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Baltimore School for the Arts Announces New Board Members

BALTIMORE (September 19, 2020) – Baltimore School for the Arts (BSA) has announced the addition of **Tim Chng, Jesse Grant-Skinner, (Jessica) Kippy Joseph, Ryan Lenet, Dr. Rodney Taylor, Danielle Wharton, and Dominic Wiker** to the 2020-2021 Board of Trustees.

Tim Chng, Big Data Software Developer, Verizon Media - has been working in Information technology for the past 30 years. In his youth, he was active in working with the Taiwanese American community and political advocacy on behalf of Taiwan and other social issues involving inequality and the environment. He along with his wife have lived in Baltimore since 2000 and are raising their three children in the city attending Baltimore City Public Schools. He and his family are supporters of grassroots non-profit organizations focusing on at-risk youths. One of his children attends BSA in the theatre program and all three kids attended the TWIGS program. He is eager to contribute in any way he can to support Baltimore School for the Arts to bring arts to Baltimore youths.

Jesse Grant-Skinner is a Baltimore School for the Arts-trained vocalist and a school leader with a decade of experience as an urban educator. Since 2017, he has served as Vice Principal at KIPP DC Discover Academy, where he first became a teacher through the Capital Teaching Residency Program and later served as Lead Teacher. Jesse was the first Black male educator to serve as an elementary Assistant Principal for KIPP DC. Along with five years of teaching experience at Discover, Jesse has also taught in the Syracuse City School District, where he was the teacher representative on the Turnaround School Committee. In that role, he advised on instructional strategies, supported the development of school-based policies, interviewed prospective teachers, and led schoolwide professional development. Jesse's history with BSA extends beyond his high school years; for four years, he taught performing arts (classical voice) in the TWIGS program. He holds degrees in Classical Voice and Theatre Arts. As a member of the Board of Trustees, Jesse looks forward to giving back to the community

that supported him during and after his time in high school by supporting students as they embark on their arts education, and sharing his unique perspective as an artist and educator on education, policy, and equity and inclusion for all students, families, and staff. Jesse is a proud Baltimore native and parent of a City Schools student.

As Senior Advisor on Gender at the Global Innovation Fund, Kippy Joseph brings 20 years professional experience to strengthen a commitment to supporting innovations that benefit women and girls, and aim to address gender inequality. Concurrently, Kippy is a Senior Fellow at Results for Development, and leads training and capacity-building for the International Development Innovation Alliance (IDIA.) Kippy co-founded IDIA while serving as a program officer at The Rockefeller Foundation. At the Rockefeller Foundation, she led an innovation team and her portfolio consisted of internal capability-building on innovation approaches, as well as multiple external grant-making initiatives. Kippy previously worked in venture philanthropy with the Young Foundation (UK) and with multiple NGOs in direct service roles, in and with under-served communities in New York City and internationally. She started her career working in youth and community organizing in NYC schools. Kippy serves on the Board of Every Woman Treaty, supporting a systems approach to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5. She holds Masters' Degrees in Social-Organizational Psychology from Columbia University and in Systemic Management & Consultation from the University of London. She earned her BA in Public Policy at Brown University.

Ryan Lenet is a Senior Vice President–Wealth Management with Morgan Stanley and a member of the firm's Blue Chip Council. He began his career with American Express Financial Advisors in 1995 and continued there until April 1999, when he joined Morgan Stanley in their Lutherville office. While at American Express, Ryan held a position as a Financial Advisor and a Training Manager in their Towson, Maryland office. As an Advisor, he focused on Comprehensive Financial Planning and Asset Allocation for high net worth individuals and institutional clientele. Ryan graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland at College Park and later earned his Financial Planning Specialist Designation with Smith Barney. Ryan currently participates in many local charities and holds various board positions. Ryan resides in Pikesville, Maryland with his wife Melissa and his sons Jacob & Justin.

Dr. Rodney Taylor graduated cum laude from Harvard College in 1991 where he was Senior Class President, a Varsity football player, and received the Francis Burr Award for character, leadership, and athletic ability. He then graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1995, where he received his MD, while also serving as Academic Advisor and Counselor for Harvard College pre-med students. Following medical school, Dr. Taylor spent 6 years at the University of Michigan completing his residency in Otolaryngology- Head & Neck Surgery. While at Michigan, he spent a year developing novel techniques in head and neck cancer surgery, as well as developed and studied Quality of Life instruments among head and neck cancer patients. Dr. Taylor received his Master from the University of Michigan School of Public Health in 1999.

Danielle Wharton, Vice President of Support Services, oversees all support services at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, including food services, environmental services, materials management and supply chain, value analysis, patient transport, security, parking, retail, fleet and campus transport, and performance improvement and training. Danielle launched her career at Johns Hopkins Bayview in 2002 as an Administrative Resident before serving as the Assistant Administrator and Director of Operations for the Johns Hopkins Bayview Care Center (now Specialty Hospitals). In 2008, she was named Director of Support Services Operations for the Medical Center, and has been serving as Senior Director since 2012. Danielle holds a master's in health services administration from George Washington University, and is a licensed nursing home administrator. Danielle is a mother of two elementary school children. Her husband, Sims, is also a Baltimore City public school teacher.

Dominic Wiker is an experienced development professional with over 15-years of managing large-scale development projects. He is currently overseeing the \$30 million redevelopment of the 250,000 square foot historic Hoschild Kohn warehouse in Baltimore's Mount Vernon neighborhood into 171-market rate apartments. Prior to working with The Time Group, he managed the development of McHenry Row, a \$150 million mixed-use project in Baltimore's Locust Point neighborhood and was a Senior Development Director with Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse overseeing such urban in-fill, mixed-use projects as 1209 North Charles, Charles Commons and the Village Lofts. Dominic received a Bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins University and a Master's degree from Carnegie Mellon University. He is a proud parent of a BSA sophomore.

"The new members joining BSA's Board of Trustees come from a variety of Baltimore communities and bring a diverse set of professional experiences," said BSA Director Chris Ford. "We look forward to working with them to ensure the success of our students in this complex and challenging year."

The Baltimore School for the Arts is a nationally recognized public high school that provides its students with intensive pre-professional training in the arts in conjunction with a rigorous academic curriculum. BSA graduates go on to the most selective arts and university programs nationwide and achieve prominence in theater, film, music, dance and visual arts. Additionally, BSA's highly acclaimed TWIGS program offers free after-school arts instruction to more than 700 city elementary and middle school children from more than 100 schools across Baltimore. Founded in 1979, BSA is an integral and vibrant part of Baltimore's educational and cultural communities.

Baltimore School for the Arts, where the arts change kids' lives.