



October 21, 2018

Dear SLArts Family,

As we look towards my retirement at the end of this school year, I am honored to tell you that our Governing Board has hired Heather Shepherd to become Salt Lake Arts Academy's second Principal and Chief Administrative Officer, effective July 1, 2019. Heather's selection is the result of a months-long process of reflection about our school's needs and dreams for the future, which many of you participated in through our Strategic Planning Survey last spring. This was followed by many hours of planning, recruiting and interviewing by the Governing Board. Thanks to your guidance and the Board's work, we are convinced we have hired an educational leader with the experience and vision to nurture SLArts' special culture, while leading us into the future.

Heather has spent the last thirteen years as Head of School at Channing Hall, a K-8 charter school in Draper, Utah. Heather is a native Utahn, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mills College in Oakland, California and a Master of Arts degree in Education from Harvard University. She has worked in educational leadership in both public and private settings since 1991, bringing deep expertise in working with teachers and students to SLArts.

Heather says, "I'm excited to become immersed in your culture at SLArts and discover the uniqueness that each of our students and teachers bring to the community and the learning process. Together we will continue to thrive. I look forward to building new and meaningful relations with all of you."

While Heather will not officially take the reins until I retire in June, she is planning to spend time at SLArts throughout the year to get to know our students, teachers and the community at large before June. **We would love for you to come meet Heather at an informal reception after school on Thursday, November 1. We will gather in the Commons at 3:15 – join us!** We will have ongoing opportunities for you to connect with Heather before the end of the year, and will send you more information once those are in place.

I know that each of our Teachers, Staff and Governing Board are committed to seeing a smooth leadership transition for SLArts. We are exceptionally grateful to our Governing Board and to Scott Messersmith who led the search process. As we work our way through this process please let us know your ideas and thoughts. We all want SLArts' to grow and thrive – for our current students, and those still to come. Thank you for being members of our SLArts Family!

Warmly,

Amy Wadsworth
Principal and CAO