

PRESS RELEASE

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**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MARYLAND ART PLACE
ANNOUNCES BARBARA ESHAM HART AS ITS NEW PRESIDENT**



Maryland Art Place is pleased to announce the appointment of Barbara Esham Hart as MAP's new Board President.

A native of Berlin, Maryland, Barbie Hart came to Baltimore as a student at Maryland Institute College of Art in 1983. She has been a committed activist and advocate for contemporary art in the Baltimore area for over twenty years.

Hart joined the board of MAP in 2006. Since then, she has worked with former MAP Board President Samuel Polakoff and other dedicated MAP supporters to raise more than half a million dollars for the nationally recognized contemporary art center.

"Barbie Hart will bring great energy to her work as President of MAP's Board. We are confident that she will be a strong leader in the years to come," says Board Chair Suzi Cordish.

Currently working to organize an exhibition honoring the late painter Grace Hartigan, Hart is eager to take the lead in MAP's development of new outreach initiatives, including an artists' studio program, temporary public art projects, and collaborative programming. "I am thrilled to have this opportunity to share my passion for contemporary art with our dedicated board and talented staff. I remain committed to embracing our founders' vision to support, inspire, and educate the art community both inside and outside our space," says Hart.

For more information, please contact Cathy Byrd, Executive Director, Maryland Art Place: 410 962 8565 or cathybyrd@mdartplace.org.