

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 31, 2009

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The Redford Center appoints Lee Bycel as its first Executive Director

Berkeley, CA - The Redford Center announced today that after an extensive national search it has appointed Lee Bycel as the Center's new Executive Director. In this role, Mr. Bycel will partner with Robert Redford, the Redford Family and the Center's Trustees to build upon the Sundance legacy and develop the Center as a renowned forum for diverse leaders and artists to collaborate in cultivating creative, action-based solutions to some of today's most compelling civic, environmental and social challenges.

The Redford Center will be based in the San Francisco Bay Area and will offer a wide range of local events as well as several programs hosted at the Sundance Preserve in Utah. The newest member of the Sundance family, the Center is committed to unleashing the transformative power of the arts to inspire positive social change. The Center is devoted to a distinct brand of problem solving—rooted in the belief that creativity and innovation are at the core of any significant social, political or cultural change.

“In Lee we have found a dynamic leader whose entire career has been devoted to community building and shaping programs that empower people to make social change,” said Sundance founder Robert Redford. “I am particularly excited about the impact of his international experience and the global perspective as the Center navigates the 21st Century,” added Redford. “Lee’s life work has shown he is not adverse to risk or looking at new ways of doing things and that will serve us incredibly well.”

“Art can and should be more than an entertainment commodity,” said Redford Center Chairman, James Redford. “It can deepen our understanding of humanity and inspire us to see the world anew. Lee is the right person for this position. His passion for justice combined with his exceptional leadership skills will guide the Redford Center in fostering innovative approaches and solutions to the myriad challenges that face our communities today. I am excited to have him as a partner in this endeavor.”

“I am deeply honored to have been chosen to shepherd the Redford Center as it blossoms into an international asset for leaders, artists, and ideas alike,” Bycel said. “I am eager to continue the work begun by Mr. Redford, James Redford and the entire Sundance community as we advocate for a sustainable and equitable society.”

Bycel most recently served as the Executive Director, Western Region for the American Jewish World Services, where he has dedicated his work to alleviating poverty, conflict, and disease in the developing world and to advancing relationships between people of all cultures. During the past several years he has made several humanitarian trips to Darfur and Chad and has served as a leading voice for the plight of the Darfuri people.

Previously he worked as a Senior Advisor of Global Strategy for the International Medical Corps. He is also a Senior Moderator of Leadership Seminars at the Aspen Institute, served as President of The Brandeis-Bardin Institute and Dean of the Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles.

Mr. Bycel holds a Doctorate of Applied Theology from the Claremont School of Theology. He is also an ordained Rabbi and a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley.