



After a decade of leadership and advocacy at the Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association, Nichole Potzauf has announced that she will step down as Executive Director in July 2023. During her tenure, Nichole has guided BRMAA through extraordinary growth and evolution such as Blue Ridge being designated as an official Top Art Town in Georgia, establishing public arts programming, awarded with recognition by Georgia's Governor for Arts and Humanities endeavors, and most importantly, advocating for a welcoming center of the Arts that continues to provide opportunities in the realm of the Arts for diverse artists and promoting a creative economy.

"When I began at BRMAA, I was excited and a bit overwhelmed by the significant history and foundation BRMAA and the Arts have held in our local community and what the organization represented within Blue Ridge. One of my initial goals was to show how much investment and expression the Arts can and could provide for our community to showcase our identity, not only within the Appalachian region, but for the state of Georgia, as well. In my first letter to our membership in 2013, I had a vision to ensure that BRMAA continues to create a home that promotes the ability to celebrate, educate, and grow in the honor of the Arts... I am proud to say that I can depart BRMAA having kept my word to that vision." Nichole reflects, "Over the last 10 years, I have learned and grown from the many generous artists, volunteers, and colleagues in both the arts and business sector who've shared their time, artistry, knowledge, and creativity for the growth of BRMAA and our community. I feel immensely proud of all the work we've accomplished to help and promote artists, push the expectations of a creative economy, and have BRMAA recognized and honored at the state and national level as an Art Town. The Art Center has been my second home and has been a part of my heart and family for the last decade in immeasurable ways. I am beyond grateful for the beauty, the conversations, the laughter, the lessons, the difficult moments, the pride and the joy of each experience at BRMAA, which have made a lifetime of memories and friendships that I will treasure. Thank you!" Nichole will remain in Blue Ridge and has accepted a position with CERF+ as the Director of Development and Outreach.

A search committee for the next Executive Director, co-chaired by BRMAA Board members Alan R. Young and Sandy Ott, has been assembled. The search process is now open with plans to have a new director in place by mid-July. For more information on the Executive Director position, please visit our website ([www.blueridgearts.net](http://www.blueridgearts.net)) for more information and application requirements.