

Heard, Alexandria Nonprofit Teaching Life Skills Through Art, Names Kelly Carnes Executive Director



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Kelly Carnes (Photo courtesy of Heard)

ALEXANDRIA, VA-**Heard** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering people in need through artistic expression and life skills. Kelly Carnes has been named the organization's new executive director. She assumes her role Nov. 2.



"I'm thrilled to welcome Kelly as Heard's new executive director," said Jane Collins, Heard's founder and current executive director. "Kelly loves the arts and artists and she's crazy creative. I can't wait to see where she takes this amazing organization and I'm excited for the unheard voices she will reach."

Carnes has extensive experience in the nonprofit sector and a background in museum administration and communications. Her previous roles include Deputy Director at Planet Word museum, where she provided executive leadership and direction for the museum, which is dedicated to words and language. Carnes' career also includes leadership positions at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and the National Museum of Natural History.

She holds a Master of Professional Studies in Public Relations and Corporate Communications from Georgetown University, a Master of Arts in Museum Studies from GWU, and a Bachelor of Science in Anthropology from VCU.

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Founded in 2017, Heard is committed to offering experiential instruction and participation in the arts to adults facing various challenges, including those in recovery, survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault, LGBTQia+ individuals, older adults, and immigrants. By contracting with local artists, Heard creates a platform for these adults to develop essential life skills while exploring their artistic talents. [SEE ALSO: [Nominate Alexandria Educators for Teacher and Principal of the Year by Oct. 20](#)]

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