

United States Artists Announces Rachel Denny as Director of Advancement

CHICAGO, IL (May 4, 2023) – **United States Artists (USA)** is pleased to announce the appointment of arts leadership and fundraising executive **Rachel Denny** as its new **Director of Advancement**. Working closely with USA’s Board, as well as President and CEO Judilee Reed, Denny will oversee USA’s fundraising efforts and communications strategies, helping to propel the organization into its next chapter.

“I’m thrilled to bring my experience and passion to United States Artists at a time when the role artists play in our culture and our democracy is especially critical,” said Denny, incoming Director of Advancement at USA. “I believe deeply in the work of this organization and am committed to strengthening the impact it makes for artists through my work. I’m honored to join such a dedicated, thoughtful, and creative team and look forward to working alongside this group to cultivate a strong future for United States Artists.”

Denny joins USA from the Sundance Institute, where she most recently served as Director of Development and was responsible for raising more than \$20 million annually. With a breadth of expertise in building networks of support for arts, media, and educational organizations, in her new role at USA she will both deepen the organization’s existing relationships and foster new connections to further its growth.

“We’re delighted to have Rachel joining us at such an exciting moment for USA,” said **Judilee Reed, President and CEO of United States Artists**. “The breadth of her experience, across the country in building support for filmmakers and artists, makes her well suited to our work. We look forward to her insights as we grow our many roles as an organization: that of a resource provider, non-profit advisor, collaborator, and community-builder, to name only a few.”



BELIEVE IN ARTISTS

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Denny will play an integral role in the evolution of USA, which in recent years has rapidly expanded its nationwide support of artists by both bolstering its flagship programming and forming catalytic new partnerships. Exemplifying the organization's artist-responsive approach, in 2020, USA was part of the coalition of arts grantmaking organizations that formed Artist Relief, an initiative that distributed over \$25 million in emergency grants to artists impacted by the pandemic. The organization has also expanded the artist services available through the USA Fellowship and partner programs, including connecting artists with legal counsel and financial advisors.

Offering insights from eight years at the Sundance Institute, as well as her previous roles at the Film Society of Lincoln Center, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and The New School, Denny's experience and expertise will inform USA's continued contribution to dynamic and comprehensive support structures for artists across the nation.

ABOUT RACHEL DENNY

Rachel Denny is a dynamic arts leadership and fundraising executive with more than 15 years of experience raising revenue and building communities of support for arts, media, and educational organizations. She believes in the critical impact artists have on our culture and communities and is passionate about connecting artists directly with financial and practical resources. Prior to joining United States Artists as Director of Advancement, Rachel Denny spent 8 years at Sundance Institute where she most recently held the position of Director of Development and was responsible for raising more than \$20 million annually from individuals, foundations, and government entities. She has also held roles on staff at the Film Society of Lincoln Center, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and The New School. Additionally she has worked in advisory or consultancy capacities to help newer organizations and film projects with community building and fundraising strategies. Through this facet of her work she has served organizations including the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema, Jewish Story Partners, Array, and Oxbelly. Rachel is a native New Yorker who grew up in downtown Manhattan amidst a thriving arts, film, and theater scene. She now resides in the lower



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Hudson Valley in Nyack, NY with her family, overflowing bookshelves, a (often diminished) wine cellar, and views of the Hudson River.

ABOUT UNITED STATES ARTISTS

United States Artists is a national arts funding organization based in Chicago, IL that raises money and redistributes it in the form of unrestricted awards to the country’s most compelling artists and cultural practitioners. Since its founding in 2006, USA has awarded nearly 800 individuals with over \$38 million of direct support.

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