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NW NEWS

IN BRIEF BY RYAN J. PRADO

Clawson Accepts Position with Governor's Office.

Leaving Q Center

Oregon Governor-elect John Kitzhaber announced Thursday, January 6 his staff appointments for the Governor's Office heading into his inauguration January 10. Among the appointees was Kendall Clawson, who since June 2007 has been Q Center's first permanent executive director.

Clawson has been appointed as the governor's Director of Executive Appointments, a position in which her responsibilities will be to work with the governor to identify candidates for governor-appointed boards and commissions across the state. Clawson told *Just Out* she is excited for her new role in helping Kitzhaber steer Oregon into needed change, even as the emotions of leaving Q Center persist.

"For me, this is one of those 'life' moments," explained Clawson. "It went well beyond 'Oh cool, new job! Maybe I'll do something different.' Q Center is like birthing a child for me. I've got this great little toddler now who's cute and can talk in complete sentences and is engaging and growing and surrounded by people who love it. That is the part that allows me to start thinking about what I want to do on a professional level for my next act."

Clawson holds a degree in politics from the University of California Santa Cruz and said that knowing she has an opportunity to work with Gov. Kitzhaber and to take what she's learned from Portland's LGBTQ community and put it into practice in a larger arena is exciting.

"It's not like this governor hasn't done this job before, and that's what makes this really great. He's kind of the new old guy," explained Clawson. "From a leadership and a mentoring perspective, for me that's really exciting. I feel really confident in his desire and his ability to make a really great change in this state. To have a role in helping him do that is thrilling."

Per a press release sent by Q Center, the board of directors will conduct a national search to identify, recruit and hire Clawson's replacement, and has created a volunteer search committee made up of current and former board members.

"It's been a real honor and a real pleasure to serve the LGBT community here," said Clawson, who added she might be pulling double duty between Q Center and the Governor's Office through the end of the month. "I am incredibly struck by how giving and willing and embracing this community has been to me. I'm not going anywhere, and I definitely want to make sure people know that I still intend to be involved and really pushing our needs and our agenda. I just want to say 'thank you' to everyone for the love and support they've given me for the last almost four years."

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-KENDALL CLAWSON,
Q CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RACC Grants Awarded to Several LGBTQ Artists

The Regional Arts & Culture Council announced December 20 that a record sum of \$535,806 had been awarded to artists, non-profit organizations and schools in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties for projects taking place in 2011. Of these 121 grants, several were awarded to prominent members of the LGBTQ arts and non-profit community.

Musician Holcombe Waller was among the recipients and received a grant for his upcoming multidisciplinary music performance, *Surfacing*, though that title may change. Waller expressed gratitude for the support that the RACC gives to Portland metro's flourishing arts scene.

"The program is so well run and so supportive, it is, in itself, one of the reasons at the top of my list why Portland is a supportive home base for the arts," said Waller.

In the nonprofit sector, The Circus Project received a grant to help fund its Training Company Community Showcase in 2011, scheduled to take place October 1 at the Friendly House Community Center.

"RACC is an incredible resource for artists in Portland," echoed Jenn Cohen, artistic and executive director at TCP. "Their funding opportunities are clearly catered to the needs of both the artist and the community, and their staff is both generous and helpful."

RACC's investment total this year marked a 30 percent increase from the previous year's project grant total of \$412,895, and the council received 295 applications in all—up 12 percent over the last year. The grants were ap-