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**Arts Council Napa Valley Interim Executive Director
Chosen for Leadership Program**

NAPA, CALIFORNIA – Michelle Williams, the Interim Executive Director of Arts Council Napa Valley and a Project Manager with NewLevel Group, LLC, has been selected by On The Verge, a program of On The Move, a Bay Area nonprofit organization, to participate in an intensive year-long leadership development program.

Diana Gordon, a founder of On The Verge, said that Williams had been highly recommended for the program by several community members in Napa. “We look for candidates who have a strong drive to develop themselves, are open to learning, and want to make a difference in their community,” said Gordon. “Michelle clearly met all of our criteria and has the enthusiasm and energy to become an exceptional leader.”

Every six months, On The Verge chooses a geographic area to serve through the recruitment and training of 15 to 18 emerging leaders between the ages of 24 and 34. Prior to selecting Napa County, On The Verge conducted training in Oakland, Alameda, San Francisco, and Davis. Since the program’s inception in 2003, fifty emerging leaders have been a part of the On The Verge training.

“There is a high degree of burn-out for executive directors in the nonprofit world,” explained Gordon. “Not only does this program develop their leadership abilities, they also end up with a network of colleagues to whom they can turn to help sustain their efforts over the long-haul.”

Williams, who has been working with NewLevel Group, LLC since July of 2004, has been instrumental in revitalizing the Arts Council in the past year. An accomplished actor, singer, writer and wine educator, Williams was previously the Wine Studies Coordinator at the Rudd Center for Professional Wine Studies for the Culinary Institute of America.

The Arts Council was established in 1980 as a nonprofit membership organization. Their major programs include Arts in Education for students in kindergarten through high school, PAWS (Professional Artist Workshop Series), Cultural Planning, and the Napa Valley Open Studios Tour.

NewLevel Group, LLC provides a wide range of consulting and management services for wineries, businesses and nonprofits. For further information, contact Lisa Toller at NewLevel Group, LLC at (707) 255-5555 x 103 or visit their website at www.newlevelgroup.com.