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St. Lucie Cultural Alliance Welcomes a New Executive Director

Local arts agency, St. Lucie Cultural Alliance introduces its new executive director, Alyona Ushe, effective immediately

Fort Pierce, FL - After a lengthy and thorough national search, and interviewing many impressive candidates, the St. Lucie Cultural Alliance (SLCA) Board of Directors, along with the support of St. Lucie County administration, appointed Alyona A. Ushe to serve as its executive director beginning May 26, 2020.



"It is with great enthusiasm and as Board Chair on behalf of the St. Lucie County Cultural Alliance, that I introduce Ms. Alyona Ushe, as our new Executive Director," Said Rebecca Miller, the Chair of the Board for the St. Lucie Cultural Alliance. "Alyona's background in the business of cultural arts and her rich experience with municipal, county and Arts nonprofits while leading in the development of arts programs always specializing in propelling good ideas to fruition, makes her a fantastic fit for this County. She comes to us from South Florida and knows our local landscape well. Please join us in welcoming her to our wonderful St. Lucie County!"

Ushe brings over twenty years of leadership experience in launching and growing distinctly different organizations for both nonprofit institutions and municipalities. As the alliance's Executive Director, Ushe will lead the implementation of the SLCA strategic plan, establish and cultivate strong partnerships with artists, organizations, events, and groups in St. Lucie County, and work towards engaging compelling arts and education experiences for residents and visitors alike.

"St. Lucie Cultural Alliance's overwhelming success since it's reincarnation is remarkable. SLCA Board of Directors, St. Lucie County leadership and the staff have done an outstanding job in developing a powerful road map for the vision and direction of the organization," said Ushe. "I am honored to take over the reins from Dr. Neil Levine, our interim Executive Director and continue to build on the great accomplishments while developing new initiatives to strengthen St. Lucie County's cultural economy and support the local creative community."

"I've been delighted to have had the opportunity to assist the cultural alliance by developing organizational structure and strategic development, resulting in significant momentum. And I am pleased that foundational work is to be built upon by a true professional. I feel sure that Alyona will further develop the alliance into a benchmark organization we can all be proud of," said Dr. Levine.

Ushe is committed to building community partnerships, support the County's artists, expanding the creative sector, and developing programs to advance further St. Lucie County standing as an exciting cultural destination.

Ushe began her career in the arts by founding Classika-Synetic Theater in the Washington DC Metro area. There she produced over 100 original productions and organized the company's participation at numerous festivals, including the International New York Fringe Festival, The Kennedy Center Prelude Festival, and the Shakespeare Festival in Washington, DC. She created and implemented extensive education outreach programs, praised on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, resulting in significant Federal Appropriation funding.

In South Florida, she was the President and CEO of Creative City Collaborative (CCC), where she grew the organizational budget from \$250,000 to over three million in under five years. She founded the critically acclaimed Arts Garage, where she presented over 500 performances by both regional and international artists and launched numerous signature series and educational and outreach initiatives. Under her leadership, CCC won highly competitive bids in Pompano Beach to revitalize, program, and operate a 3,000-seat dormant amphitheater, and to open a new \$20 million cultural center. Ushe was also the Executive Director of the New Orleans Opera Association in Louisiana and BlackRock Center for the Arts in Maryland.

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About St. Lucie Cultural Alliance

St. Lucie Cultural Alliance (SLCA) is the professional organization representing the arts and cultural sector in St. Lucie County. SLCA's mission is to better position the arts and cultural sector as a significant contributor to the vibrancy, and educational and economic wellbeing of St. Lucie County. SLCA is a proud partner of The City of Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County, St. Lucie County Tourism Division, and Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County.

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