McCARTER THEATRE CENTER WELCOMES FIVE NEW MEMBERS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Princeton, NJ – At its first meeting of the 2017/2018 season, McCarter Theatre Center welcomed five incoming board members to its Board of Trustees.

McCarter is pleased to add these leading community volunteers to the existing roster of trustees who are outstanding arts advocates, supporters and business professionals dedicated to the support of McCarter Theatre Center, Princeton’s Tony Award-winning theatre.
Joining the board are:

- Douglas Chia, Executive Director of The Conference Board Governance Center
- Debora Haines, Community Volunteer, and former General Counsel/Chief of Staff to the Managing Director for the City of Philadelphia.
- Rhonda Medina, Vice President at NBC Universal
- Wilma Nurse, Community Volunteer, and former senior executive at AT&T
- Douglas Palmer, President and CEO Douglas H. Palmer and Associates, LLC and former Mayor of Trenton

[A more detailed bio for each incoming Board member may be found below]

McCarter Theatre Center Board Chair, Leslie Kuenne said, “I am very proud to welcome this new class of Trustees to the McCarter Board. Their fresh perspectives, educational backgrounds and professional skills will further strengthen our board. Each and every one of these new Trustees is an enthusiastic supporter of McCarter and an advocate for the power of live performance to transform lives. Together, this incoming class and the current Board will work together to ensure that McCarter remains one of the top producing and presenting theaters in the nation.”

INCOMING BOARD MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

**Douglas Chia**

Douglas K. Chia is Executive Director of The Conference Board Governance Center. Doug previously served as Assistant General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Johnson & Johnson. Before joining Johnson & Johnson, he served as Assistant General Counsel, Corporate of Tyco International, and practiced law at the global firms Simpson Thacher & Bartlett and Clifford Chance, both in New York and Hong Kong. Doug has held a number of central leadership positions in the corporate governance field, including Chair of the Board of Directors of the Society of Corporate Secretaries and Governance Professionals, President of the Stockholder Relations Society of New York, and member of the New York Stock Exchange Corporate Governance Commission.

Doug is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society of Princeton and a graduate of Dartmouth College, where he was a member of the Dartmouth Wind Symphony, and the Georgetown University Law Center. Doug currently lives in Princeton with his wife and their four children.

**Debora Haines**

Debora Russo Haines served as General Counsel / Chief of Staff to the Managing Director for the City of Philadelphia. In that capacity, she was responsible for the interface with and oversight of more than 30 operating departments. As a chief litigator in the Philadelphia Law Department she has tried many high-profile cases during her career.
While in Philadelphia, Debora served on the Board of Governors of the Philadelphia Bar Association (elected position) and The Homeless Advocacy Project. She also served for many years as Vice-Chancellor of the Justinian Society.

After more than 25 years of active practice, Debora and her family moved to Princeton where she currently serves on the boards of the PSO (Executive Committee) and Princeton Historical Society. She is a former Trustee of Stuart Country Day School.

Rhonda Medina
Rhonda Adams Medina is a Vice President at NBC Universal, where she is responsible for overseeing all business and legal affairs for their kids and family channel. Ms. Medina joined NBCU in October of 2016 after an 18-year career at Nickelodeon television where she served as Senior Vice President & Deputy General Counsel, working on such programs as “iCarly,” “The Kids Choice Awards,” and “SpongeBob SquarePants.”

Rhonda started her career in entertainment in the development department of Spike Lee’s 40 Acres & a Mule Filmworks after graduating from Harvard Law School. In addition to her legal and entertainment work, Rhonda has written articles that have appeared in The New York Times, Newsweek and the New York Law Journal and has been a frequent guest speaker at entertainment and legal events. She was a recurring panelist on the ABC News Now program entitled “Top Priority” and has appeared on “Good Morning America” and the nationally-syndicated “Michael Eric Dyson” radio program.

In addition to her professional responsibilities, Rhonda serves on several local and national boards including the United Nations’ Girl Up Campaign, Princeton University’s Department of African American Studies, the Princeton Healthcare System’s Foundation, and Harvard Law School’s Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice. In 2008, then-candidate Barack Obama appointed Rhonda to the Democratic Party’s Platform Committee. Most recently she has served as a Regional Panelist for the White House Fellows selection process for the past three years.

Wilma Nurse
Wilma Nurse is a community volunteer and former executive at AT&T. She holds graduate degrees in Atomic and Nuclear Physics. Additionally, she achieved Advanced Studies certificates from Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies via grants from the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and the National Science Foundation.

Wilma is a full time community volunteer with extensive board experience, including having served on the Board of Trustees of the United Way of Somerset County, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, The Integrity House, Somerset County Voc/Tech Foundation, United Nations Foundation (fund development committee), Somerset County Food Bank, NJ State Martin Luther Commission, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), The Midland School and the Printmaking Center of NJ. Wilma is a resident of Neshanic Station, NJ.
Douglas Palmer
Doug Palmer is a graduate of Hampton University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Doug has served the public for nearly 30 years, including as the first African American Mayor elected in 1990 to lead the capital city of Trenton, New Jersey, and in the past decade as a developer and implementer of urban policy and community development initiatives, presiding over various national and statewide organizations dedicated to data-driven problem solving and best practices.

Doug’s leadership positions include Mayor of Trenton, New Jersey, 1990-2010, Past President, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Dec. 2006-June 2008, Member, United States Homeland Security Advisory Council, Member, National Voting Rights Commission, President, National Conference of Democratic Mayors, 2003-2006, President, New Jersey Conference of Mayors, 2005, President (Now President Emeritus), New Jersey Urban Mayors for 10 years, President, National Brownfield Association (NJ Chapter), and Mercer County Freeholder.

Since leaving office in 2010, he started Douglas H. Palmer and Associates, LLC, where he holds the position of President and CEO. This company specializes in inter-governmental and corporate consulting. Doug is also a Partner in DSW Solutions, a government relations firm.

Doug serves on the Board of Directors of Children’s Futures, a non-profit organization implanting programs for parents of children aged 0-3, he is Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Trenton Literacy Movement, and he is Co-Chairman of the Mercer County Community College Capital Campaign.

About McCarter Theatre Center
Under the leadership of Artistic Director Emily Mann and Managing Director Timothy J. Shields, McCarter Theatre Center is recognized as one of the nation’s premier theater companies. Renowned for major contributions to the theatrical canon, McCarter premieres include such works as Christopher Durang’s Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike (winner of the 2013 Tony Award® for Best Play) and McCarter was honored in 1994 with the Regional Theatre Tony Award®. Thanks to the efforts of Special Programming Director William W. Lockwood, McCarter Theatre Center is also a premier presenter of artists renowned around the world and across genres as varied as dance, classical, pop, jazz, performance art, comedy, magic, children’s theatre, and much more.

McCarter is supported by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Princeton University, and over 2,000 individuals, corporations, community leaders, and foundations. For more info visit www.mccarter.org.

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