



The Music Settlement

UNIVERSITY CIRCLE

Nov. 3, 2016

To: Clients and Families of The Music Settlement

From: Maura L. Hughes, Chair, Board of Directors of The Music Settlement

I am very excited to share with you that this morning, The Music Settlement (TMS) at University Circle announced the hiring of its new President & CEO: GERALYN 'GERI' PRESTI.

Geri Presti is returning to TMS after an extraordinary tenure at Forest City Realty Trust, Inc. (previously Forest City Enterprises), where she currently serves as EVP, General Counsel, and Secretary.

I am delighted by this news. The TMS Board of Directors has unanimously agreed that Geri Presti's long-standing commitment to our organization, her music background, and her well-known leadership strengths and business acumen make her the seamless fit for President and CEO of The Music Settlement.

Geri will begin her role leading The Music Settlement in January, 2017. She will initially split her time between TMS and Forest City for several weeks, as she winds up her responsibilities with Forest City. Between now and January, our new CEO will be working with the TMS Board and staff to ensure that when she comes on board, her transition will be seamless and she can hit the ground running.

'Like Coming Home'

After earning her Bachelor of Music (summa cum laude) at Ohio University, Geri began her career as a music therapist at The Music Settlement, the 104-year-old Cleveland non-profit organization that provides music instruction, music therapy, and early childhood education to thousands of northeast Ohioans annually.

Geri Presti's dedication to the Settlement has included 15 years of serving on its Board of Directors. She served two terms as TMS Board Chair, during which she and Robert Conrad co-led The Music Settlement's year-long Centennial Celebration. She has remained active in the Settlement's work as Board Emeritus. Over the better part of the last two decades, Geri has never stopped using her knowledge, energy, and community relationships to promote TMS and its mission to the benefit of the organization.

The honors that Geri has received in recognition of her constancy to the Settlement include a 2012 Judson Smart Living Arts Award and a music-therapy studio named in her honor at Kulas House at TMS.

“This is truly like coming home,” Geri said. “The Music Settlement is a gem in the crown of arts and cultural organizations that comprise University Circle. I will serve this inclusive and venerable institution as it expands its award-winning offerings to further enrich everyone in Northeast Ohio, regardless of their age, ethnicity, or financial standing.”

Inspiring Levels of Community Service

Geri’s character is impeccable. Her enthusiasm and tirelessness already inspire our community. She embodies the generous spirit of the Cleveland Music School Settlement and Northeast Ohio.

Her boundless service to the community has benefitted many non-profit organizations. She currently serves on the boards of the Sisters of Charity Foundation, Tri-C College, Business Volunteers Unlimited, and the national board of The Society for Corporate Governance Professionals.

Her recent honors include the 2010 YWCA Women of Achievement Award, 2013 Athena Award, 2015 Humanitarian of the Year from The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio, and being named to the 2016 Women of Note class by *Crain’s Cleveland Business*.

Real-Estate Experience: Timely

As a member of Forest City’s executive team, where she has been responsible for all legal affairs for the company and was an important co-leader for the company’s reorganization and transition to a Real Estate Investment Trust, Geri played a key role in executing the company’s strategic plan, board and corporate governance practices, and also billions of dollars of capital-markets transactions. Her practice areas at Forest City include real-estate development, financing, corporate governance, and securities transactions.

Geri’s real-estate law experience will directly benefit TMS, as we oversee the construction of a new campus as part of the Snavely Group development at West 25th Street and Detroit Avenue on the west side of Cleveland.

The Board of Directors would like to recognize the extraordinary service of Patricia Camacho Hughes, who has provided such steady leadership in the interim CEO role for the last several months as we conducted the CEO search.

During our thorough search process, our search committee interviewed many qualified candidates for the position of CEO and President. Geri Presti was far and away the unanimous choice of the committee and the Directors, who were inspired by Geri’s

experience and ideas for the future of TMS. We are confident she will bring a steady hand and a fresh vision to TMS in 2017 and beyond.

Please join me in celebrating as Geri Presti joins TMS to serve as our President and CEO. Thank you all for your continued support of The Music Settlement as we embark on this new era of leadership!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maura L. Hughes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Maura L. Hughes