



**For Immediate Release**

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**Garden Party Celebrates Accomplishments of Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County's Founding Executive Director**

NORWALK, CT (June 13, 2014) - On Sunday, June 8th, members of the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County's *Presidents Circle* gathered for a Spring Garden Party at the home of Carol and Peter Seldin in New Canaan. The event was held in honor of departing Founding Executive Director, Ryan



*Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County Board President, Liz Morten, and actor James Naughton, honor out-going Executive Director Ryan Odinak for her work building the organization.*

Odinak. Guests were given time to take a leisurely tour of Carol Seldin's impressive gardens before a farewell presentation was made by the President of the Cultural Alliance, Liz Morten, and actor and longtime friend of the organization, James Naughton.

Odinak was hired to the position of executive director of the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County in 2008 just as the organization launched. Previously she had served for three years as a key leader on a regional steering committee that studied the arts and cultural landscape of Fairfield County and identified the need for a coordinating agency. Prior to coming to the Cultural Alliance, Odinak was the executive director of the Fairfield Arts Council. In that

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position she worked on behalf of the town of Fairfield, and also worked to provide a voice for arts and culture in the region.

Over the past six years Odinak has worked to establish the Cultural Alliance as a viable service nonprofit for the county bringing a new collaborative and cooperative spirit to the people that work within the sector. Over 250 organizations, artists, creative businesses and municipalities have joined the organization to date. During this time, Odinak lead the development of FCBuzz.org a member driven events calendar, and established programs such as the Executive Directors Network, the Marketing Roundtable and the Make.Art.Work. program for visual artists, among others. Under her leadership the Cultural Alliance has hosted scores of workshops and important informational meetings to help build the capacity of their members. As a skilled leader she has brought vision and action to many community projects.

Odinak has also forged deep ties across the state with arts and culture advocates and key state leaders, establishing the Cultural Alliance as a key voice in important dialogues about the health of the arts and culture sector. She is Board Secretary of the CT Arts Alliance and has worked to assure that Fairfield County is represented and has a role in important advocacy initiatives. Odinak has a strong sense of community and a passion for helping all those that make art and dedicate themselves to the supporting roles in the art world.

Odinak is herself an artist. So it is no surprise that at this juncture she has chosen to rebalance her life so that she may find more time to pursue her own creative endeavors. She will continue to serve as an arts advocate and find new ways to work with organizations one-on-one on a part-time basis.

The Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County provides promotional support, professional development opportunities, and advocacy for nonprofit arts and cultural organizations, creative businesses, and individual artists. The organization strives to maintain and strengthen the health and vitality of the arts and culture sector throughout Fairfield County.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Bangser, Marketing Manager at the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County at [Jennifer@culturalalliancefc.org](mailto:Jennifer@culturalalliancefc.org), (203) 256-2329. Or visit the website at [CulturalAllianceFC.org](http://CulturalAllianceFC.org).

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