



News Release

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Contact: Janet Bailey 617.971.9383
or press@bostoncyberarts.org

Boston Cyberarts and Axiom Center Announce Plans to Merge

Boston, MA – Boston Cyberarts, Inc., and the Axiom Center for New and Experimental Media have announced plans to merge. The two nonprofit organizations, both of which serve artists and others who are involved in the creation and exhibition of multimedia and digital art, will combine their operations into a single entity, pending approval of their two Boards, which is expected in January.

Boston Cyberarts, founded in 1997, has been the driving force behind the biennial Boston Cyberarts Festivals, which have brought national and international attention to the Boston area as a center of innovation in art and technology. The Festivals have featured artists working with new technologies in all art forms, including visual and performing arts, film, video, electronic literature, public art, and web art, and have involved dozens of museums, galleries, performing spaces, educational institutions, and public spaces throughout the Boston area.

The **Axiom Center for New and Experimental Media** was originally founded as an artist collaborative in 2004. Axiom mounts regular exhibitions of both emerging and established artists in its gallery space located at 141 Green Street in Jamaica Plain. In addition to its highly-regarded series of exhibitions, in recent years Axiom has expanded its programming to include performances, lectures, workshops, and other events.

George Fifield, Founder and Director of Boston Cyberarts, said, "We are thrilled to be joining with Axiom, and working together to build the future of new media in the region. Axiom's year-round programming provides a perfect complement to Boston Cyberarts' activities, giving us visibility as an institution and opportunities to work with artists on a regular basis, in addition to what we do as part of the biennial Festivals." He added, "We see this as a tremendous opportunity for future growth for both organizations."

Heidi Kayser, Founder and Director of Axiom, echoed Fifield's comments. "The merger gives Axiom access to the resources of a larger and more established entity, and one that shares Axiom's mission and commitment to new media and digital art. We're confident that the merger will act to strengthen both our organizations." In anticipation of the merger, Kayser has been appointed Assistant Director of Boston Cyberarts, Inc.

In addition to Axiom's programming and the biennial Festival, the two organizations have already begun collaborating on the launch of Art Technology New England (ATNE), a new service organization founded to bring together artists, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and companies involved in the art and technology sector. Boston Cyberarts also runs an artist proposal matching service and an online art gallery, and produces a free monthly newsletter for the cyberarts community.

The merger was announced last night at "Spark: A Gala Celebration," a fundraising event that took place at Massachusetts College of Art and Design's Pozen Center to mark the official launch of ATNE. The merger will become official following approval of both organizations' Boards of Directors, which is expected in January.

Information and background on the two organizations can be found at www.bostoncyberarts.org and www.axiomart.org.

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