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Candace Lee Heald Named AHA! Project Manager

AHA!, New Bedford's collaborative downtown arts and culture project, has selected Candace Lee Heald as new Project Manager. Ms Heald, who has been acting as the Interim Project Manager for AHA! since Margie Butler moved on to *FirstWorksProv* this past August, has accepted the position.

"The AHA! project collectively presents the best the city has to offer, providing an easy way for residents and visitors to be a part of the city's burgeoning cultural scene," Ms Heald said. "I look forward to working with AHA!'s more than 40 partner venues and institutions in making downtown New Bedford the place to celebrate the diverse cultural riches of the region."

The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts (CFSEMA) is the fiscal sponsor for AHA!

Prior to joining AHA!, Ms Heald was Vice-President for Education Programs and Exhibitions at the New Bedford Whaling for 11 years. She worked previously as a Museum Consultant and as Director of Education at Plimouth Plantation. Ms Heald received her PhD in Education from Lesley University, and also holds a Master's Degree from the University of Delaware and a Bachelor's Degree from Brown University.

Ms. Heald has served on the AHA! Steering Committee since its inception, and also has been a member of the New Bedford Symphony and the Downtown New Bedford, Inc. Boards of Directors. She is currently the President of the Ladies Branch of the New Bedford Port Society,

"We are all very pleased to have concluded the search," said Karie C. Vincent, AHA! Co-Chair. "With the number of qualified candidates in the SouthCoast, this was not an easy decision process. I have great confidence in Lee's extensive experience, as well as her hands-on understanding of AHA!."

"Lee Heald has done an outstanding job as interim program manager, overseeing our 100th AHA! and getting us ready for an exciting first-time association with First Night," said Program Co-chair Nelson Hockert-Lotz. "This is a very exciting time for AHA! and for the City of New Bedford."

AHA! (Art, History & Architecture) is New Bedford's free Downtown Cultural Night and collaborative cultural organization. The AHA! mission is to expand cultural collaborative leadership and enterprise to generate economic impact and continue strengthening perceptions of the City and the Historic Downtown. AHA!'s current 42 downtown business partners represent the best the city has to offer, providing an easy way for residents and visitors to be a part of the city's burgeoning cultural scene. For more information, visit AHA!'s website, <http://www.ahanewbedford.org/>

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