

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Arizona School for the Arts Elects Four New Members to its Board of Directors

**PHOENIX, AZ – March 8, 2024 – The Arizona School for the Arts** Board of Directors is pleased to announce the election of four new board members: Leola Abraham, Carrie Larson, Lorisa Pombo, and Annette Zinky.

“I am excited to welcome these four dynamic leaders who bring new perspectives and diverse experiences to our Board,” said Leah Fregulia, Head of School and CEO of Arizona School for the Arts. “As we enter our 30th year of operation, they will be instrumental in guiding strategic innovations that fulfill our mission to offer more students a dual-focused curriculum blending rigorous college preparation with deep engagement in the performing arts.”

Leola Abraham is a program manager and senior communications practitioner with 20 years of experience advising federal, state, and local government leaders, non-profits, and universities on a wide range of national and global programs and campaigns, including emergency management, climate change, and justice reform. At CNA, a nonprofit research organization, she directs projects in the Center for Vulnerable Population Protection and the Center for Justice Research and Innovation to reach and engage stakeholders.

Carrie Larson is an educator and co-founded the Phoenix Collegiate Academy (PCA) with two fellow South Phoenix teachers. Under her leadership, PCA won the 2012 Charter School of the Year award, and she was named the 2011 Charter School Teacher of the Year. Carrie also played a crucial role in PCA's merger with ASU, which eventually transformed into an ASU Prep Campus. Currently, she serves as the program manager for Valley Leadership's Catalyze Program.

Lorisa Pombo, EdD, began her career as a teacher in 1997 in the Peoria School District, where she graduated from high school. She progressed to the position of Principal at Ira A. Murphy Elementary in 2011. In 2016, she became the Director of Elementary Initiatives at Leona Group Schools, a charter school management company supporting 29 schools. At present, Lorisa is the Academic Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment at Creighton School District.

Annette Zinky is an entrepreneur, business and economic development professional, and a strong advocate for experimenting, innovation, startups, and leaning into change. She is currently the Chief Operating Officer at TheraSpecs, a therapeutic eyewear company. Annette has also served as the CEO of an entrepreneurial development organization that worked with higher education and community partners. Her dedication to leadership and innovation has earned her recognition as a Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Fellow and a Humanizing Work Certified Agile Leader.


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## PRESS CONTACT

### **ABOUT ARIZONA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS**


Arizona School for the Arts (ASA) is a 5th - 12th grade public charter school located in the Central Arts District of downtown Phoenix. Established in 1995, ASA's mission is to inspire creative thinkers and leaders through an innovative concentration in college preparation informed by the performing arts. The school attracts more than 800 students from Maricopa County each year. To learn more, visit **GOASA.ORG**.

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