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Montalvo Arts Center Executive Director to Step Down

SARATOGA, Calif. – Robert L. Sain, an arts leader who repositioned Montalvo from a local arts center and commercially oriented music venue to a regionally based, mission driven, philanthropic, contemporary arts center, has announced that he is stepping down from his role as Executive Director as of Sept. 30, 2008.

Charmaine Warmenhoven, Montalvo's Board president, lauded Sain's accomplishments at Montalvo. "We value and appreciate the vision Bob has put in place for Montalvo," said Warmenhoven. "He has helped us broaden our artistic programs by integrating contemporary art throughout the organization."

"This is good timing for me and the organization," said Sain, formerly the director of LACMA Lab at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. "I've accomplished what I set out to do here. It's been a great opportunity."

Sain began his tenure in June 2006 and led the Trustees and staff through an intensive process that resulted in the adoption of a new mission that "engages people in contemporary concerns through the arts." Sain introduced a new vision for contemporary arts, bringing forth the organizing principles for Montalvo's thematic programming by combining visual art, public programs, performing arts, artists' residencies and arts education. These principles were first articulated through Montalvo's maiden initiative, IRAQ: REFRAME, which garnered critical and media acclaim. Montalvo is now preparing for its second major initiative, organized by guest curator Julie Lazar and featuring a roster of national artists who will examine the theme of interdependence. Sain also expanded the reach of Montalvo through strategic alliances with major Bay Area cultural, civic and educational organizations.

Sain's departure comes as Montalvo launches the next phase of its transition. The organization is negotiating a partnership with a nationally noted commercial music promoter to offer summer seasons of popular fare for Montalvo's Garden Theatre, and the arts center is in the exploratory phase of a capital campaign to restore its historic villa and grounds.

AlbertHall&Associates, a seasoned management consulting firm specializing in non-profits with a focus on arts organizations, will work with the Board and staff on a succession plan.

"We are enthusiastic about the arts programming we have in place," said Warmenhoven. "Bob accomplished much during his tenure. The new direction has generated support from major foundations in the region, as well as from national foundations, and has received critical acclaim in the press and art world."

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