

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patricia C. Slovak
Chair

Kelly Smith-Haley
Chair Elect

Silvia Rivera
Secretary

M. Blair Wellensiek
Treasurer

James L. Alexander
Carmin Awadzi
Joan Bacon
Adela Cepeda
Allison B. Clark
Valerie Colletti
Regina S. Cross
Harlene Ellin
Sarah Hurwit Gomel
Georgina Heard
Keri Holleb Hotaling
Susan M. Kurowski
Robin L. Letchinger
Tina Manikas
Kathleen McDonald
Michael Narciso
Marie Osadjan
Munira Patel
Nina Sanchez
Gretchen M. Wolf
Ann Marie Wright

FOUNDERS

Marjorie Craig Benton
Sunny Fischer
Iris J. Krieg
Lucia Woods Lindley

PRESIDENT & CEO

K. Sujata

November 7, 2018

Greetings,

I write today to let you know that K. Sujata, President/CEO of Chicago Foundation for Women (CFW) has notified the CFW Board of Directors of her plans to step down from the position of CFW President/CEO effective upon the appointment of her successor, or on March 15, 2019, whichever comes earlier.

The CFW Board of Directors is deeply grateful to Sujata for her unwavering commitment to equity, her powerful leadership, and the tremendous impact she has had on women, girls, and communities across our region.

While we will miss Sujata, CFW is fortunate to approach this transition from a place of organizational health and stability. As a testament to her strong business acumen and tenacious leadership, Sujata will leave a track record of eight years of consistent and sustainable growth. She has led CFW to be a key force advancing gender equity in the Chicago region, including:

- Raising more than \$31M in annual funds during her tenure to fuel CFW's mission;
- Putting the organization on a strong financial footing, growing our total assets from \$5.4M to \$15.4M, a 185% increase;
- Expanding community philanthropy with three geographic giving circles and three giving councils that engage over 170 members and have invested over \$700,000 in our communities.
- Increasing CFW's annual grantmaking from \$1M to \$2.6M, a 160% increase; and,
- Developing signature initiatives to advance gender and racial equity such as the Englewood Women's Initiative and Willie's Warriors.

On behalf of the CFW Board of Directors, I sincerely thank Sujata for her service and dedication to CFW over the past eight years, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

I also want to express my excitement and hope for the possibilities that lay ahead - with a transition of leadership comes the opportunity to build upon our achievements and grow an even more impactful, sustainable, collaborative and inspiring vision for our region's women and girls. I look forward to working with the recently established CFW Search Committee that will be responsible for leading the search for a new CEO. I will chair the committee, and will be joined by additional CFW Board members, Kelly Smith-Haley, Jim Alexander, Allison Clark and Silvia Rivera, as well as former CFW Board members Nancy Juda, Wendy White Eagle and Nicole Robinson. The Search Committee will work with an executive search firm to identify candidates and extend an offer to a finalist candidate.

(Over)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patricia C. Slovak
Chair

Kelly Smith-Haley
Chair Elect

Silvia Rivera
Secretary

M. Blair Wellensiek
Treasurer

James L. Alexander
Carmin Awadzi
Joan Bacon
Adela Cepeda
Allison B. Clark
Valerie Colletti
Regina S. Cross
Harlene Ellin
Sarah Hurwit Gomel
Georgina Heard
Keri Holleb Hotaling
Susan M. Kurowski
Robin L. Letchinger
Tina Manikas
Kathleen McDonald
Michael Narciso
Marie Osadjan
Munira Patel
Nina Sanchez
Gretchen M. Wolf
Ann Marie Wright

FOUNDERS

Marjorie Craig Benton
Sunny Fischer
Iris J. Krieg
Lucia Woods Lindley

PRESIDENT & CEO

K. Sujata

The CFW Board of Directors is steadfast in its commitment to transparency throughout this process, and will keep the entire CFW community updated on the progress of the search as it develops. The Board is also committed to ensuring the transition to the new CEO is as seamless as possible. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Emily Dreke, Vice President of Development and Communications at edreke@cfw.org or (312) 577-2842.

Sincerely,



Patricia Costello Slovak
Chair, CFW Board of Directors