

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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NEW MEXICO FOUNDATION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RETIRE

Albuquerque, N.M. -- The Board of Directors of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government announces this week the retirement of Executive Director Melanie Majors effective December 31, 2021. A search is now underway for a new executive director for the organization.

Majors took reins as the permanent director in 2018. She was previously a member of the board of directors. Majors has more than 35 years of communications experience including stints in newspapers, magazines, television and public relations. She started her career as a reporter for the Grants Daily Beacon and went on to work at KOB-TV 4 News. Majors was the Public Relations manager at Rick Johnson and Company and later vice president at Cordova Public Relations. She owns the public relations firm, The Majors Company. She is an adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico, teaching broadcast and print journalism as well as public relations.

“Melanie has provided years of outstanding service to FOG, first as a board member and as our executive director,” Susan Boe, president, said. “On behalf of the entire board of directors, I want to publicly thank Melanie for her dedication to our organization and to open government. We wish Melanie well.”

Majors is the recipient of numerous awards from the New Mexico Press Association, New Mexico Press Women, the Associated Press Managing Editors and the New Mexico Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America, which honored her with the Vista Award in 2008.

During her career, Majors was president of New Mexico Press Women and the N.M. Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America as well as holding several other offices in both organizations. She has written for local, regional and technical publications as diverse as New Mexico Magazine to Water Quality International.

Founded in 1989, FOG is a non-profit organization with a singular mission to educate and advocate on behalf of transparency in government. Through seminars and its information Hotline, FOG helps the general public, students, educators, public officials, media and legal professionals understand, obtain and exercise their rights and responsibilities under New Mexico’s “sunshine laws.” Those laws include the Inspection of Public Records Act, the Open Meetings Act and the Arrest Record Information Act. The nonpartisan organization also strives to educate the public about the importance of the First Amendment and advocates for open government. As a last resort, it will also litigate on behalf of transparency.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Inspection of Public Records Act or the Open Meetings Act, you can contact the Hotline at 505-764-3750.