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Media Contact

Pamela Diamond
Director of Marketing
(612) 206-3121
pdiamond@craftcouncil.org

AMERICAN CRAFT COUNCIL WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Minneapolis, MN – September 4, 2018 – ACC is pleased to announce that Gena Johnson will be its new director of development starting in mid-September. She will lead fundraising and membership efforts for the Council.

“I am thrilled to be joining the American Craft Council; it’s a truly special opportunity for me to join my professional background with my personal passion for craft in all its forms,” Johnson says. “As a native Minnesotan, I can’t wait to return home to help the Council connect with donors and grow its already fabulous array of programs.”

Most recently, Johnson served as director of external affairs at Baker Demonstration School, an arts-based private school on the north shore in Chicago. Previously she was also the director of advancement and alumni relations for the school.

“Gena’s comprehensive fundraising experience and interest in craft is a perfect match for ACC as we build support for new initiatives and embark on an exciting new era of engagement,” says Sarah Schultz, ACC’s executive director.

Throughout her extensive career in fundraising, Johnson has been the associate director of individual giving for the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago Foundation, the director of major gifts at the Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo, director of individual giving at the Adler Planetarium, and the manager of individual giving at the Chicago History Museum. Johnson earned her BA at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in 2002.

Outside of work, Johnson is a mom to two kids, ages 12 and 9, with her librarian husband. She enjoys volunteering, reading, vegetarian cooking, and teaching private piano lessons. She also crochets dolls, which are available through her Etsy shop ([etsy.com/shop/purplecouchcrafts](https://www.etsy.com/shop/purplecouchcrafts)).

ABOUT ACC

No one understands the world of artful living better than the American Craft Council. The national, nonprofit educational organization has been shaping the artisanal craft movement for decades, serving as a craft chronicler, tastemaker, convener, and provocateur through its magazine *American Craft*, annual juried shows presenting artists and their work, thought leadership conferences, awards for excellence, and research library. Learn more at craftcouncil.org.

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