

For Immediate Release

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FIRSTWORKS WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS,  
EMBARKS ON 2019-2020 SEASON OF WORLD-CLASS ARTS PROGRAMMING

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Providence, R.I. (November 11, 2019) – Providence-based arts organization FirstWorks is proud to announce the additions of Kyle Adamonis, Bethany Giammarco, Jack Martin, David Pellegrino, J. Richard Ratcliffe, Sydney Skybetter and Grafton “Cap” Willey, IV to its Board of Directors. The new members, who live across the state and Providence metro area, bring expertise in the areas of executive leadership, business, finance, law and the arts. FirstWorks is dedicated to building community through world-class arts. The FirstWorks Board, under the leadership of Board President Catherine Terry Taylor, is responsible for oversight of the non-profit.

“We welcome David, Richard, Sydney, Cap, Kyle, Jack and Bethany to the FirstWorks Board and thank them for their commitment to the arts. The Board plays an integral role in shaping the future of FirstWorks and spreading its mission,” said Kathleen Pletcher, Founder and Executive Artistic Director. “FirstWorks strategic plan aims to lift our state through the arts, engaging audiences and students with some of the most significant artists of our time through performances, workshops and artistic residencies.”

New Board Members:

**Kyle Adamonis** is the Executive Director of Human Resources/Personnel Administrator for the State of Rhode Island. She was previously the Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Legal at Taco, Inc. where she worked for over 15 years. Adamonis graduated from Roger Williams University and has an MBA from Johnson & Wales University. She lives in North Attleboro.

**Bethany Giammarco** is a graduate of Rhode Island College. She is an officer and relationship manager for Bank of America. Her involvement in the arts spans two and a half decades across various theatre groups and organizations. Bethany resides in Smithfield.

**Jack Martin** is the Executive Director of the Providence Public Library and previously held executive positions at the New York Public Library and the Young Adult Library Services Association. He graduated from the University of Georgia and received his master’s degree from the Pratt Institute. Jack lives on the East Side of Providence.

**David Pellegrino** is Vice President of Compliance at Navigant Credit Union. Prior to joining Navigant, he was a partner at Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP, primarily representing financial institutions and insurance companies. A graduate of American University, David received his J.D. from Roger Williams University School of Law. He resides in Gloucester.

**J. Richard Ratcliffe, Esq.** is a partner at Ratcliffe Harten Galamaga LLP. His areas of practice include civil and criminal trials and appeals, Title IX defense and probate. He previously clerked for the RI Supreme Court and then prosecuted cases as a RI Assistant Attorney General and Special Assistant United States Attorney. Richard earned his J.D. from Washington University in St. Louis and resides in Cumberland.

**Sydney Skybetter** is a Public Humanities Fellow and Lecturer at Brown University. Hailed by Dance Magazine as “one of the most influential people in dance today,” he is the founder of the Conference for Research on Choreographic Interfaces (CRCI) which gathers ethnographers, anthropologists and performing artists to discuss the choreography of the Internet of Things. Sydney received his MFA in Choreography from New York University and resides on the East Side of Providence.

**Grafton “Cap” Willey, IV, CPA** has more than 35 years’ experience as a tax accountant and consultant and is a Managing Director of CBIZ and MHM New England. He is an active advocate for small business issues at the state, regional and national levels. A graduate of Syracuse University, he resides in Portsmouth.

FirstWorks curates diverse artists and performers from around the globe. For the 2019-2020 season, FirstWorks embarks upon an ambitious project to amplify diverse voices and celebrate differences through the performing arts. This season-long project, entitled *Raise Your Voice*, will bring world-class artists to Rhode Island for artist residencies featuring K-12 educational matinees, artist-led workshops for students and older adults, film screenings and community engagement programming designed to generate empathy through the arts. The season kicked off on September 12 with a dynamic four-day artist residency by activist Taylor Mac that culminated in a spectacular performance.

### **About FirstWorks**

FirstWorks is a non-profit based in Providence, Rhode Island whose purpose is to build the cultural, educational and economic vitality of its community by engaging diverse audiences with world-class performing arts and education programs. Since 2004, FirstWorks festivals, performances and programs have attracted more than 600,000 participants. Last season, FirstWorks arts education programs reached over 5,500 students from public and charter schools across Rhode Island with transformative, arts-based learning experiences. FirstWorks is the founding partner of PVDFest, collaborating with the City of Providence to produce the City’s free signature arts celebration held each June. In 2019 PVDFest drew 130,000 visitors to Providence to experience music, art and spectacular performances. Embracing collaboration, FirstWorks has fostered over 90 community partnerships across business, social

service, government, arts, and education sectors. Sustained collaborations with higher education include ambitious arts programming with Brown Arts Initiative at Brown University, artist workshops at Providence College, and lectures at Rhode Island School of Design. Visit [first-works.org](http://first-works.org) to learn more.

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