

## CONVERGE 45—PORTLAND’S CITYWIDE ART EXHIBITION—ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KIRA BURGE

(Portland, OR – March 14, 2024) — **Converge 45** announces the appointment of regional arts leader **Kira Burge** as Executive Director following a search that began in November 2023.

Kira brings 20 years of experience launching and leading art events and programs in the non-profit and corporate sectors. She has worked with Fortune 500 companies and institutions to support the strategic growth of art initiatives and collections, including launching and leading the Seattle Art Fair for Paul G. Allen’s art collection and entertainment divisions for the event’s initial six years. During her time at the Seattle Art Fair, Kira stewarded rapid growth across the event, establishing it as a fixture on the international art world calendar.

“We are thrilled Kira Burge has joined Converge 45 as our Executive Director,” says Charlie Dobson, Chair of the Board of Directors at Converge 45. “Her expansive arts experience, proven development savvy, commitment to community collaboration, and strong leadership skills are exactly what we need to build on the momentum of our record-breaking year and continue to foster vibrancy and recognition of contemporary arts in the Pacific Northwest.”

Kira joins Converge 45 as it celebrates a banner year of programming with a citywide art exhibition titled *Social Forms: Art as Global Citizenship* that brought world-class contemporary arts to more than 80,000 visitors at 17 partner venues across the Portland metropolitan area, sparking vibrancy in the community and garnering national and international recognition for the Pacific Northwest as a cultural destination. Exhibitions and programs, which included talks, tours, and performances, were free and open to the public in alignment with the organization’s mission to support Portland’s creative ecosystem while broadening access to art discourse within the community.

“Born in Portland, deeply connected to the art scene, I’ve spent two decades championing arts recognition in our region,” said Kira. “Converge45 excites me—it’s about building something new that celebrates and connects our community of exceptional artists and arts organizations and invites the world to join us. This is our moment to come together as an arts and business community to reinvigorate Portland, and we’re just getting started.”

### ABOUT CONVERGE 45

Converge 45 is the Pacific Northwest’s foremost citywide art exhibition located at partner venues across the Portland metropolitan area. Dedicated to broadening access to art discourse

on the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel, Converge 45 facilitates the intersection of regional, national, and international perspectives to support Portland's creative economy and the artists and organizations across the region.

<https://www.converge45.org/>

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