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Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (1979-1992): News Article 28

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Iona Dobbins to fill Diane Disney's role on state arts council

By CHANNING GRAY
Journal-Bulletin Staff Writer

PROVIDENCE — Iona Dobbins, a city woman who has worked for several local arts organizations, was named acting director of the state Council on the Arts yesterday, filling the vacancy left Tuesday by the resignation of Diane Disney.

Council Chairman Daniel Lecht made the announcement at the agency's monthly meeting yesterday, and said he hoped to have a permanent director by May.

Other than that, members of the 12-member board said little or nothing about the events of this week.

MISS DISNEY, who is active in a number of civic organizations in the state, said in her letter of resignation that she and Lecht had differing views on how the agency should be run. When asked yesterday to comment on the differences, she said "I prefer not to air them in public."

Two council members said earlier this week that Lecht had told them he was going to ask Miss Disney to resign. Another member, Anne Utter, said Miss Disney told her Monday that Lecht had asked her to resign or face the possibility of being fired.

THE COUNCIL met privately Wednesday to iron out internal problems, and Lecht said the session was very positive. But one member said, "If he (Lecht) thinks he got a vote of confidence, he's wrong."

Mrs. Dobbins, acting director, is local coordinator of the New England Foundation for Arts, which runs a touring arts program. She has also worked for Trinity Square Repertory Company and the Puppet Workshop.

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