

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF MAKING SPACE FOR ART

Space 4 Art Announces Emily Knapp as New Board President

*Local arts and education nonprofit kicks off 15-Year Anniversary and
World Design Capital collaboration with new Board President*

(Monday, February 5, 2024 – SAN DIEGO) - Space 4 Art, a San Diego-based nonprofit whose mission is to establish a dynamic creative center where artists live, work, mentor youth, and interact with the community in an innovative and educational environment, has announced that Emily Knapp has been elected as President of the Board, effective immediately. Emily's election kicks off a landmark year for the organization as it celebrates 15 years of supporting local artists, Open Studios, arts education programs, and more.

Knapp succeeds Board President and Space 4 Art Co-Founder Robert S. Leathers, a celebrated architect and award-winning fiber-arts practitioner. Leathers will remain an active Board Member.

“Since its founding 15 years ago, Space 4 Art has remained deeply committed to realizing a community-designed solution for affordable artist live, work, education, and engagement space in San Diego,” Knapp said. “I look forward to continuing to champion the organization's mission, building on the incredible legacy of my predecessor, Bob Leathers, and helping to scale our efforts and impact.

“Our ultimate ambition of developing a permanent home for an Arts Center that can serve a greater cross-section of our San Diego-Tijuana community has never been more needed, and I believe 2024 will be an important year as we look to shape what our organization will achieve over the next 15 years.”

In addition to her role as Space 4 Art Board President, Knapp is Chief of Staff of the Berggruen Institute, a global think tank with centers in Los Angeles, Venice, and Beijing that forges new conceptual frameworks to meet the challenges, and harness the opportunities, of the arriving future.

Prior to joining the Berggruen Institute, Emily worked with the UC San Diego Design Lab, where she helped lead an interdisciplinary group of binational designers through the shortlist phase of the World Design Capital (WDC) 2024 qualifying process, clinching the win for the region.

Emily's work with the World Design Capital will continue on behalf of Space 4 Art as the organization spearheads one of only 12 Arts and Culture Impact projects, titled "Co-Creating A Community-Based Arts Center."

"Emily has served by my side as Vice President for four years, and I leave the role as President knowing that Space 4 Art is in her very good hands," Leathers said. "I look forward to continuing my work on the Board, wholly focused on the design and build out of our permanent Arts Center. Achieving that goal for our region has never been more important."

Space 4 Art's next Open Studios event takes place on March 23 from 6-8:30 p.m. at our downtown facility, located at 340 16th St., San Diego 92101. Visitors will have the chance to interact with our artist community and celebrate the Hindu festival of Holi, a spring celebration of colors and harvest, at this free event. For more information, visit our website and sign up for our newsletter at www.sdspace4art.org.

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About Space 4 Art

Located in San Diego's East Village neighborhood, Space 4 Art is a dynamic creative center where artists live, work, mentor youth, and interact with the community in an innovative and educational environment. Space 4 Art provides 23 affordable studios & live/work spaces to about 40 artists at any given time, hires resident artists to teach STEAM and healing arts workshops in K-12 settings, and hosts free public art events for the community. For more information on Space 4 Art, visit www.sdspace4art.org.