

McCarter

THEATRE CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 24, 2020

McCARTER THEATRE CENTER WELCOMES NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND BOARD MEMBERS

PRINCETON, NJ: At the first Board of Trustees meeting of the season, McCarter Theatre Center president, Robert J. Caruso welcomed three new members to the board. This was also the first board meeting for McCarter's new Artistic Director, Sarah Rasmussen.

Mr. Caruso noted: "McCarter is entering a new and exciting phase in our 90-year history. Our 6th Artistic Director, Sarah Rasmussen began her tenure on August 1st and has already had a positive and energizing impact. This moment of forced closure has created opportunities for the board and McCarter's senior leadership to re-think and reimagine what McCarter will be once we are able to reopen. It is a rare gift to have the time for deep thinking and long-range planning and we will use this time wisely."

Mr. Caruso went on to note that "McCarter is very fortunate to welcome these new trustees to the board at this time. Their individual skill sets, talent and dedication to the theatre and the performing arts are an important part of our future. We are grateful for their willingness to serve."

The board welcomed:

- Christi Gautam, Community Volunteer and former HR Specialist
- Rita McGrath, Author and Professor, Columbia Business School
- Mark Thierfelder, Partner, Dechert, LLP

CHRISTI GAUTAM



Christi Gautam is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College. She spent her professional career in the Human Resources field for companies including Prada and The Council on Foreign Relations. As a volunteer she has tutored underprivileged children in an after-school program in New York, and assisted in serving meals and stocking the clothing shop for the Princeton Cornerstone Community Kitchen. She has also held various volunteer roles at her children's schools, including overseeing the volunteer program for the library at the American School in London.

RITA MCGRATH



Rita McGrath is a best-selling author, a sought-after speaker, and a longtime professor at Columbia Business School. She is widely recognized as a premier expert on leading innovation and growth during times of uncertainty. Rita has received the #1 achievement award for strategy from the prestigious Thinkers50 and has been consistently named one of the world's Top 10 management thinkers in its bi-annual ranking. As a consultant to CEOs, her work has had a lasting impact on the strategy and growth programs of Fortune 500 companies worldwide. Rita is the author of the best-selling *The End of Competitive Advantage* (Harvard Business Review Press, 2013). Her new book is *Seeing Around Corners: How to Spot Inflection Points in Business Before They Happen* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2019). She has written three other books, including *Discovery Driven Growth*, cited by Clayton Christensen as creating one of the most important management ideas ever developed. She is a highly sought-after speaker at exclusive corporate events around the globe, such as the Global Peter Drucker Forum. She received her Ph.D. from the Wharton School (University of Pennsylvania) and has degrees with honors from Barnard College and the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs.

MARK E. THIERFELDER



Mark E. Thierfelder is chair of Dechert LLP's corporate and securities group, chair of the global private equity practice and member of the firm's Policy Committee. He concentrates his practice on private equity transactions and domestic and international mergers and acquisitions throughout North America, Europe and Asia. In particular, Mr. Thierfelder represents leading private equity funds and their portfolio companies in a full range of corporate transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, recapitalizations, leveraged financings, restructurings, and reorganizations. In addition, he negotiates, structures, and executes corporate transactions on behalf of strategic buyers and sellers, and has significant experience representing banks and other institutional lenders in leveraged financings and restructurings. He and his wife are investors in several Broadway shows, including *Hadestown*. Mark has served on many local boards including PDS, Lawrenceville and is a Member, Advisory Board, The Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

McCarter Theatre Center

Under the leadership of award-winning Artistic Director Sarah Rasmussen and Managing Director Michael S. Rosenberg, McCarter's mission is to create world class theater and present the finest artists for the community engagement, education, and entertainment. Winner of the 1994 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre, world premieres include Christopher Durang's *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (2013 Tony, Best Play); Tarell Alvin McCarey's *The Brother/Sister Plays*, Emily Mann's *Having Our Say*, and Danai Gurira's *The Convert*. Due to COVID-19, McCarter has pivoted to offer virtual programming including [McCarter@HOME](#) and [McCarter Online Classes](#), reaching new audiences across the world. More at www.mccarter.org.

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 information, please contact Michael Rosenberg at mrosenberg@mccarter.org

McCarter Theatre Center is located at 91 University Place, Princeton, NJ 08540 | mccarter.org.