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Artrain USA Names Janet Torno as COO/Program Director

February 12, 2007, Ann Arbor, MI – Artrain USA’s president/CEO Debra Polich is pleased to announce that Janet E. Torno of Ann Arbor, MI has been named Chief Operating Officer and Program Director. “We are pleased to have Ms. Torno on staff,” states Polich remarked, “Ms. Torno’s vast experience in the fields of art education, museums and non-profit administration make will certainly benefit Artrain USA. We look forward to her involvement as we build upon Artrain’s reputation for program excellence and shape Artrain’s future.”

Torno’s duties at Artrain USA will include oversight of the mobile museum’s exhibition and educational programs including the annual tour, onboard and gift shop operations. Torno remarked “I am very excited to join this prestigious national award winning organization and very much look forward to working together with the president, the staff and the board on future exhibitions and programming.”

A native of New Jersey who attended Montclair University in Upper Montclair, New Jersey, Torno graduated from the University of Michigan with a BS in Mathematics. After post-graduate work in art history, she began her career as assistant director of the University of Michigan Museum of Art as Assistant Director. During her tenure at the museum, she was the curator for the exhibition entitled *From Mother Earth: Pueblo Pottery Along the Rio Grand* and guided many income-producing arms of the museum such as the gallery shop, and the Asian Conservation Laboratory as well as working in the field of development, education and partnerships with other units of the university.

From 1996 – 2003 Torno was the executive director of the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center (BBAC). Torno lead the BBAC during a period of intense expansion, doubling the size of the facility to 25,000 square feet and greatly expanding the organizations’ educational and multicultural programs in the community and in the region. Working in partnership with museums such as the Detroit Institute of Arts, Cranbrook Museum of Art and local galleries including the Hill Gallery, the Robert Kidd Gallery and the Suzanne Hilberry Gallery, Torno invited artists

such as Larry Rivers, Howardena Pindell, Donald Sultan, Nancy Mitchnick, John Walker and Nick Cave to lecture, perform or jury exhibits at the BBAC.

Torno then went on to serve as the director of continuing education at the Corcoran College of Art + Design in Washington, DC, where she was responsible for the Associate of Fine Art (AFA) degree and Certificate programs as well as the electives for the Bachelor of Fine Art (BFA) students and study abroad programs. Additionally, she initiated after-school youth art courses in DC private schools. Prior to coming “onboard” Artrain USA, Torno was the vice president for programming at the Ann Arbor Art Center where she expanded course offerings and created diverse partnerships with University of Michigan School of Art & Design and Matthaei Botanical Gardens, the Glass Academy in Dearborn, Washtenaw Community College, and the College for Creative Studies, the Neutral Zone and the Ann Arbor Public Library.

Artrain USA is *America’s Hometown Art Museum*. A nonprofit organization, Artrain USA’s mission is to *enrich lives and build communities through the arts*. A mobile art museum housed in vintage rail cars, Artrain USA travels coast to coast via the nation’s railroads. It brings world class art exhibitions and art education programs to communities and their residents and delivers exceptional opportunities for learning, growth and art appreciation while encouraging the development of local cultural programs and organizations. Artrain USA received the 2006 *National Service Award for Museums* by the Institute of Museum and Library Service and its 2004 – 2007 contemporary Native American art exhibition *Native Views: Influences of Modern Culture* was named an *American Masterpiece* by the National Endowment of the Arts that same year. Founded in 1971, Artrain USA’s national headquarters are in Ann Arbor, MI. More than 3.2 million people have visited Artrain USA during more than 800 community visits across the nation.

For more information call 734-747-8300 or visit www.ArtrainUSA.org

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