

**Jacob Burns Film Center Announces Key Organization, Leadership Changes:
Margo Amgott, Interim Executive Director
Sean Weiner, Director of Programs, Media Arts Lab**



Pleasantville, NY – September 9, 2020 – The Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC) announced today that Margo Amgott has been appointed Interim Executive Director and Sean Weiner was promoted to the newly created position of Director of Programs, Media Arts Lab.

“Margo is an accomplished leader who brings to the position a history of high-level experience as an interim executive for mission-oriented nonprofits,” said JBFC Board Chair Lynn Sobel. “She is highly skilled in getting to know organizations quickly, working collaboratively with boards, mentoring staff, and understanding how organizations operate effectively, especially during challenging times. Along with her duties directing the organization, Margo will work with the Board of Directors to plan a search for a permanent executive director.”

Before joining the JBFC, Margo served as Interim Executive Director at Studio in a School, a New York City-based program that serves young people by integrating visual arts into teaching and learning. Prior to that, she was Interim CEO at Hearing Health Foundation, the largest non-profit funder of hearing and balance research in the U.S. She has specialized in transitional leadership assignments after many years directing programs at Columbia University, NYU Langone Medical Center, and for state and local government. She holds a master’s degree from NYU’s Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and a BA from Barnard College.

Sean Weiner was named Director of Programs, Media Arts Lab, a newly created position overseeing the numerous programs operating from JBFC’S Media Art Lab. While continuing to direct JBFC’S artist support program, Creative Culture, Sean will also lead the JBFC Education Team and manage the technical functions at the Lab. Sean brings 15 years of JBFC experience to this position, along with formative time spent in the industry as a filmmaker and an ongoing role as a professor in Purchase College’s Film and Media Studies department. He has taught media education and filmmaking classes at the JBFC and developed curricula for Image, Sound, and Story.

“Sean is uniquely well suited to fill this new position,” said former JBFC Acting Executive Director Janet Benton. “Not only is he a skilled teacher, mentor, and filmmaker, Sean has a strong strategic vision of what media arts education and artist support programs can be. He is a naturally collaborative leader, able to create community and build comprehensive programs to meet organizational goals.”

Four years ago, Sean launched Creative Culture at the JBFC, a highly sought-after fellowship and residency program for emerging filmmakers. Films created under the Creative Culture banner have been selected by Sundance, SXSW, *The New York Times’* Op-Docs, Berlinale International Film Festival, and many others. Previous residents have included filmmakers Emelie Mahdavian, whose work *Midnight Traveler* won a Special Jury Prize at Sundance 2019, and Antonio Campos, whose film *The Devil All the Time* will be released by Netflix this month.

The [Jacob Burns Film Center](#) is a nonprofit arts and education hub located on a three-building campus in the New York Metro area. The JBFC brings the transformative power of film to the surrounding community through unique programming and discussion, shared experiences, and educational initiatives. Until recently, since opening in 2001, over 3,000,000 people have enjoyed the best of current American and foreign cinema, unique film series, and special events at the five screen theater complex. A pioneer in visual literacy, the JBFC offers educational experiences for students of all ages at our state-of-the-art Media Arts Lab including curricula for public schools and a fellowship and residency program for professional filmmakers.

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