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**Maryland Citizens for the Arts Hires New Executive Director**

**\*\*\* Press Release – May 17, 2010 \*\*\***

The Board of Directors of Maryland Citizens for the Arts has appointed Mr. John Schratwieser as its new Executive Director. After conducting a national search that began in February, Mr. Schratwieser was chosen from a pool of over 70 highly qualified applicants for the position.

Douglas Mann, Chair of the MCA Board said: "We're very excited to have someone of John's caliber coming on to lead our organization. In addition to his impressive track record of success, he brings a high level of professionalism and commitment to the arts. He has the experience to strengthen and expand our grassroots network of arts advocates across the state, and the skills to effectively convey our message about the importance of State Arts Council funding to our elected officials. Maryland's rich and diverse arts community is one of our state's genuine treasures and is central to the economic vitality and quality of life in our state. John's leadership will be pivotal to MCA's year round efforts to ensure state funding is maximized and the financial stability of the arts sector is enhanced."



**John Schratwieser at the Prince Theater in Chestertown, MD. Photo courtesy of Matthew Worden, originally photographed for Washingtonian Magazine.**

During Mr. Schratwieser's 17 years in the non-profit sector, his primary focus has been management, development and operations of arts organizations. In this capacity, he has the valuable experience of working with urban, suburban and rural artists and arts groups – all of which are critical parts of the Maryland arts community . His most recent experience was with the Prince Theatre Foundation in Chestertown, MD which grew and prospered significantly under his leadership. He's also been with Lincoln Center Theatre in New York and the Signature Theatre in Arlington, Virginia.

Mr. Schratwieser said: "For several years I've advocated for the arts in rural Maryland, building coalitions among arts organizations to strengthen the cultural offerings on the Eastern Shore. I could

not be more excited about drawing on my varied experience, coupled with a career in nonprofit management, to go to work on behalf of arts organization and artists across our great state."

Schratwieser received his B.A. from Fairfield University and his M.P.A. from The George Washington University. In addition to his academic and management credentials, he has a first-hand appreciation for the arts, having been an occasional performer at venues in Maryland and Washington, D.C.

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### **About Maryland Citizens for the Arts**

Maryland Citizens for the Arts (MCA) is a statewide arts advocacy organization, founded in 1977 to represent all Maryland artists and arts organizations of every discipline. Its principal mission is to promote adequate funding for the Maryland State Arts Council and to advocate for the arts at the state and federal levels. MCA, along with its companion organization, Maryland Citizens for the Arts Foundation, implements effective strategies to enhance the arts in Maryland by building partnerships, advocating for funding stability, and promoting the visibility of the arts in our state.

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