



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **INUIT ART FOUNDATION HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND RESTRUCTURES BOARD**

The Inuit Art Foundation announces that Alysa Procida has been appointed its new Executive Director. She brings a wealth of experience with Inuit art and non-profit leadership to the position. Procida was the Executive Director and Curator of the Museum of Inuit Art in Toronto. She begins her new position effective October 7, 2015.

“The Inuit Art Foundation has been a vital part of the arts community and I am honoured to be a part of it. The Foundation has an active voice in educating about the art form, promoting the work of new artists and championing work in traditional and new media.”

This new appointment coincides with a restructuring of the Board of Directors at the last Annual Meeting. Sammy Kudluk was elected Chair, Jimmy Manning remains the Foundation President, and Mathew Nuqingaq was elected Vice-President and Secretary Treasurer. The majority of the volunteer Board is comprised of Inuit artists who oversee the Foundation. Returning Directors are Helen Kaloon, Okpik Pitseolak, Billy Gauthier and Pat Feheley.

“These leadership and management changes reflect the renewed capability and vigor of the Inuit Art Foundation,” says Manning. “The Board is committed to ensuring that the Foundation continues to serve the needs of Inuit artists from across Inuit Nunangat. We are pleased to have Alysa join us as she will bring not only strong management skills but familiarity with Inuit art and culture.”

Kudluk, Manning and Nuqingaq are longstanding members of the Foundation’s Board. Manning, an accomplished photographer in his own right, has over thirty years of experience supporting the arts in the North through his work with the West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative’s Kinngait Studios. Kudluk is an accomplished visual artist who is also the organizer of the highly successful Arts Workshops on behalf of the Makivik Corporation. Nuqingaq is a visual and performing artist who is well known nationally and internationally.

### **About the Inuit Art Foundation**

Established in 1987 as a registered charitable organization, the Inuit Art Foundation provides support to Canada’s Inuit arts communities and is the sole national body mandated to promote Inuit artists and art within Canada and internationally. The Foundation is deeply invested in the rich history and tradition of Canada’s Inuit artistic expressions while actively contributing to the growth and development of these unique and diverse contemporary art practices. The Foundation undertakes advocacy on behalf of Inuit artists and realizes a number of strategies aimed at enhancing the appreciation and interpretation of Inuit art. The Inuit Art Foundation is supported by the private sector along with contributions from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and other public agencies. A volunteer, Inuit artist majority Board of Directors oversees the Foundation.

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