



**COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
123 E. Anapamu St • Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2461 • FAX (805) 568-2459

## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

**News Media Contact:**

Renée E. Bahl  
Interim Community Services Director  
(805) 568-2467  
rbahl@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

ARTS COMMISSION No. 15-010  
June 1, 2015  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Arts Commission Executive Director Ginny Brush Announces Plans to Retire**

Ginny Brush, Executive Director of the County Arts Commission advised City and County staff of her plan to retire in October after more than 15 years at the Arts Commission, the last 9 as Executive Director. Prior to that, she served as the Visual Arts Coordinator for the City and County. Mayor Schneider had this to say about the news “Ginny Brush served as an incredible ambassador between the City, our business community and our many local artists and arts organizations. Under her leadership, Santa Barbara’s cultural economy thrived and it will continue to soar. On behalf of the City Council I wish her the best as she enters this new chapter in life.”

In her letter to the City Administrator and County Community Services Director Ms. Brush thanked the City and County for the opportunity to serve the community. “The Executive Director position has given me a platform to engage the community and advance art and cultural opportunities in the City of Santa Barbara and throughout Santa Barbara County.”

Ms. Brush was hired by the County in 2000 to serve as Visual Arts Coordinator and was responsible for exhibitions, public art programs and projects including the State of the Gallery. In 2007 she was hired as Executive Director when Patrick Davis retired.

During her tenure, she did much to promote the City’s Cultural Arts District. She was instrumental in the development of the Storefront Gallery Program and the Public Art installations at the new Airport Terminal. Brush was involved in the development of *1<sup>st</sup> Thursday*, and fostered collaborations that resulted in the popular Pianos on State project and the free Summer Movies in the Sunken Garden series. In 2009 she received the Citizen of the Year award from Santa Barbara Downtown Organization and in 2011 the Independent recognized her as a Local Hero for her Arts Advocacy.

At the County, Brush was involved in facilitating the gift of the Berkus Collection, and in instituting the Annual County Arts Symposium, the Leadership in the Arts Award, Brown Bag Arts Lunches, Poetry Out Loud County Competition and implemented the Community Arts Enrichment Grant Program, made possible through a partnership with the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation and its Arts Subsidy Fund.

Ms. Brush serves on a number of nonprofit boards including Downtown Santa Barbara, Ensemble Theatre, County Parks Foundation, Santa Barbara Beautiful, the Community Arts Workshop Task Force and the Santa Barbara Arts Collaborative, an organization she helped found.

Renée Bahl, Assistant County Executive Officer, states that the region “was fortunate to have had the privilege of sharing Ginny’s expertise, work ethic and commitment to the arts community. While we will start the recruitment process later this summer, Ms. Brush is truly irreplaceable.”



###