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New SoEx Executive Director and Co-Director, Margaret McCarthy.
Photo by Pete Lee.

Southern Exposure Welcomes Margaret McCarthy as Executive Director, Announces New Leadership Team

September 6, 2019, San Francisco, CA – Southern Exposure (SoEx) is excited to welcome Margaret McCarthy as Executive Director and Co-Director, effective September 2019. McCarthy will lead Southern Exposure in partnership with Artistic Director Valerie Imus in the next phase of the 45-year-old San Francisco arts organization as it deepens its support for artists and the creation of risk-taking new work.

“The SoEx Board of Directors is delighted to have Margaret join our team and partner with Valerie Imus to lead the organization forward as we build on a highly successful year,” says Southern Exposure Board President Rebecca Camacho. “We love Margaret’s track record of building communities and addressing

critical issues in San Francisco as well as her commitment to emerging art and artists. This is an exciting time for SoEx as we enter a new chapter under a strong leadership team.”

McCarthy brings a decade of Bay Area nonprofit leadership experience: She is the former Interim Executive Director of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, and has managed staff and volunteers, and led fundraising and public-facing programs at other local nonprofits including Walk San Francisco and 826 Valencia. “SoEx is a unique and vital part of the Bay Area arts ecosystem,” says McCarthy. “I’m honored to join Artistic Director Valerie Imus, the staff, board, curatorial council, and wider SoEx community in championing bold, diverse, and experimental artists in the Bay Area.”

Imus, who has directed Southern Exposure’s Exhibitions and Projects for the past seven years, says, “This is an exciting moment for Southern Exposure. We have always initiated and seeded dynamic projects in the Bay Area, and I am looking forward to expanding our capacity to do so with this new team. This co-leadership model is an embodiment of the organization’s core commitment to collaboration, and I believe it will enable a deeper level of support for artists throughout the organization. Margaret is a powerhouse of enthusiasm and a tireless advocate for artists and for social change. Her nonprofit leadership experience will help SoEx grow financially and I’m thrilled to be working with her.”

“It’s an incredible time to be joining the team at SoEx,” McCarthy continued “We’ve just opened applications for our 13th year of [Alternative Exposure](#), our grant program that supports the independent, self-organized work of artists and small groups that play a critical and significant role within the San Francisco Bay Area arts community. On September 13, [Solidarity Struggle Victory](#) will open in the gallery, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the U.S.’s first College of Ethnic Studies. And our fall educational programming is kicking off with our Youth Advisory Board and a new partnership with Mission Girls both beginning this month.”

In addition to Imus, McCarthy joins staff members Communications Coordinator Stephen Sokolouski, Artists in Education Coordinator Simon Tran, Documentation Manager Minoosh Zomorodinia, and Lead Preparator Anthony Russell. Southern Exposure is currently hiring a Development and Operations Coordinator; position description and application details [here](#). Learn more about the staff and board [here](#).

ABOUT MARGARET MCCARTHY

Margaret McCarthy has over a decade of experience at local nonprofits, including serving as the Interim Executive Director of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition. She has led long-term organizational strategy, communications, fundraising, and staff and volunteer management at other local nonprofits including Walk San Francisco and 826 Valencia. Additionally, she managed public-private partnerships and community engagement programs at the San Francisco Department of the Environment. She is an ensemble member and the Co-Artistic Director of the San Francisco Neo-Futurists, an experimental theater ensemble. She holds a B.A. in English and Theater from San Francisco State University.

ABOUT SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Southern Exposure (SoEx) is an artist-centered non-profit organization committed to supporting visual artists. Through our extensive and innovative programming, SoEx strives to experiment, collaborate and further educate while providing an extraordinary resource center and forum for Bay Area and national artists in our Mission District space and off-site, in the public realm.

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An active presence in the Bay Area since 1974, SoEx is continually evolving in response to the needs of artists and the community while engaging the public in artists' work. Central to our mission is to remain the most accessible space for visual artists to produce and present new work, learn, and connect. SoEx provides visual artists with the tools and resources they need to experiment in an open and supportive environment. We also work to advocate to new, diverse audiences and build an ever-growing community of enthusiasts and supporters of the visual arts.

For more information and images, contact Stephen Sokolouski at (415) 863-2141 or stephen@soex.org. Southern Exposure is located at 3030 20th Street (at Alabama), San Francisco, CA 94110. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM and gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 PM. Website: soex.org.

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