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Main Street School of Performing Arts Announces New Executive Director

July 20, 2010: Hopkins, MN — Main Street School of Performing Arts (MSSPA) is pleased to announce the selection of Barbara Wornson as its new Executive Director. Wornson recently served as Executive Director of Sobriety High Charter School's four campuses in Maplewood, Coon Rapids, Burnsville and Edina. Wornson is currently completing her dissertation for the Doctor of Education degree this summer in Critical Pedagogy and Educational Administration. She holds a Master's of Science in Learning Disabilities from the University of Iowa, and a Teaching Certificate in Special Education from University of Northern Iowa. She brings extensive leadership experience in school settings large and small.

In addition to her work with Sobriety High, Wornson has worked with the Zumbro Education District Area Learning Center, and as a teacher and director with the Northfield Alternative Learning Center. These experiences, combined with other previous positions and advanced academic study, give Wornson valuable perspective and sensitivity to teens and their unique challenges.

"I am delighted to be joining the MSSPA family," said Wornson. "What an incredible opportunity. The school provides a fantastic option for Twin Cities students who want to pursue their passion for the arts, while benefiting from a rigorous academic curriculum. I've watched and admired the progress of MSSPA, and look forward to contributing to its growth and success in the years ahead."

In addition to her extensive academic background, Wornson brings a keen interest in the arts, sparked in her own high school days in Iowa. She is a cello and French horn player and a past president of the Cannon Valley Regional Orchestra, a community orchestra based at St. Olaf. Wornson also has studied Art and Architecture at University of Kansas and the University of Minnesota. She is an avid arts enthusiast and loves attending dance and theater performances.

Wornson has been an active member of both her school and larger community at hand. She has exemplified leadership and had an impact in every community in which she has served. Teaching, and helping to coordinate groups such as Project SIGHT, Dads Make a Difference, and North Chicago's Project Headstart, she has also participated on several boards and panels for Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs and Community Arts Project.



Established in 2003, Main Street School is a tuition-free, four-year charter high school conveniently located in the heart of downtown Hopkins. A place of inspiration and imagination, Main Street School offers students an arts-centered education, wrapped in a challenging academic curriculum.

MSSPA VISION: Through the creation and performance of theatre, music, and dance, learners will establish their unique personal signature. Rigorous academics and collaboration with professional artists will prepare learners for higher education and lifelong engagement in the arts.

For more information about the Main Street School of Performing Arts please visit
www.msspahs.org or call 952-224-1340