

PRESS RELEASE
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Chagrin Foundation for Arts & Culture Hires New Executive Director

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The Chagrin Foundation for Arts & Culture, also known as Chagrin Arts, is pleased to announce the hiring of Rachel Lappen as its new Executive Director.

A recent resident of Chicago, Ms. Lappen last worked as the Director of Production and Tours for Chicago Children's Choir, an organization that serves 2800 children through in-school programs in 45 of Chicago's public schools and after-school programs in 8 of Chicago's neighborhoods.

Ms. Lappen received both her undergraduate degrees and her Masters in Arts Administration from Columbia University, graduating with honors. In addition to experience with New York's major cultural organizations, such as Lincoln Center and the Public Theater, she worked in New York as the Executive Assistant for renowned composer Philip Glass, in marketing and public relations for Broadway and Off Broadway shows such as *The Sound of Music* and in theatrical programming of events for the New York Public Library.

From New York, she consulted in marketing and fundraising for the Baltimore Lyric Opera and led a \$1 million Annual Fund campaign as the successful Manager of Individual Support for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

At Chicago Children's Choir, she was a member of the senior staff and personally managed the performances and production aspects of its tours in service of its mission to bring young people together through music despite diverse socio-economic, racial and religious backgrounds. Her successes included a performance tour in South Korea, a tour through South America and a tour of performances in heritage cities of the Southern civil rights movement from which an Emmy-award-winning PBS documentary – *Songs on the Road to Freedom* – was produced.

Upon moving recently to Shaker Heights she was told to visit Chagrin Falls, which her friend described as "a gem of Cleveland."

On applying Ms. Lappen said, "one of our first day trips was to Chagrin Falls. I was enamored by the charm, beauty, and culture of the Chagrin Valley so it was my delight to discover the employment opportunity with your organization."

Ms. Lappen said, "I am honored to serve the Chagrin Falls community through this position and look forward to enhancing the opportunities that Chagrin Falls offers as a destination for arts and culture in Cleveland and the surrounding areas."

Stephen G. Thomas, President of the Chagrin Arts, says, "We are fortunate that Rachel Lappen found us. She has a wealth of experience and training in all of the important aspects of arts management, with special emphasis on marketing, fundraising and production. We look forward to her demonstrated success advancing our mission to enrich lives and enhance economic vitality as we help Chagrin Falls realize its heritage as a destination for arts and cultural programming."

Ms. Lappen will commence duties full time October 4, 2010 and until then will work part time while she learns the nature of the Chagrin Arts' operations and meets with its performance partners and local arts and culture organizations to support its mission.

Chagrin Arts is planning its 4th Winter Series, which will feature an exciting array of performances from late 2010 through early spring 2011. The organization also looks forward to renewing its acclaimed Chautauqua-in-Chagrin series next summer.

The Chagrin Foundation for Arts & Culture, also known as Chagrin Arts, is a non-profit organization based in Chagrin Falls, Ohio whose mission is to enrich lives and promote economic well-being in the Chagrin Valley and Northeast Ohio by collaborating with local, regional and national organizations to present inspiring programs and to be a leader in raising the profile of Chagrin Falls as a highly regarded destination for arts and culture.

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