

Adam Santalla Pierce Named President of Arts & Science Council

CHARLOTTE, NC – The Arts & Science Council (ASC) Board of Directors recently appointed Adam Santalla Pierce as president of ASC. Santalla Pierce, a seasoned nonprofit executive and cultural strategist, most recently served as interim president, following his role as vice president of community & artist support. He has been with ASC since 2017.

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“Adam has demonstrated exceptional leadership and a deep commitment to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg creative community,” said Foundation For The Carolinas President Laura Yates Clark. “His expertise in arts philanthropy, community engagement and equitable investment in local arts organizations has made a lasting impact on ASC’s mission. Under his leadership, ASC is poised to continue its transformative work in fostering a vibrant creative sector and supporting our cultural institutions.

“I want to thank the City and County leaders for their support of ASC and our local arts and cultural community, along with the volunteer leaders who have served on ASC’s board during this time of transition.”

With over a decade of experience in the performing arts and arts philanthropy, Santalla Pierce has championed capacity building, equitable investment and the development of accessible arts experiences. As vice president of community & artist support, he led ASC’s grantmaking operations, board and staff management, community engagement, and strategic planning. His leadership helped secure \$1.4 million from foundations and government entities to support ASC’s grantmaking, in addition to spearheading an unprecedented \$3.2 million investment framework in the local creative class.

"I am honored to continue leading ASC during this exciting time for the arts," said Santalla Pierce. "I look forward to collaborating with our partners, artists and organizations to cultivate thriving and inclusive arts access throughout our community."

In addition to his administration leadership, Santalla Pierce has been a bridge between the arts community and key stakeholders, successfully advocating for increased funding in arts education and nonprofit development. His fundraising expertise has strengthened ASC’s ability to sustain and expand diverse cultural programs, ensuring long-term impact.

Santalla Pierce was appointed interim president when ASC became a supporting organization of FFTC. Formalized in September 2024, this partnership has already fueled significant investments in the creative community, helping create a sustainable and inclusive funding model for local arts and culture.

Since then, ASC has awarded its largest-ever class of Artist Support Grants – 97 grants totaling \$279,000. Funded by Mecklenburg County, the North Carolina Arts Council and private contributions, these grants help emerging and established artists develop their craft, expand their businesses and reach new audiences.

Through its Culture Blocks program, ASC has invested \$911,000 in community-based arts, science and history programming, including \$350,000 for 29 artist-led projects that

will bring vibrant cultural experiences to Mecklenburg County libraries, recreation centers and community spaces.

ASC continues to shape the region's public spaces with new and upcoming public art projects. Recent installations include *Where Earth Meets Sky* at CLT's Concourse A and *Pillars of Honor* at CMPD's Independence Division Station, with additional projects nearing completion at the airport and in local neighborhoods. New opportunities for artists are also underway, including commissions for Eastland Park and Latta Place.

Santalla Pierce has served as a grant panelist for local arts agencies across the region and for The Plus Collective, Charlotte's LGBTQIA+ collective giving program. Originally from the DC metro-area, he is a graduate of the University of Virginia. Before joining ASC, he worked with performing arts organizations in Washington, D.C., Virginia, and North Carolina. He is a board member of ArtsNC and the Greater Charlotte Cultural Trust.

For more information about ASC: ArtsAndScience.org; for more information about Foundation For The Carolinas: FFTC.org.

About Foundation For The Carolinas

Founded in 1958, Foundation For The Carolinas is a nonprofit community foundation that serves a 13-county region across the Carolinas. FFTC helps people, nonprofits and companies amplify the impact of their charitable endeavors through service to fundholders and community convening to address critical issues. Our mission is to inspire philanthropy and empower individuals to create a better community. Visit fftc.org or philanthropyFOCUS.org.

About ASC

The Arts & Science Council (ASC) is Charlotte-Mecklenburg's Local Arts Agency and a cultural catalyst driving economic growth, community retention, and upward mobility through arts, science, and culture. As a supporting organization of Foundation For The Carolinas, ASC strengthens and sustains the region's creative ecosystem by investing in creatives, cultural organizations, and community programming.

Through individual donors, community partnerships, and resources from local and state and government, ASC ensures that arts, culture, and creativity are accessible, fostering a sense of belonging and positioning Charlotte as a premier cultural destination. ASC's core initiatives include grantmaking, public art stewardship, cultural education, fundraising, and capacity-building programs that support a vibrant creative sector.

Stay up to date on ASC news and happenings at ArtsAndScience.org and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ArtsAndScience), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/ArtsAndScience).

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