



For Immediate Release

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Exciting Staff Changes at Genesee Center Charland & Chestnut Take on New Roles

(ROCHESTER, NY – May 13, 2016) Genesee Center for the Arts & Education is excited to announce two staffing changes effective immediately. Megan Charland, the Communications Coordinator for the Center for the last seven months has accepted her new position as Photography Program Manager. Amanda Chestnut, the Book Arts Artist in Residence, has accepted her new position as Communications Coordinator for the Center.

Recently recognized as a *Woman to Watch* in the Democrat & Chronicle, Charland is looking forward to focusing all of her attention on to the Center's photography program.

"I am thrilled to join the staff in the Photography program and help push it to the next level with thoughtful exhibitions, engaging classes, and a new residency program." — Megan Charland, Photography Program Manager

"I'm excited to return to arts administration and public relations with an organization I have been a part of since I made Rochester my home." — Amanda Chestnut, Communications Coordinator

Both Charland and Chestnut are alumni of Visual Studies Workshop (VSW) receiving Master of Fine Arts degrees in 2013 and 2015 respectively. Over the last year, since graduating from VSW, Chestnut has been an active visual artist and has been exhibited in Rochester at Firehouse Gallery, Joe Brown Gallery, University of Rochester, and Bridge Gallery at Brodie Fine Arts. She was formerly a resident at the Center for Photography at Woodstock.

About Megan Charland

Megan Charland earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in Visual Studies and a Graduate Certificate in Arts Administration from Visual Studies Workshop in association with The College at Brockport in 2013 after earning a Bachelor in Fine Arts degree in Professional Photographic Illustration from Rochester Institute of Technology in 2008. Prior to working at Genesee Center for the Arts & Education Charland worked at other local non-profit organizations including Rochester Contemporary Art Center, The Strong, and Visual Studies Workshop. Charland has also taught digital art and graphic design at The College at Brockport.

About Amanda Chestnut

Amanda Chestnut earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in Visual Studies with a Graduate Certificate in Arts Administration from Visual Studies Workshop in association with The College at Brockport in 2015. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History from the State University of New York at Geneseo in 2005, and worked in arts administration at Roberson Museum and Science Center and the Art Mission and Theater in Binghamton, New York for several years before moving to Rochester. Chestnut is an actively exhibiting artist and teaches workshops at the Genesee Center for the Arts & Education.

About the Genesee Center

Genesee Center for the Arts & Education is a community-based not-for-profit that educates, encourages and inspires all people to create and enjoy the visual arts. As a member of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts, the organization is committed to making high-quality arts education available to all.

Genesee Center for the Arts & Education is a non-profit arts center in operation since 1970. Located on Monroe Avenue in the city of Rochester, the Center focuses on ceramics, photography and printing and book arts. Annually, the Center offers over 225 classes to the general public, provides youth programs for K-12 students, and allows access to facilities and equipment for people interested in learning about and practicing the visual arts. Facilities access 24x7 enables artists without a private studio to continue making art at an affordable cost and with our studio support. Internships and artist residency programs provide additional opportunities to engage emerging artists. Three galleries serve as exhibit space for local, regional and national artists. More than 4000 people benefit annually from services and programs provided by the

Center. The Genesee Center for the Arts & Education is an Institutional Member of the National Guild for Community Arts Education.

For more information, contact the Genesee Center Administrative Office at 585-244-1730, or visit our website at www.rochesterarts.org.