



empowering youth through multimedia

**MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED YOUTH MEDIA ARTS STUDIO ANNOUNCES NEW LEADERSHIP

Spy Hop Production's long-time Executive Director and co-founder, Rick Wray, stepping down later this year.

SALT LAKE CITY, UT (May 22, 2010) — Spy Hop's Board of Trustees is excited and proud to announce the selection of the organization's new Executive Director, **Kasandra VerBruggen**. The search committee, made up of Trustee and Advisory Board members, conducted a national search during the spring and confirmed their selection with a unanimous vote at the Board of Trustee meeting on May 11th. In accepting the position VerBruggen stated, "I am honored by the offer and position. Spy Hop is a dynamic and inspiring organization affecting powerful change in the lives of thousands of youth in our community. I look forward to building upon the strong foundation that Rick, our board, and our talented staff have laid over the past decade." VerBruggen currently serves as Spy Hop's Managing Director, and was previously the Executive Director of Seattle's Austin Foundation. VerBruggen will be taking over the Executive Director position after the conclusion of the current programming year on September 1, 2010.

Rick Wray, Spy Hop's co-founder and Executive Director of eleven years, will continue to be involved in a part-time capacity as the organization's Founding Director. Wray responded to the committee's decision by saying, "I think they made the perfect choice. I'm one hundred percent behind Kasandra as my successor. Kasandra had deep leadership experience before coming to Utah and Spy Hop, and she has spent the last two years running the day-to-day operations of the organization. I'm confident that Spy Hop will continue to flourish under her direction." According to Board Chair Lewis Francis, "Kasandra was the obvious choice, given her demonstrated expertise and dedication to the organization, which fact was only confirmed through the recruitment process and her comparison to other candidates for the position. Spy Hop looks forward to a seamless transition and to its continued success under Kasandra's direction."

About Spy Hop Productions

Spy Hop Productions is a not-for-profit youth media arts and education center whose purpose is to empower youth to express their voice and with it create positive change in their lives, their community, and the world. Our mission is to encourage free expression, self-discovery, critical and inventive thinking, and skilled participation via the big screen, the airwaves, and the web.

The White House recently recognized Spy Hop Productions as one of the top arts and humanities-based organizations in the country. Spy Hop has been given the distinguished honor of being a semifinalist for the Coming Up Taller Award given by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

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