

The Lincoln Arts Council Announces Exciting New BLIXT Partnership

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In response to the ongoing needs of the community for high-quality, accessible arts education and outreach programs, the Lincoln Arts Council (LAC) is thrilled to announced the further cultivation and expansion of their community education and outreach efforts. First in these efforts is a new partnership with BLIXT, a Lincoln-based company which specializes in visionary arts projects that center around improving quality of life for all. BLIXT is co-operated by longtime local theatre professionals and educators, Petra Wahlqvist and Becky Boesen.

LAC Executive Director Deb Weber says, "Our mission is 'championing the arts, connecting people, and changing lives.' Our partners at BLIXT live by our mission with everything they do. This is a perfect fit for Lincoln and the LAC."

In the past, the LAC has offered "Art Makes Me SmART," a program that provides artist residencies in local schools and community centers. BLIXT will oversee current efforts while generating additional projects with greater outreach to underserved individuals.

Wahlqvist most recently served as the Education and Community Outreach Director at the Lied Center for Performing Arts where she oversaw the education department for seven years. In that time, she gained national recognition for creating high-impact, nationally renowned arts projects. Boesen is the former Creative Services Specialist at the Lied Center, and is best known for her work as a playwright, producer and teaching artist who creates large projects which center around the needs of underserved populations. Her most recent work, PUDDIN' AND THE GRUMBLE (with composer David von Kampen) focused on child hunger in Lincoln. Wahlqvist produced PUDDIN' and oversaw the multiple community and educational programs surrounding it. In January 2017, BLIXT will premiere SNOWCATCHER, a one-woman show that centers around poverty, homelessness, and exploring sense of place. In addition, Wahlqvist and Boesen are seasoned collaborators and event planners who come with built-in relationships to the diverse arts community.

"Think big," offers Wahlqvist, "We are excited to build on what's been created at the LAC with programing that focuses on arts as a necessary component to healthy living. The arts make one smart, but also whole. Our work together will bring that to life as we embark on the next stage of arts engagement in Lincoln. This isn't just about community enhancement. It's a community health issue."

Boesen continues, "We hear a lot about the 'start up' community locally, and that's wonderful, but it's time to acknowledge the importance of a strong 'art up' community, too. That's what you can expect in the years ahead: An 'art up' initiative from Lincoln Arts Council and BLIXT with quality arts programing for all that connects the individuals of Lincoln in a strong, personal way." "This is a dream we've been working toward," concludes Weber, "and now we have the right partners to see the dream come to fruition. The future of Lincoln is alive with the arts."

BLIXT will take the helm of the LAC's education and outreach activities in August 2016 and will take a proactive approach to building community through the arts.

For inquiries about new opportunities through LAC and BLIXT, please contact Petra Wahlqvist at 402-817-8176 or petra@blix.space or Becky Boesen at 402-840-9627 or becky@blix.space. To learn more about the Lincoln Arts Council and BLIXT, please visit the following websites:

www.artscene.org

www.blix.space