

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COLORADO THEATRE GUILD ELECTS BETTY HART AS BOARD PRESIDENT

DENVER, September 14, 2020 – At the monthly board meeting on Saturday, September 12, 2020, the Colorado Theatre Guild (CTG) Board of Directors unanimously elected **Betty Hart** to serve as the new CTG Board President. Ms. Hart has served on the CTG Board since 2017 and has co-directed (along with Robert Michael Sanders) and produced the Henry Awards (the annual awards ceremony celebrating Colorado theatre excellence) for the past three years – including co-directing the recent virtual awards that took place in July.

Upon her election, Ms. Hart stated, “I am thrilled to become the next Board President of the Colorado Theatre Guild. These are difficult times for our theatre community, and we plan to increase our imprint on the Colorado theatre scene by providing more services to all Colorado theatres (promoting the Colorado Theatre Standards, helping to save our historic stages, and more offerings for our community). We are here to actively help support the theatre community, and I look forward to hearing ideas about how best to do that from the other Board members and the Colorado theatre community at large.”

Ms. Hart moved to Denver in 2013 from Atlanta. She has worked with a wide array of theatre organizations and has a unique viewpoint regarding the value of the entire theatre community across our state. Her mission and goal is to help create more opportunities for necessary conversations. These dialogues can center around who we are as individuals, who we desire to be as a theatre community, or how we can change long standing behaviors to become more than we ever imagined. Through acting, directing and facilitating, Ms. Hart strives to be a change agent and a force for positivity, creativity, and collaboration.

Ms. Hart’s extensive theatre credits include directing, acting, and producing. Recent directing credits include *The Scottsboro Boys* for Vintage Theatre , *Hooded: or being black for dummies* at the Aurora Fox Arts Center, and *Crowns* at Vintage Theatre. A member of Actor’s Equity Association, her recent acting credits include *Caroline, or Change* at the Aurora Fox Arts Center, *Barnum* at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, *The Last Apple Tree* for The Catamounts and *Richard III* and *You Can’t Take It With You* at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. Ms. Hart was nominated for outstanding lead actress in a play for Camae in *The Mountaintop* at the Arvada Center and she won a True West Award in December of 2018.

Her most recent producing efforts were for the “Amplify” series for the Arvada Center. This series provides Black artists a platform to share their art forms and speak their minds about what’s happening in the wake of the murders of George Floyd and countless other Black people in the United States.

Ms. Hart is also a full-time facilitator for Kaiser Permanente's Arts Integrated Resources (AIR) team as a creator and provider of workshops on such varied topics as laughter as wellness (Laughaceuticals), care equity, bias and hospitality (The Care Equity Project), culture (Culture Matters), and more.

Ms. Hart succeeds **Reece Livingstone**, noted director of both theatre and film, producer, writer and educator. Mr. Livingstone served as CTG Board President for two years from 2018 – 2020 after having joined the Board of Directors in 2014. Among his accomplishments, he presided over comprehensive change in the Henry Awards judging system and a significant upgrade in the CTG website. Mr. Livingstone will continue to serve on the CTG Board. The CTG offered gratitude to Mr. Livingstone for his extraordinary service.

Other CTG Board Officers include **T. David Rutherford** as Vice President, **Lia Kozatch** as Treasurer and **Iliana Lucero Barron** as Secretary.

Former President and longtime Board Member **Steve Wilson** commented, “Our theatre community here and across the globe has been deeply affected by COVID-19. CTG has been working hard to adapt and change to an extraordinary set of new realities. In these times of great uncertainty and upheaval in our field, extraordinary leaders come forward. Betty Hart is such a leader - dynamic, innovative and charismatic. We are beyond delighted that she will lead the Board of Directors through this next phase. Anyone who has ever met Betty knows that she is a force of nature, and we are poised for a new era of growth, change and expansion. We could not be more excited.”

The Colorado Theatre Guild (CTG) is the primary organization in Colorado serving live theatre makers. The CTG encourages growth and excellence in live theatre in Colorado by creating connections within the theatre community and providing supporting programs and services in education, advocacy and promotion to patrons, producers and artists. Our vision projects a thriving live theatre community in Colorado, where artists, theatres and patrons are empowered to connect with one another, share resources, create and benefit from increased opportunity, and support each other’s successes and endeavors.

Go to www.coloradotheatreguild.org for more information.