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South Arts Expands ArtsReady Team

Susie Surkamer, contract membership consultant, and Wesley Myrick, assistant project manager, will begin work this month.

Atlanta, Ga. – South Arts announces the continued expansion of the ArtsReady team with the addition of **Wesley Myrick** to the full-time staff as the ArtsReady Assistant Project Manager. In addition, **Susie Surkamer** has been awarded a six-month contract to serve as the ArtsReady Membership Consultant. ArtsReady (www.ArtsReady.org) is a new readiness, response, and recovery web-based platform designed to help ensure post-crisis business continuity for arts organizations.

Susie Surkamer

Prior to her retirement from the South Carolina Arts Commission in May 2009, Susie Surkamer spent 35 years dedicating her career to the development of a thriving arts environment in South Carolina. Her work with the Commission began in 1974 when she joined the Commission as a dancer-in-residence. After working in the areas of arts development and administration, Surkamer was named executive director in 1994. Guided by her vision and drive, the agency earned a national reputation as a leader in the arts for its work in arts education reform, rural arts development, design arts, and other initiatives.

Surkamer's work in strengthening partnerships has led to her service on numerous state, regional and national boards and alliances. Formerly, she was past chair of Southern Arts Federation (now South Arts) and treasurer of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, Surkamer is immediate Past President of the board of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, chair of the audit committee for the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, and occasionally consults in the arts. Surkamer earned a M. Ed. in dance education from George Washington University and a B. A. in dance from the University of Maryland.

Wesley Myrick

Wesley Myrick graduated from Georgia State University in 2008 with a degree in Political Science. For the past four years he has been project coordinator at the Salem Bible Church in Atlanta where he acted as media liaison and oversaw the organization's website and e-commerce transactions. He also spent several years at the National Debate Project as a

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lecturer and co-researcher. Wesley is currently working toward a Master's degree in International Affairs at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Wesley brings well-honed customer service skills and ample experience with web maintenance to the ArtsReady team.

About ArtsReady

ArtsReady is a web based emergency preparedness platform designed to provide arts organizations with customized business continuity plans for post crisis sustainability. A national initiative of South Arts, the ArtsReady readiness, response and recovery tool was developed with major support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and National Endowment for the Arts. For more information, visit www.artsready.org.

About South Arts

South Arts, a nonprofit regional arts organization, was founded in 1975 to build on the South's unique heritage and enhance the public value of the arts. South Arts' work responds to the arts environment and cultural trends with a regional perspective. South Arts offers an annual portfolio of activities designed to address the role of the arts in impacting the issues important to our region, and to link the South with the nation and the world through the arts. For more information, visit www.southarts.org.

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