

Chicago Public Media®

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For Immediate Release

CHICAGO PUBLIC MEDIA ADDS MONICA ENG, BECKY VEVEA TO CITY ROOM STAFF AS MIDDAY PRODUCERS

August 2, 2013 – **Chicago Public Media** announces the hiring of two award-winning Chicago journalists – **Monica Eng** and **Becky Vevea** - as producers for WBEZ 91.5FM Midday programming, encompassing the station's three locally generated, signature programs: *The Morning Shift with Tony Sarabia* (9-10am CT), *Worldview* (noon) and *The Afternoon Shift* (2-4pm).

"We are looking forward to the journalistic insights that Monica and Becky will provide to our audience. Monica brings a world of experience to WBEZ. Her 20 year career in journalism for both the *Chicago Sun-Times* and the *Chicago Tribune* will come in handy for listeners in need of a better understanding of the region we live in," said Sally Eisele, Managing Director of WBEZ. "And Becky has contributed a notable body of work at WBEZ specifically around the topic of education that has enabled us to invest more deeply on this important beat. Her expertise on that beat as well as her wide range of journalistic interests in other areas will be invaluable in her new role with Middays. In addition, both Monica and Becky have a versatility of skills that will benefit our on air and online initiatives."

Monica Eng joins the WBEZ staff with more than two decades of daily newspaper experience under her belt. Eng is a Chicago native who started working in journalism as a copy clerk for the *Chicago Sun-Times* when she was still a high school sophomore. In the intervening years she has worked as an editor and writer at the *Daily Southtown*, *Chicago Sun-Times* and most recently the *Chicago Tribune* where she spent the last 17 years as a culture, food and watchdog investigative reporter. She was awarded the Asian American Journalism Association's national award for coverage of Asian American issues in 2006 and has also been nominated for five James Beard Awards for her food writing on topics that range from school food policy to how to properly eat ethnic dishes. She joins the City Room August 5.

Becky Vevea is likely a familiar name and voice to WBEZ listeners, having covered schools in Chicago and the suburbs for the station on a temporary basis since April of 2012. Most recently, she was a part of the reporting team that won a 1st place 2013 PRNDI (Public Radio News Directors Inc.) Award in "Breaking News" for coverage of the Chicago Teachers' Strike. Prior to joining WBEZ, Vevea was an education reporter for the *Chicago News Cooperative*, where she primarily focused on Chicago Public Schools. Before that, she worked at the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* as an education and general assignment reporter. Her work has also appeared in *The New York Times* and *USA Today*. She's contributed radio reports to *Marketplace*, NPR's *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*. Her first day as a full time staffer is August 13.

Chicago Public Media is an institution that creates award-winning content for people seeking to learn more about the issues and ideas that affect our community, our nation, and our world. Chicago

Public Media produces programs such as *This American Life*, *Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me!* (a co-production with NPR), *Sound Opinions*, *The Morning Shift*, *The Afternoon Shift*, *Worldview*, and *Radio M*. In addition to WBEZ 91.5 FM, Chicago Public Media also operates Vocalo 89.5 FM, a next generation service that seeks to expand the reach of public media. For more information, visit www.WBEZ.org.

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