



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Helen Burstyn, C.M. appointed new Chair of the Koffler Centre of the Arts

Burstyn succeeds longstanding Co-Chairs Tiana Koffler Boyman and Carl L. Goldenberg

Toronto, ON, July 16, 2020 – The **Koffler Centre of the Arts** is delighted to announce the appointment of **Helen Burstyn** to the role of **Chair** of the Board of Directors. Burstyn succeeds Co-Chairs Tiana Koffler Boyman and Carl L. Goldenberg.

Burstyn has served as Board director of the Koffler since 2017. She brings to this role over 40 years of experience in business, government, academia, broadcasting, and social services. Burstyn spent much of her professional career in government, having served as Chair of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Senior Advisor to the Premier of Ontario, Special Advisor of the first Office for Social Enterprise, and Deputy Secretary of the Premier's Council. She is co-founder and Principal of the PR and events management firm, Burstyn Inc. and Managing Director of Crescent Investment Partners.

Burstyn has served as Board Chair and director for numerous arts and social purpose organizations. She is currently Chair of the NGO Evergreen, which supports sustainable cities and urban innovation. She served as Chair of The Walrus Foundation and Waterfront Toronto, and is past-President of the Canadian Club of Toronto and Gilda's Club Greater Toronto. She currently sits on the boards of UNICEF Canada, the Canadian Opera Company, Luminato, LEAP: The Pecaut Centre for Social Impact and the Governors Council of the Toronto Public Library Foundation.

Burstyn's professional and volunteer leadership has been recognized through numerous awards and distinction. She was appointed to the Order of Canada for her public and community service and is the recipient of the YWCA Women of Distinction Award for Community Leadership and the Provincial Citizenship Award for Volunteer Service.

Outgoing Co-Chair Tiana Koffler Boyman said: "We are thrilled that Helen has agreed to take on the pivotal role of Chairperson of the Koffler Centre of the Arts. The Board of Directors installed a new Executive Director this past year, positioning the organization for further growth under Helen Burstyn's stellar leadership. We are confident that Helen's strategic outlook will be invaluable in expanding the profile and contributions of the Koffler to Toronto, while taking the organization to new heights."

"I am excited to lead the Koffler's Board of Directors and work closely with Executive Director Karen Tisch to realize its vital artistic mission," said Burstyn. "In presenting transformative arts experiences, promoting intercultural dialogue and tackling critical social justice issues, the Koffler has emerged as a force in the Toronto and Canadian arts landscape. I am looking forward to contributing to its growth and success."

Burstyn succeeds longstanding Board Co-Chairs **Tiana Koffler Boyman** and **Carl Goldenberg** who significantly built on the organization's forty-year history of providing a multi-disciplinary cultural space, elevating its presence in the art and culture scene. Both were instrumental in the Koffler's expansion and relocation to Artscape Youngplace in downtown Toronto in 2013, increasing audience impact and reach many times over and helping the Koffler Centre of the Arts become recognized locally, nationally and internationally. Koffler Boyman and Goldenberg will continue to serve on the Koffler's Board of Directors.

For more information on the Koffler Centre of the Arts, please visit kofflerarts.org

ABOUT THE KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS

The Koffler Centre of the Arts is a cultural platform that explores critical ideas and concerns of our time through exhibitions, publications, performances, literary events and digital initiatives. We examine complex issues through transformative art experiences that stimulate intercultural dialogue and position Jewish identity in conversation with diverse perspectives and global voices. The Koffler Gallery and its administrative offices are located at Artscape Youngplace, in Toronto's vibrant West Queen West art and design district.

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