

Storytelling Arts Center Finds an Executive Director and a Home

A Community Economic Innovation grant from the NC Rural Center has allowed the Storytelling Arts Center of the Southeast (SACS) to move into a facility on Main Street and hire some part-time staff. The facility will be housed in the old McNair's Department Store, most recently Sports Relay, on Main Street.

The Center Board has named Tim Morrissey Executive Director. Morrissey comes to the Storytelling Arts Center with a rich background in the arts. An actor and director, Morrissey has participated in the North and South Carolina Visiting Artists Programs, served as Development Director of the Asheville Community Theatre, Executive Director of the Highlands Playhouse and the Arts Council of Henderson County and for fifteen years was the Executive Producing/Artistic Director of the Temple Theatre in Sanford.

The Board also chose Jan Schmidt to serve as Marketing Director. Schmidt is a co-founder of the organization and successfully applied for its non-profit status. She has been responsible for storyteller relations and has done the marketing for previous Storytelling Arts Center events as a volunteer. Schmidt has also been responsible for writing many of the grants that the organization has received.

Board Chair, Brenda Gilbert said, "We couldn't be more pleased about our new home, right in the heart of downtown, and with the talented people we've hired to lead our organization. Our plan is to offer events that promote and preserve the art of storytelling all year long. We want this center to be humming with activity and become a source of pride for our community for many years to come."

On January 24th the Center will sponsor the second Bold-Faced Liars' Showdown, a day of tall tales and fun. The third annual Storytelling Festival of Carolina will be held the last weekend in April.

A Grand Opening for the Storytelling Arts Center will be announced soon.