



For Immediate Release

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THE MUSIC SETTLEMENT NAMES INTERIM LEADERSHIP UPON PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION

Natasha Simmons and Patricia Camacho Hughes appointed interim co-presidents

CLEVELAND, Feb. 4, 2016 – Charles D. Lawrence has resigned, effective immediately, from his position as president and CEO of The Music Settlement, the board of directors announced today. Lawrence said he is resigning for personal reasons.

"While this change is sudden, our faculty, staff and board are dedicated to The Music Settlement and its students, clients, and families," said TMS board of directors chair Maura Hughes. "This resignation will not change any of our future plans, our mission, or our best-in-Cleveland offerings."

Director of Operations Natasha Simmons and Director of Development Patricia Camacho Hughes have accepted the Board's request to serve as interim co-presidents in Lawrence's absence.

Simmons has been with The Music Settlement since 2009, and most recently has served as the director of operations. She has more than eight years of operations experience, and also previously served as interim chair of the Center for Music. Camacho Hughes, who joined the organization in 2013, has 15 years of experience in development and was named the director of development in 2014.

"Natasha and Patricia have the full confidence of our board," Hughes said. "Both have proven track records with us and are passionate about our mission to create a community where artistic expression belongs to everyone by serving those who seek personal growth through the arts. They will provide excellent continuity for us in the weeks ahead."

Hughes emphasized that The Music Settlement's daily operations as well as all its plans for growth will go forward, including its current fundraising campaign and its announced expansion to the near-West side, where the organization is planning a new facility at Detroit Avenue and West 25th Street.

"We don't anticipate this development will have any impact on our strategic growth plans, our fundraising, our daily operations, or our mission," Hughes said.

“We look forward to a new class session that starts next week, as well as our ever-popular summer camps,” Simmons said. “Our 2016-17 Course Catalog is already in the works, and we’ve begun enrolling students in our 5-star Step Up To Quality Preschool, Day School, and extended-age Kindergarten programs for the next school year.”

“I know Natasha and I appreciate the opportunity to carry on the foundation the board and staff put in place for The Music Settlement,” Camacho Hughes added. “It is an honor to step in to lead this venerable 104-year-old organization as we undertake the search for our next president and CEO.”

About The Music Settlement

Founded in 1912 by Almeda Adams as The Cleveland Music School Settlement, The Music Settlement is one of the nation's oldest community schools of music. Providing early childhood education since 1955 and music therapy since 1966, The Music Settlement remains on the forefront of music-based initiatives that advance human potential. With programs for students from birth through retirement and beyond, and a near-West side campus in development on the northwest corner of Detroit Ave. and W. 25th St., The Music Settlement is proud to inspire a second century of generations of music. Its online properties include www.TheMusicSettlement.org and www.facebook.com/TheMusicSettlement. Classes and programs can be sorted by age group at www.TheMusicSettlement.org/all.

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