

## Press Release



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **The Fine Arts Association Names John T. Shepard as CEO**

WILLOUGHBY, OHIO – November 30, 2017 – The Fine Arts Association’s board of directors is pleased to announce the hiring of John T. Shepard as chief executive officer effective January 29, 2018. Mr. Shepard most recently held the position of superintendent of Painesville City Schools and will succeed Linda Wise, The Fine Arts Association’s (FAA) retiring CEO.

“After a comprehensive search process, we believe we’ve found the ideal individual to lead our vibrant and growing organization,” stated Board President Ms. Jennifer Grambo. “John’s strengths, expertise and accomplishments align well with what we need to achieve over the next several years to ensure the organization’s continued success.”

John Shepard’s educational career spans 30 years and includes teaching and administrative experience at the high school, district and university levels, many in central and southern Ohio. He has worked with schools in the areas of curriculum and instruction, staff development, data analysis, continuous improvement and strategic planning. He is bilingual in English and Spanish. In his superintendent role, he was responsible for all day-to-day operations of the Painesville City School district as well as long-range planning for the district.

Mr. Shepard holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Spanish from Ohio University and a Master of Arts degree in Education from Muskingum College. He obtained his EdS. in Administrative and Superintendent license at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. He was named a Martha Holden Jennings Scholar in 1998 and has participated as a Fulbright Administrator Exchange to Uruguay and Argentina. In September 2016, Shepard was part of a delegation of administrators to Germany sponsored by the Zfa/German Central Agency for Schools. He serves on the Board of Directors for both Downtown Painesville Organization and Lifeline, volunteers for Habitat for Humanity as a bilingual family advocate, and is past-president of the Painesville Rotary.

“We are extremely grateful to Linda for all her accomplishments during her 10 years as FAA’s CEO. The Fine Arts thrived under her leadership and we’re now in a very fortunate position thanks to our professional staff, renowned faculty, community partners and committed board,” continued Ms. Grambo. “I’m also thankful for the serendipitous timing of John’s retirement from Painesville City Schools and our good fortune of bringing him on board as CEO, only the fifth in our 60 years. FAA’s future is very exciting as we grow into our newly expanded facility while supporting our mission to serve the community by enhancing lives through arts education, therapies, performance, community partnerships and advocacy.”

“My journey to the Fine Arts Association began with an appreciation of the arts from an early age. With a strong public school fine arts curriculum, I was able to explore my interests in the performing and visual arts,” said Mr. Shepard. “The arts have provided opportunities for me to perform, create and explore, and I know first-hand that there’s nothing more exciting than seeing a child gain confidence and self-esteem from the creative process. I am extremely excited to join The Fine Arts Association and bring my experience as an educator, patron, performer and aficionado of the arts to further the mission of this greatly admired and appreciated organization.”

In conclusion, Ms. Grambo added, “I’d also like to use this opportunity to recognize our search committee comprised of FAA board members for their hard work, diligence and flexibility during the five-month journey to ensure a thorough and effective process and outcome. A special thank you to Eleni Vosicky for chairing this committee and to Jeff Brauer, Mike Laurio, Roy Smith and Jason Wuliger all of whom played a vital role in this process.”

### **About The Fine Arts Association**

Since 1957, The Fine Arts Association has been serving the community by enhancing lives through performance, arts education, therapies, community partnerships and advocacy. Arts education is offered in the disciplines of music, visual art, theatre and dance. Fine Arts also produces a full theatre and concert season. More than 11,000 students and 60,000 patrons are enriched by Fine Arts’ programs each year. Funding is received in part by the Ohio Arts Council and the United Way of Lake County. [www.fineartsassociation.org](http://www.fineartsassociation.org)

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