

## Weeden named to UrbanArt post

### Memphian to assume UAC duties on May 5

By Fredric Koepfel

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Memphian John Weeden has been named executive director of the UrbanArt Commission. He assumes the post on May 5.

The director of the UAC oversees \$500,000 to \$900,000 annually in public money that finances artistic enhancements to public buildings and spaces ranging from large-scale architectural projects, such as the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts and the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, to police precinct stations, community centers and trolley stops to memorials, parks and walkways.

Weeden, 33, is the UAC's second executive director. He takes over from Carissa Hussong, who led the organization for 10 years from its inception until she resigned last September to become executive director of the National Ornamental Metal Museum.

Weeden graduated from White Station High School and Rhodes College. He has a master of arts degree in contemporary art history from the Sotheby's Institute in London and will receive a second M.A. from the Bard College Center for Curatorial Studies in May.

UAC's new director has a long history of arts involvement in Memphis. As an independent curator, he has organized exhibitions of contemporary art for Delta Axis and Memphis Brooks Museum of Art. He was the founder and first director of Lantana Projects, a nonprofit group that brings international artists to Memphis for short residencies and exhibitions.

In his current position as assistant director of the Center for Outreach in the Development of the Arts at Rhodes College, Weeden supervises visiting artist programs and community arts outreach projects, as well as leading a CODA Fellows program for scholarship students in the areas of arts advocacy and project planning.

Weeden maintains a personal blog about the arts and cultural issues in Memphis: [weeden.artswatch.blogspot.com](http://weeden.artswatch.blogspot.com).

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