

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS CONTACTS: **Leon Scioscia**
President / CEO
Workhouse Arts Foundation, Inc.
703-584-2903
LeonScioscia@workhousearts.org

PRESS RELEASE

Workhouse Arts Foundation Appoints Vice President, Development

Advancing innovative collaboration of visual and performing arts, education, community engagement, historical perspective, and personal enrichment

Lorton, VA – 10:00 AM August 17, 2021. The Workhouse Arts Foundation, Inc. is excited to announce that Elena Forbes has been appointed as the Vice President, Development. She is an experienced development professional, and she will begin her new role on September 7, 2021.

Ms. Forbes has more than 10 years of experience in the Development field. Most recently, she served as the Director of External Relations for the Joy of Motion Dance Center where she created and executed annual Development plans with objectives tied to the Strategic Plan. Previously she also worked in various Development roles with Elevate, The Ellington Fund, Folger Shakespeare Library, Gourmet Symphony, GALA Hispanic Theatre and the Atlas Performing Arts Center. Ms. Forbes’s educational credits include a Bachelor of Music from the Catholic University of America and a Master of Arts (Arts Management) from the George Mason University, as well as participating in numerous professional Development opportunities.

Leon Scioscia, President / CEO of the Workhouse Arts Foundation, said: “The Workhouse Arts Center is so pleased, and honored, to have Ms. Forbes join the team. She possesses a solid fundraising foundation and will help advance the Workhouse Arts Center in new and exciting ways. Once Elena begins her tenure, I know that she will hit the ground running and, together, we will create an environment that will strengthen the mission critical programs that make the Workhouse Arts Center a very unique entity.”

Caroline Blanco, Chair of the Board of Directors, commented on this appointment: “I am delighted to welcome Elena Forbes to the Workhouse. As our Vice President, Development,

she will bring a new, and fresh, approach to our non-earned income initiatives. We all look forward to working with her.”

When asked about this opportunity, Elena Forbes said: "I am so excited to be joining the Workhouse Arts Center as the VP, Development, and joining Leon, the rest of the administrative team, and Caroline, as we build and support the multidisciplinary art programs that Workhouse brings to Fairfax County and the entire DMV. Stewarding community gathering places for excellent art is my passion, and I cannot wait to get started!"

About Workhouse Arts Center -- The Workhouse Arts Center (Workhouse) is housed in the former Workhouse prison facility of the DC Correctional Complex in Lorton, VA that opened in 1910. After closure in 2001, its founders, in cooperation with Fairfax County leadership, transformed the site into a community arts center where people could learn about and participate in art making; be inspired by the region’s and nation's best artists; experience visual and performing arts talent; and come together for festivals and community building.

Opened in 2008, the Workhouse now houses over 80 resident and associate artists; presents 100 annual art exhibitions and 300 annual performances; and supports dozens of classrooms for teaching 800 classes, engaging over 100,000 people annually. The Workhouse Arts Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation in the Commonwealth of Virginia, operates the Workhouse Arts Center.

The Workhouse fosters innovative collaborations in the visual and performing arts through education, community engagement and personal enrichment for students of all ages and walks of life. The goal of these collaborations is to encourage art making; provide therapeutic art experiences; support physical health through Art of Movement activities; present opportunities for other forms of self-expression; and to provide the public with access to high quality performing arts experiences and events. The Workhouse also provides the public with access to the rich history of this nationally important site through the Lucy Burns Museum.

Since its inception, the Workhouse has dramatically expanded its arts education curriculum and community events calendar, deepened its relationships with the Armed Services through military arts programming, and expanded its in-house performing arts offerings with live concerts, musical theatre, and dance.

To stay up-to-date on the latest Workhouse news and events, follow the Workhouse on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) or sign-up for their [E-newsletter](#).

###



Elena Forbes, named Vice President, Development,
Workhouse Arts Foundation, Inc.