



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Executive Director

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### **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL APPOINTS ONE NEW COMMISSIONER AND REAPPOINTS FOUR TO THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO COMMISSION FOR ARTS AND CULTURE**

**San Diego, CA...** Mayor Jerry Sanders San Diego City Council have confirmed the appointment of a new Commissioner Rebecca Smith and reappointed Commissioners Odelia “Dea” Hurston, Sharletta Richardson, Robert H. Gleason and Sheryl White this week.

As Vice President of San Diego Workforce Partnership, **Rebecca Smith** focuses on leadership development, community relations, board engagement and media outreach. Previous to this role, Smith worked as a Career Coach at Qualcomm, and has held similar positions with the University of San Diego, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and High Tech High. Her experience also includes hosting “The Grand Café”, an education telenovela for immigrant entrepreneurs, and the television series Career Advantage, which aired nationally with the Public Broadcasting Service. Smith serves on the advisory board of the School of Leadership & Education Sciences at University of San Diego. She received the 2007 Author E. Hughes “Career Achievement Award” for alumni honors at University of San Diego and received a “40 Under Forty” award with the San Diego Metropolitan in 2005. Smith holds a Master in Education in Counseling from the University of San Diego and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of California. Smith resides in Mission Hills.

**Dea Hurston** is a former San Diego City Schools teacher and arts advocate. She has served on the boards of San Diego Black Ensemble Theatre, Eveoke Dance Theatre, Sledgehammer Theatre, Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary and Friends of Vista Hill. She also sits on the advisory boards for the San Diego Repertory Theatre, Common Ground Theatre, Mo'olelo Theatre and Mainly Mozart.

**Sharletta Richardson** has more than 36 years experience in the fields of music, education, and artistic performance. She currently teaches choir and piano at The Center for the Arts at Lincoln High School. Richardson received a Master of Music degree in music education from the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and a BS degree in public school music from Virginia State University.

**Robert H. Gleason** is the Chief Financial Officer and General Counsel for Evans Hotels, a San Diego-based hospitality company whose properties include The Lodge at Torrey Pines, the Bahia Resort Hotel, and the Catamaran Resort & Spa. He has been an active volunteer at The Old Globe and is currently the Chair of its Public Affairs Committee. He also serves as Chair of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, as a member of the U.S. Bank San Diego County Advisory Board, and as a Director of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund. Gleason has a degree in economics from Princeton University and a law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law. He resides in Kensington.

**Sheryl White**, a native San Diegan, with a banking career in San Diego spanning 28 years. White has been on the Board of Directors of Torrey Pines Bank for the past eight years where she continues to be active in her banking career. She has served as Chair of the Board of Directors at The Old Globe Theatre and currently sits on the boards of the San Diego Opera and the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego. White earned her Masters of Science in Executive Leadership at the University of San Diego in May of this year.

*The mission of the **City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture** is to vitalize the city by integrating arts and culture into community life while supporting the region's cultural assets and showcasing San Diego as an international cultural destination. For more information call (619) 236-6778 or visit [www.VibrantCultureVibrantCity.com](http://www.VibrantCultureVibrantCity.com)*

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