

Focus on the Arts

Jennifer McEwen

It's been a little over a year since the Town of Hilton Head Island hired, after a nationwide search, Jennifer McEwen as its new Culture and Arts Network Director, and what a year it's been for this brand new islander and arts ambassador!

In her role, Jenn has already made dozens of inroads to enhance the Island's rich sources of entertainment, arts, culture and heritage.

She moved to the island, excited for the new opportunities ahead, together with her husband, Chris, and four year-old daughter, Audrey.

Originally from Connecticut, McEwen received a Bachelor of Arts in Music from the University of North Carolina and a Master of Arts in Arts Administration from the University of New Orleans. She was also a member of the National Arts Strategies Chief Executive Program, a professional development experience designed to lead change in the participants' organizations, communities, and the cultural field.

She comes to the position with a proven track record in the arts world. Jenn has over 10 years of executive leadership experience in arts marketing and program development in

the Atlanta area, most recently serving as Executive Director of Kenny Leon's True Colors Theater Company there.

Jenn emphasized, "My hope is for organizations to think of this office as a resource, and to turn to us for strategic collaboration, event support, and guidance. In addition to the attributes for which our island is already beloved, we want

Hilton Head Island to be known as a place where arts live."



Her accomplishments in one short year have already been many including a cultural trail map, a branding video, a new website representing the Island's diverse arts offerings, and numerous arts partnerships.

Patti Maurer, President of the Arts and Cultural Council of Hilton Head, stated, "We've already seen an abundance of support come from the Office of Cultural Affairs. In fact, they graciously donated the logo for our Crescendo celebration of arts, culture and history held this fall." (For more info on Crescendo, see page 39.)

Under Jenn's leadership, the Town has created a website where all of the arts organizations have a centralized presence, spotlighting their missions and upcoming events. Frequent www.culturehhi.org to see what's happening and to learn about groups you may not have yet discovered!



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