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Ankeny Art Center Names Natalie Lynch Executive Director

Ankeny, Iowa — October 27, 2026 — The Ankeny Art Center Board of Directors has named **Natalie Lynch** as the organization's next Executive Director. Lynch will begin November 2, 2026, and lead the organization during an exciting period of growth, including developing its future home, expanding community programming, and increasing opportunities to connect artists and community members through the arts.

Lynch brings more than a decade of experience in nonprofit leadership, community engagement, and strategic partnerships. Throughout her career, she has focused on connecting people, fostering collaboration, and creating opportunities that strengthen communities.

Most recently, Lynch led statewide workforce development partnerships at Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates (iJAG) and previously helped launch OpportUNITY, a regional poverty reduction initiative at United Way of Central Iowa.

"Natalie brings a collaborative leadership style and a deep commitment to community and partnership," said Steve Van Oort, President of the Ankeny Art Center Board of Directors. "As the Art Center enters an exciting new chapter, we are confident she is the right leader to help advance our mission and future vision and continue to build meaningful partnerships."

An Ankeny resident since 2014, Lynch has supported the Ankeny Youth Sports Alliance and its Iowa Sports Hub initiative through strategic planning and partnership development and helped establish the Ankeny Human Rights Commission.

"I am honored to join the Ankeny Art Center at such an exciting time," said Lynch. "The arts have the power to bring people together, spark creativity, and strengthen communities. I look forward to working alongside artists, supporting volunteers, building on the organization's strong foundation, and expanding access to the arts in northern Polk County."

Lynch's appointment comes at a time of significant momentum for the Art Center, including planning for a new facility that will expand arts education, exhibitions, and community programming. For more information about the Ankeny Art Center and its future facility initiative, visit Ankeny Art Center Future Plans.

About the Ankeny Art Center

For more than 45 years, the Ankeny Art Center has brought art to people and people to art through visual arts education, exhibitions, and community programming. Serving Ankeny and all of northern Polk County, the nonprofit Art Center gives people of all ages opportunities to create and experience art while supporting local artists and strengthening community connection through creativity.

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