



FROM:
Lisa Middleton
Director of Marketing

MEDIA INQUIRIES:
Lyric Opera of Chicago
Holly H. Gilson
hgilson@lyricopera.org
312-827-5939

Magda Krance
mkrance@lyricopera.org
312-827-5924

Kamaria Morris
kmorris@lyricopera.org
312-827-5928

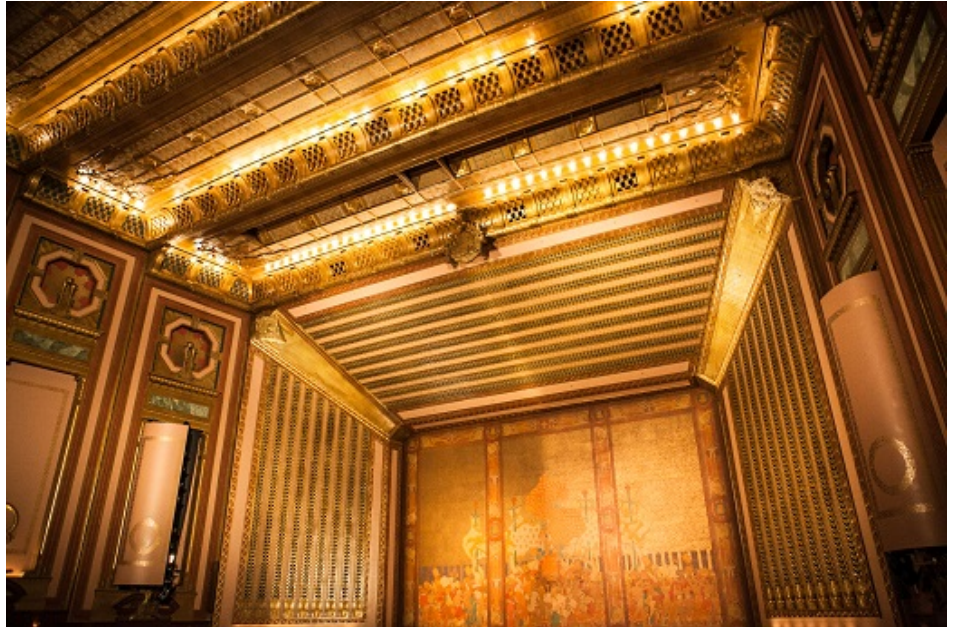


PHOTO: Kyle Flubacker

Lyric Opera of Chicago Announces Transition of Development Leadership

CHICAGO – (6/15/17) Lyric Opera of Chicago today announced that Mary Ladish Selander, Lyric’s Director of Development, will take on a new role as Senior Philanthropic Advisor. She will continue to lead Lyric’s development team and engage with the Board and other major donors as usual until her successor is appointed and will subsequently serve in this newly created consultancy role.

“During her 22 years at Lyric, Mary spearheaded 22 successful annual campaigns totaling more than \$400 million, oversaw three major capital campaigns totaling \$200 million, and grew the endowment from \$60 million to \$175 million,” said Lyric general director Anthony Freud. “We are forever grateful to Mary for her many contributions to our company and thank her for being proactive to ensure a smooth transition of leadership within our development department as we take the next steps to strengthen the financial foundation of our organization.”

In recognition of Ms. Ladish Selander’s remarkable service to Lyric, the company is awarding her with its highest honor, The Carol Fox Award. The award will be presented at Lyric’s annual meeting on June 29, 2017. It will be one of the very rare occasions that a Lyric staff member, other than a general director, has received the award.

Ms. Ladish Selander joined Lyric in 1995 as the Director of Annual Gifts and, for the past 17 years, has led all of Lyric's development activities as Director of Development. Working with Lyric's senior leadership, as well as philanthropists and opera lovers in Chicago and around the world, Ms. Ladish Selander helped Lyric almost triple its annual campaign funding and oversaw a more than ten-fold increase in annual production sponsorships.

Prior to joining Lyric, Ms. Ladish Selander held major positions, including Director of Marketing for the City of Milwaukee (1992-1993), Marketing Director for the Greater Milwaukee Committee/Metro Milwaukee (1989-1992), and Executive Director of the Milwaukee Ballet (1985-1988).

Lyric will immediately begin a national search for Ms. Ladish Selander's successor.

About Lyric Opera of Chicago

Lyric Opera of Chicago's mission is to express and promote the life-changing, transformational, revelatory power of great opera. Lyric exists to provide a broad, deep, and relevant cultural service to Chicago and the nation, and to advance the development of the art form.

Founded in 1954, Lyric is dedicated to producing and performing consistently thrilling, entertaining, and thought-provoking opera with a balanced repertoire of core classics, lesser-known masterpieces, and new works; to creating an innovative and wide-ranging program of community engagement and educational activities; and to developing exceptional emerging operatic talent.

Under the leadership of General Director, President & CEO Anthony Freud, Music Director Sir Andrew Davis, and Creative Consultant Renée Fleming, Lyric strives to become The Great North American Opera Company for the 21st century: a globally significant arts organization embodying the core values of excellence, relevance, and fiscal responsibility.

To learn more about Lyric, go to lyricopera.org. You can also join the conversation with @LyricOpera on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. #LongLivePassion



If you are having trouble viewing this message? [View online.](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage Your Subscription](#)

Lyric Opera of Chicago
20 N. Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606