



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ARTS & BUSINESS COUNCIL OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA
HIRES AMELIA SCHMERTZ TO LEAD BUSINESS ON BOARD®**

PHILADELPHIA, PA – November 22, 2005 – The **Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia** today announced that **Amelia Schmertz** has joined the Council’s staff as **Director** of the Council’s **Business On Board®** program.

“We are very excited to have Amelia on our team and leading the Council’s Business On Board program,” said Karen B. Davis, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Arts & Business Council. “Amelia’s talent and experience working within both the arts and business communities, combined with her comprehensive understanding of board governance issues, adds a new dimension to the program that will make it possible for the Council to better serve the growing demand for qualified board expertise within the arts and cultural sector.”

Schmertz, who will report directly to Davis, will be responsible for full-time management of all program operations, including marketing, recruiting and training business professionals, as well as working with arts and cultural organizations regarding their board and committee openings. In addition, Schmertz will develop training workshops for arts managers to help prepare them to work effectively with business professionals who serve on their boards.

Schmertz brings more than 15 years of experience working in the field of nonprofit arts and culture to her position as Director, including oversight of operations, finance, programming and development. Prior to joining the Council, she worked as Executive Director of the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Massachusetts. During her tenure at Mahaiwe, Schmertz worked with the board to build its five-year business plan, identified more than \$2 million in federal and state tax credit funding, and oversaw two phases of renovation. In addition, Schmertz also worked as Director of Development at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts for several years.

Schmertz’s extensive arts background also includes positions at the Haddonfield Symphony, Library of the University of Pennsylvania, Yale School of Music’s Norfolk Chamber Music Festival (New Haven), International House of Chicago, and Rockefeller Memorial Chapel in Chicago, among others. She previously served as a board member of Philly Car Share and as a panel member for the Philadelphia Cultural Alliance’s 5-County Arts Grant program. In her free time, Schmertz is a professional choral singer, marathon runner, and is a member of Philadelphia’s Musical Fund Society. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in English Literature from the University of Chicago.

Recently honored as a finalist in the *Philadelphia Business Journal’s* “Best Places to Work” competition, the Arts & Business Council is preparing to celebrate its 25th year.

About the *Business On Board*®

Business On Board provides specialized training to business professionals regarding effective nonprofit board governance issues - one of the most pressing challenges facing nonprofit arts organizations - then connects them with an arts or cultural organization seeking a board member with a specific strength or expertise. Business On Board is sponsored by ACE Group. For more information on Business On Board, please contact Amelia Schmertz at aschmertz@artsandbusinessphila.org or call 215.790.3769.

About the Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia

The Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia, an affiliate of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and a chapter of the national Arts & Business Council of Americans for the Arts, is the region's only nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating mutually beneficial relationships between business and the arts and cultural institutions located in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and Northern Delaware. Since its inception in 1981, the Arts & Business Council has partnered with the business sector to generate more than \$20 million in contributed goods and services for the region's arts and cultural institutions and has trained and placed more than 2,000 business professionals in a variety of leadership roles within arts organizations. For more information, please visit www.artsandbusinessphila.org or call 215.790.3620.

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