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SEATTLE ARTS & LECTURES NAMES REBECCA HOOGS AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rebecca Hoogs is now Reader-in-Chief

Seattle, WA—OCTOBER 21, 2021: Seattle Arts & Lectures' (SAL) Board of Directors has named Rebecca Hoogs as Seattle Arts & Lectures' new Executive Director.

Rebecca has worked passionately on behalf of SAL's mission and community for the past seventeen years, bringing a love for language, literature, and learning to her roles as director of SAL's public and education programs during her tenure. With an M.A. in English literature and language and an M.F.A. in creative writing, she is also a teacher and a successful published poet.

Rebecca has played a critical role in the tremendous expansion of SAL's programming, the growth in our audiences, and in SAL's deepened commitment to racial equity. And, in May 2021, she valiantly stepped into the interim director role at a particularly challenging moment for the entire arts community. SAL is delighted and grateful to move forward with Rebecca at the helm to create the organization's next chapter and execute its community-centric, three-year [strategic plan](#), centered on the values of belonging, racial equity, transparency & trust, curiosity, and joy.

Rebecca commented on her new role, saying, "I am deeply honored to shepherd the organization through its next phase of being and am excited to lead the fabulous staff and Board in the implementation of our new strategic plan. Belonging is at the core of our new plan, and as we emerge from the pandemic, I am excited to bring humans into rooms again—to experience the communal magic that occurs when we listen deeply to writers and each other."

SAL conducted an extensive, six-month national search, led by the Search Committee, which included six SAL Board members, a SAL staff member, a writer from their Writers in the Schools program, and a local arts sector leader. Five of the committee members identify as people of color. They worked in close partnership with [Koya Partners](#), a leading search firm dedicated to placing exceptionally talented leadership at mission-driven organizations with a firm commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Lauri Conner, President of the Board of Directors, said: “We are so fortunate to have Rebecca at the helm. The institutional knowledge, the understanding of the literary landscape, and the innovation of thought that she continues to bring to the organization will continue to keep SAL at the forefront. I look forward to her continued work in elevating marginalized voices and continuing to not only have difficult conversations, but to continue to align the work of equity and social justice with the institution.”

About Seattle Arts & Lectures: Founded in 1987, Seattle Arts & Lectures champions the literary arts by engaging and inspiring readers and writers of all generations in the Puget Sound region. SAL's programs include the Literary Arts Series, Ijeoma Oluo Presents: Our Existence Beyond Trauma Series, Poetry Series, Women You Need to Know (WYNK) Series, Journalism Series, SAL Presents, Local Voices, Summer Book Bingo, the Youth Poet Laureate (YPL) program, and Writers in the Schools (WITS). For more information about SAL, visit lectures.org.