

This Just In

by Metro Spirit Writers

by Stacey Eidson, January 13th 11:23am

AUGUSTA, GA – The Augusta Ballet has a new director.

Jennifer Franks with Art Peritus in New York City, has been hired by The Augusta Ballet to take over for the recently retired managing director Patti Ann Smith.

“When researching the local art scene, the Augusta Ballet stands out like a shining star,” Franks stated in an Augusta Ballet press release. “Reborn during a time when other ballet companies were closing doors, the Ballet was (and is) determined to bloom where planted, a philosophy I share.

“As an art professional, traveler, and lover of dance, I have yet to encounter a healthy city without a celebrated ballet. Presenting internationally recognized dance is an irreplaceable and inspirational asset to the Augusta community, and I am excited and honored to be a part of it.”

Franks first came to Augusta after her husband joined the staff at MCG. She holds a Master of Arts degree from Parsons via Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum and The Smithsonian Institution in New York City.

Susan Everitt, president of the ballet's Board of Trustees, stated she was thrilled with the experience Franks brings to the table.

“We are extremely pleased to have someone with Jennifer’s background and breadth of experience join the Augusta Ballet,” she stated in the press release. “Her extensive arts background and passion for dance make her a natural fit for this position, and the Board is excited to have her leadership.”

After serving on the Augusta Ballet for 16 years, Smith retired as managing director of the Augusta Ballet late last year to devote more time to her family.