

September 8, 2009

(KALAMAZOO, MI)

The board of directors for SmartShop Metal Arts Center announced today the appointment of Pamela Gallina to the new position of Operations Manager of SmartShop and have scheduled a "meet the community" reception for her on September 17, 2009 from 5:30-7:00pm. Vincent Faust, Board President, said "We are delighted to welcome Pam to our team here at SmartShop. Her leadership and organizational skills as well as her background in fund development will be a huge asset to us." Gallina's responsibilities will include development, communications, and business management. Her appointment is a move intended to free up Holly Fisher's time as Program Director, allowing Fisher to focus her energies on programming development that will have a greater impact on the local community and the arts scene at large. Gallina's efforts combined with Fisher's will help SmartShop advance to the next level, promoting organizational health and sustainability as well as expanded quality programming. Fisher said "I'm looking forward to working with Pam and introducing her to all of our fabulous community supporters and partners. Our work together promises to be a great step forward for the continued success of SmartShop and its contributions to our community's beauty and well-being."

Since 1990 Gallina has focused her career on non-profit organization development. Prior to that, her work revolved around business management. She earned her Bachelor of Science in journalism from Grand Valley State University, and her Master of Arts in communications from Michigan State University. Gallina has written for numerous publications and corporations throughout the West Michigan area, as well as working and consulting with companies in the aviation industry. She is a licensed professional fundraiser, and has served as adjunct communications professor at Grand Valley State University. Gallina said "I am excited to be working with SmartShop and the entire Kalamazoo Community. It is truly an honor to be working with such dedicated, passionate and talented individuals. I feel the collaboration between and Holly and myself will enhance the quality and capability of SmartShop across the board"

SmartShop Metal Arts Center was founded in 2002 by artist Holly Fisher, and established as a federally recognized non-profit organization in 2005, SmartShop is a comprehensive arts facility in Kalamazoo, Michigan, whose purpose is to teach, support, practice and promote the metal arts to foster personal, interpersonal and community growth.

SmartShop consists of a metalworking school, sculpture garden and art gallery, and has extensive programming for students of all ages as well as community service programs, including job-skill training, for in-need individuals. For additional information on SmartShop Metal Arts Center, visit <http://www.smartshopkalamazoo.com>

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