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**DIANA DONOVAN NAMED CULTURAL COUNCIL OF GREATER JACKSONVILLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Move Elevates Donovan from Interim Position

Jacksonville, FL, March 25, 2021 – Today, the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville Board of Directors announced that it has selected Interim Executive Director Diana Donovan to serve as the new executive director for the arts and culture organization.

“Since joining as interim executive director, Diana’s strategic, innovative, and collaborative leadership has made a deep and lasting impact on our organization,” said Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville Board Chair Jannet Walker-Ford. “During Diana’s tenure, she has cultivated unanimous board support for the executive directorship, her leadership style aligns perfectly with furthering the Board’s vision to enhance equity, advocacy, education, and opportunity throughout our arts and culture industry and community.”

A proven change agent with multi-dimensional years of executive level leadership and board experience with demonstrated expertise in relational and organizational development, shaping successful and effective fund development-based strategies within the arts and culture sector and non-profit community.

Donovan was appointed interim executive director in September 2020 after previously serving the Cultural Council Board of Directors. In that time, Donovan has led efforts to provide over \$3 million in City grants to arts and cultural organizations affected by the pandemic, greatly expanded public-private partnerships, overseen the transition to an interim Art in Public Places Director, and successfully moved the organization’s headquarters to the Jessie Ball duPont Center - the first move in over 30 years.

“It’s an honor to officially join the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville,” said Donovan. “Since September, I’ve worked diligently to reinvigorate, lead, and elevate the Council’s critical mission to enrich life in Northeast Florida through investment in arts and culture. As I move forward in this role, we move forward together. I will continue to steadfastly steward our mission and vision that arts and culture organizations are recognized by all as essential to our quality of life.”

As executive director of the region’s foremost arts and culture organization, Donovan aims to innovate the industry while championing diversity, inclusion, and uplifting all corners of the community positively and dynamically through the arts.

Her accolades and recognitions include being a member of the 2021 class of Leadership Jacksonville, a JAX MVP with the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation, a 2020 Jacksonville Business Journal 40 Under 40 honoree, a former member of the Florida Times-Union Editorial Board, and Hightower Fellowship Board Member with the JAX Chamber.

Donovan will assume her new role effective immediately.

About the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville

Founded in 1971, the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville is a non-profit organization responsible for igniting the creative economy of our region by providing three pillars for community success. It manages and facilitates the City of Jacksonville's Cultural Service Grant Program, regranteeing \$3 million annually from the City to our community's critically needed arts and culture organizations. It facilitates the City of Jacksonville's Public Art program, known as Art in Public Places, a department project-managing the development and delivery of permanent works of public art throughout Duval County with an average total value of \$1.5 million per year. The Cultural Council also supports individual artists by offering career advancement workshops, grant writing courses, and professional networking events, as well as financial opportunities including participation in the Art in Public Places program, access to artist grants, and connection to collectors through pop-up art galleries such as the ARTSee & Shop at The Markets of Town Center. The mission of the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville is to enrich life in Northeast Florida by investing in arts and culture.

