

## **Catherine Bricelj Joins Acadiana Center for the Arts as New Education Manager**



**Lafayette, LA - June 27, 2024** – Acadiana Center for the Arts proudly announces the appointment of Catherine Bricelj as the new Education Manager, effective immediately. Ms. Bricelj brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of excellence in educational leadership and community collaboration.

Previously serving as the Principal at Myrtle Place Elementary, Catherine led the Lafayette Parish French Immersion school to national distinction as a Blue Ribbon school in 2022. At Myrtle, Catherine led all aspects of school administration and community engagement, where she focused on supporting her team’s implementation of world-class language-based education and on deepening community involvement in the educational process.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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"We are thrilled to welcome Catherine to our team," said Samuel Olivier, Executive Director of Acadiana Center for the Arts. "AcA's work in education is about improving overall outcomes through the unique learning strategies that come through the arts. Catherine's extensive experience and passion for educational excellence are invaluable as we continue to grow AcA's support of public education through arts strategies across the eight-parish region."

Bricelj's leadership has been recognized with several accolades, including the 2022 Terrell H. Bell Award for outstanding leadership and her significant contribution to the 2022 National Blue Ribbon School. In 2024, Catherine was honored with the Academic Palms by the French Government, highlighting her commitment and dedication to education.

Catherine is excited to bring her innovative approaches and dedication to AcA, where she aims to foster an engaging and inclusive educational environment of excellence among its 70 teaching artists—working artists who provide innovative experiences in music, dance, theater, and visual arts in 87 schools across the Acadiana region.

Catherine holds a Master in Science of Education from Université Mons-Hainaut in Belgium and a Bachelor in Elementary Education from Ecole Normale, Gosselies, Belgium. Her educational journey also includes leadership certifications from the School Leadership Center in New Orleans and Montessori Education Leadership from the Houston Montessori Center.

In its strategic plan, AcA sets out to grow its impact to serve all public schools in the eight parish region of Acadiana by 2030. Read more at <https://acadianacenterforthearts.org/let-culture-lead/>

#### **AcA's Arts in Education Impact Numbers, 2023-2024**

Through its year-round work in partnership with several school districts, AcA achieved a significant impact in improving education across the region through innovative strategies involving the arts.

- **12,266 Classroom sessions taught**
- **120 Gallery tours given**
- **91 Performances presented**
- **30 Summer camps presented**
- **38,420 Students directly served**
- **2,400 Teachers served**
- **86 schools served**
- **70 Teaching Artists engaged**

#### **About Acadiana Center for the Arts**

Acadiana Center for the Arts is a leading cultural institution in Lafayette, dedicated to promoting the arts and education within the community. It offers a wide range of programs and events designed to inspire creativity and foster an appreciation for the arts.