



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rachel O'Neil
Chair of the Board
rachel.oneil@artisansasylum.com
(617) 284-6878

LARS HASSELBLAD TORRES NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ARTISAN'S ASYLUM

SOMERVILLE, Ma. (July 12, 2018) – After a national search conducted by Arts Consulting Group (ACG), Lars Hasselblad Torres has been appointed Executive Director of Artisan's Asylum, the organization's Chair of the Board announced this week. He will begin his leadership role at the 8-year-old organization on 6 August 2018. Artisan's Asylum is a key partner in Somerville's Innovation Hub, a campus of innovation rooted in the neighborly vibe of Somerville's Union Square.

Lars is a lifelong artist, educator, entrepreneur, and public scholar with a passion for democratic social change through high caliber leadership, effective communication, and restless innovation. Lars's experience ranges from leading Burlington, Vermont's makerspace (The Generator) thru a five-fold fundraising and budget increase; founding a creativity sandbox (Local 64) that provides workspace, community, and creative support to Central Vermont's independent and creative workforce; and serving the state's creative economy (Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development) by seeking ways to remove barriers to economic growth for independent creatives, startups, and companies.

"The search committee was particularly impressed by Lars's prior background and directly relevant leadership experience. We're truly fortunate to have identified such a highly experienced and enthusiastic individual to achieve Artisan's Asylum's vision in the coming years," said Rachel O'Neil, Chair of Artisan's Asylum's board of directors. "Lars brings a passion for arts and culture, a strong strategic perspective, and an infectious enthusiasm for the role he will be taking on with Artisan's Asylum."

Lars said, "Artisan's Asylum is a remarkable asset to Somerville's creative economy, and well beyond its geographic location. I'm incredibly excited to have the opportunity to serve Artisans' members, its board, and partners across the greater Boston area to chart and execute the future of this arts organization's growth."

About Artisan's Asylum

[Artisan's Asylum](#) was one of the first large-scale nonprofit makerspaces in the world and is still considered one of the foremost models for new and rising makerspaces that have opened or plan to open. It was founded in 2010 as the brainchild of two makers, is run by a small staff, and a number of dedicated volunteers with a range of skills and interests. Volunteering is strongly encouraged and appreciated and is at the heart of the organization's culture of inclusion and transparency. Artisan's Asylum offers membership to the general public and its mission is devoted to the teaching, learning, and practice of fabrication. Artisan's Asylum has grown into a 40,000-square-foot building with over 350 members and fully equipped facilities for woodworking, metalworking, precision machining, electronics and robotics, screen printing, 3D printing, laser cutting, and jewelry making. Supporting its mission through the concepts of make, learn, work, and play, the organization provides Boston-area makers and artists with studio space, educational programs, community events, and instructional classes that empower them to give form to their ideas in a collaborative, non-competitive environment.

Artisan's Asylum is open to the public during staffed volunteer hours, seven days a week. For more information, including a complete calendar of classes, visit artisansasylum.com.