of art organizations. The exhibit runs through March 26<sup>th</sup>. For complete information, visit [www.18thstreet.org](http://www.18thstreet.org).