

# Phoenix Art Museum

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **PHOENIX ART MUSEUM DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION NAMED 2013 PIPER FELLOW**

**PHOENIX (Dec. 18, 2013)** — Kathryn Blake, director of education for the Phoenix Art Museum, is among four nonprofit Valley leaders joining the 13<sup>th</sup> class of Piper Fellows for her commitment to expand and refine opportunities for the community to engage with visual arts programs and exhibitions at the museum. Chosen by the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust after a rigorous selection process, Blake will participate in a Piper Fellowship. The Piper Fellowship is a self-designed, professional development sabbatical focused on strengthening leadership skills and learning about innovative programs to help nonprofits become more effective and resilient.

Aligned with the Phoenix Art Museum's newly defined goal of creating a Center for Visual Literacy, Blake's sabbatical will focus on designing interactive learning opportunities that engage a broad and changing audience. In 2014, Blake will visit 14 museums recognized for innovative education and audience-centered programs, including locations in Dallas, Oakland, San Jose, San Diego, Cleveland, Minneapolis and London. She also will work with an executive coach and spend four days of personal renewal on Orcas Island, Wash.

"We are incredibly proud of Kathryn for earning such a distinguished and well-deserved honor. Her commitment to education and the arts within the community is immeasurable," said Sybil Harrington Director of Phoenix Art Museum, James K. Ballinger.

Blake joined Phoenix Art Museum in 1991 as Assistant Curator of Education, later becoming director of education in 2005. In her role, Blake is instrumental in the organization's strategic planning, training, program development and curation. She earned her bachelor's degree in art history from Wellesley College and her master's degree in art history from Boston University.

A Piper Fellowship offers each selected organization potential grant awards up to \$90,000; the first \$30,000 provides each Fellow with expenses for study, travel and opportunities to visit best practice sites across the country. The Trust also awards up to \$10,000 for new or increased professional development for the staff of Fellows' organizations. In addition, Fellows are eligible to apply for a \$50,000 Organizational Enhancement Award to implement a program developed during the sabbatical. Up to five new Piper Fellows are selected each year; 55 nonprofit leaders have participated in the program to date.

**About Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust:** A private independent foundation, Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust honors Virginia Galvin Piper's philanthropic commitment to changing lives and strengthening community in Maricopa County (Arizona).

By investing in nonprofits and encouraging strategic planning for the future, Piper Trust strives to make Maricopa County a stronger, more nurturing, and vibrant community. Since it began awarding grants in 2000, Piper Trust has invested more than \$313 million in local nonprofits and programs. Piper Trust grantmaking areas are healthcare and medical research, children, older adults, arts and culture, education, and religious organizations. For more information, visit [www.pipertrust.org](http://www.pipertrust.org). Follow us on Twitter [@PiperTrust](https://twitter.com/PiperTrust) / Like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/PiperTrust).

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## **About Phoenix Art Museum**

Phoenix Art Museum has provided access to visual arts and educational programs in Arizona for more than 50 years and is the largest art museum in the Southwestern United States. Critically acclaimed national and international exhibitions are shown alongside the Museum's collection of more than 17,000 works of American, Asian, European, Latin American, Western American, modern and contemporary art, and fashion design. Visitors also enjoy vibrant photography exhibitions through the Museum's landmark partnership with the Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona. To learn more about Phoenix Art Museum, visit [PhxArt.org](http://PhxArt.org).

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