



City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

NEWS RELEASE

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NICKELS APPOINTS JAMES KEBLAS DIRECTOR OF FILM & MUSIC OFFICE

SEATTLE—Mayor Greg Nickels announced today the appointment of former Vera Project Executive Director James Kebblas as Director of the Mayor’s Film & Music Office.

“James has proven abilities as a successful community leader with a passion for music and film that will be a tremendous asset to my Office of Film & Music and the industries it serves,” said Nickels. “His experience and connections bring a fresh perspective to further build upon Seattle’s robust film and music industries.”

“I am honored to lead this office and further develop Seattle’s untapped creative capital in the film and music industries,” said Kebblas. “I look forward to building more professional opportunities for and between these two vibrant industries that contribute so much culturally and economically to Seattle.”

Kebblas co-founded the Vera Project, a nationally recognized nonprofit, music arts center run by and for youth, and has served as its executive director since 2000. The Vera Project is regarded as one of the nation’s most innovative youth music programs by taking the appeal of popular music and using it as a tool for personal growth, learning opportunities and community impact.

“Building upon the hard work of the Mayor, Office of Economic Development Director Jill Nishi and former Film & Music Office Director Donna James, along with the tremendous work of the Advisory Boards, I believe our growth goals for the film and music industries are reachable,” said Kebblas.

Kebblas’s professional background also includes serving as assistant manager of the Seattle Arts Commission’s Portable Works Collection for several years, as well as working at The Velvet Elvis Arts Lounge and Nastymix Records. Kebblas currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Seattle Arts Commission and Seattle Arts Coalition.

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Keblas has a Bachelor of Arts in Community and Environmental Planning and a Minor in Urban Design from the University of Washington, and spent time studying at the Rijks Universiteit in Groningen, Netherlands.

Keblas will start as the Director of the Mayor's Office of Film & Music on March 14, 2005. Keblas replaces former Director Donna James, who will retire this month.

The Mayor's Film and Music Office works to maintain Seattle's reputation as a professional, efficient and hospitable location in which to film and to create, produce and listen to music. The Office oversees all permitting requirements for filming within the city of Seattle.

Under the leadership of former Director Donna James, the City has released economic impact studies showing the economic contributions of Seattle's local film and music industries to the city, reduced city film permit fees and doubled the number of film permits issued last year in Seattle, and is developing a marketing campaign to promote the local music industry on a national level.

For more information about the Mayor's support of the film and music industries, visit the Mayor's website at www.seattle.gov/mayor, the Mayor's Office of Film & Music at www.seattle.gov/filmandmusic, and the Office of Economic Development at www.seattle.gov/economicdevelopment.

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