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**MAYOR FILNER
APPOINTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF COMMISSION FOR ARTS AND CULTURE
AFTER NATIONAL SEARCH!**

(San Diego, CA) – Mayor Bob Filner has appointed Denise Montgomery as the Executive Director of the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture. The announcement was made at a press conference today where the Mayor was flanked by members of the Commission. The appointment comes after a national search and a rigorous, multi-phase screening process spearheaded by the Commission.

“San Diego will be a national model for civic support for arts and culture under my leadership,” stated Mayor Bob Filner. “Denise Montgomery’s experience and vision are what is needed to achieve my ambitious agenda for San Diego’s arts and cultural life.”

Montgomery, a resident of San Diego, previously served as Director of the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs and as Executive Director of the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts. Through a partnership of The Wallace Foundation and Boys & Girls Clubs of America, she is Project Director for a national initiative aimed at increasing access to quality, out-of-school arts programs for urban, low-income middle school and high school students. Montgomery is the lead author of *Something to Say: Success Principles for Afterschool Arts Programs from Urban Youth and Other Experts*, to be published by The Wallace Foundation in summer 2013.

Montgomery is founder and president of CultureThrive, a consulting firm that serves a wide range of national cultural service organizations, public arts agencies, nonprofit arts organizations and foundations and offers services in the areas of organizational development and planning, program development and implementation, audience development strategies, communications and research. In addition to consulting for the Australia Council for the Arts, Balboa Park Learning Institute, New Children’s Museum, La Jolla Playhouse, Nevada Humanities and National Performing Arts Convention, she has held leadership positions in a number of prestigious organizations including Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego and Western States Arts Federation.

Montgomery, a 2005 Stanford University Fellow in National Art Strategies Executive Nonprofit Leadership, is adjunct faculty for the University of San Diego’s Nonprofit Leadership and

Management graduate program. She holds a B.S. in Marketing and Minor in Art History from Miami University of Ohio.

“This month, Mayor Filner has appointed Denise Montgomery and introduced a proposal to increase the Commission’s budget by \$1.7 million in Fiscal Year 2014, proving - over and over - his commitment to sustaining and growing a creative, dynamic, vibrant city through diverse and high quality arts and culture experiences,” said Vicki Reed, Commission Chair.

Montgomery will oversee the Commission's \$9 million budget and direct programs for funding organizational support of arts and culture nonprofits, neighborhood festivals and celebrations, public art in public and private development, and technical assistance and services to artists and organizations.

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